

BC BIRDING

Newsletter of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

ISSN 1206-1611

Volume 15 Number 1 / March 2005



Douglas E. Trapp photo

Douglas E. Trapp

BCFO Vancouver Island Barn Owl Project

The BCFO has embarked on one of the society's first major field projects with the start of a Barn Owl inventory on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. During the 2-year life of this project the BCFO hopes to visit and document most of the Barn Owl roost and nest sites in this region. Once active nests are located we also intend to band the owlets. Much of the data collected for this Blue-listed species will be passed along to the BC Conservation Data Centre. We also anticipate that the results will be published in BC Birding and in our journal *British Columbia Birds*. If you are interested in participating in this project or have owl sightings to report please contact our project coordinator, Paul Levesque. Background information about this project including reporting forms, contact information, video clips, and a downloadable project notice can be found by visiting the main BCFO website at www.bcfo.ca. The BCFO gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Victoria Foundation, Public Conservation Assistance Fund, and BC Conservation Data Centre.

Andy Stewart, Director



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BC Birding, ISSN 1206-1611, is published four times a year by British Columbia Field Ornithologists (BCFO), P.O. Box 8059 Victoria, B.C. V8W 3R7

A subscription to this quarterly is a benefit of membership in the society. Members will also receive a copy of the annual journal, *British Columbia Birds*. Membership in BCFO is open to anyone interested in the study and enjoyment of wild birds in British Columbia.

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.

Since November, 2003, BCFO has maintained an official partnership with the Changhwa Wild Bird Society, Changhwa, Taiwan.

Membership Dues

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.....	\$25.00 (\$US)

Memberships are for the calendar year.

Newsletter Submissions

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. A brief biographical sketch (5--100 words) should accompany the article if the editor does not have a recent version or you wish to change it.

Please send newsletter submissions to

Phil Henderson (Editor, BC Birding)
Box 615, Fort Langley, BC V1M 2R9
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

Advertising rates are available upon request.

BCFO Website

<http://www.bcfo.ca>



President's Report

Happy Springtime Everyone!

The Board has been busy organizing an exciting Annual Conference in Parksville on Vancouver Island. "Exciting? In August?" you say sceptically. Yes, I say, exciting in August. August is a month of migration. A month of surprises and discovery. A time of visual birding. Check the estuaries for shorebirds, the rocky shorelines for water birds, and bushes for passerines as they fly south to their wintering grounds. For example, *North American Birds* magazine reported a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in nearby Tofino on August 24, 2003. The challenge of identification for the less distinctive species will be made easier with the aid of local experts. The weather is supposed to be "almost flawless" and the scenery superb.

We have timed this meeting so bird surveyors, students, and teachers can attend.

In other matters, the Barn Owl project has been successful in obtaining sufficient funding to hire a coordinator for the inventory of Barn Owls on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. You will have received by now Volume 11 of our journal *British Columbia Birds*. Past issues of the journal and the newsletter are available for purchase, or to borrow from the library. Another source for the journal is our webpage, which now has its own domain: www.bcfo.ca. The archives have been solidified with two copies of most of our publications. With the exchange of the extra issues of our publications with the Peregrine Fund, our library is becoming quite respectable.

The Board has improved the Grant Policy, with deadlines set for January 1 and July 1 and clearer guidelines. We have written a letter to Minister Barisoff over the high capture permit fee for banders of provincially responsible birds like jays, grouse, and kingfisher. Although most of our banding stations in BC are targetting migrant passerines, these species do get caught in the nets periodically. If you have ever wondered about the what-when-where-how of a banding station, check them out by following the links on Bird Studies Canada's webpage.

Look elsewhere in the newsletter for further information on most of the above items.

It is with regret I announce the resignation of Glen Moores from the Board as of December 31. Glen came on the Board in 2001 to be our Treasurer. With the assistance of his wife Judy, Glen kept us honest

and compliant in the eyes of the various government agencies we need to report to. He was able to put our organization into perspective compared to other non-profit groups he has dealt with in Ontario and British Columbia. Today, in the absence of a Treasurer, the Board is learning just how much Glen contributed to the organization both in front of and behind the scenes. Thank you Glen and Judy.

Sandra Kinsey, President



Internet Sources

BCFO

<http://www.bcfo.ca>

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/>

Bird Source

Audobon's and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's' interactive bird information site, featuring "eBird"

<http://www.birdsource.com/>

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/checklist/index.php3>

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/>

British Columbia Birds

Notes and papers.

Our technical journal is badly in need of significant birding observations. Publication is being held up. The Directors and editor have started a program to contact potential authors, but meanwhile, your notes on rare birds and similar subjects are welcome. Please contact friends who have things that should be recorded, reviews of a species, etc. This is the best place to get these observations recorded for the future.

If in doubt, contact the editor. He can also provide instructions on format. His contact points are given near the front of this newsletter and in the membership directory.

Book reviews

If you would like to review books that come in to the journal, please let the editor know the topics that interest you. Sometimes we also get recordings. You get to keep the book or CD.

The journal could also make use of black and white drawings or photos to liven up the cover and pages.

John Sprague, Editor vol. 13+

Request for digital images of BC Birds

Do you have a good digital image of a BC Bird? The BCFO is encouraging members to submit digital photographs that can be used on our website. We can't compensate you for the use of your image but we will acknowledge the photographer. We can also reduce the resolution of your digital photo to discourage people from copying it off of our website. Please submit your image, along with a suggested caption, the image date, & location to

andy.stewart@shaw.ca



Editor's Notes and Notions

As ever, a diverse assortment of interesting contributions has come to roost on these pages. The Board has been very busy organizing the upcoming AGM and a portion of their effort is reported here by Ian Robertson, Tony Greenfield and Wayne Diakow. Watch for more in the June newsletter. Martin McNicholl's voluminous round up of upcoming events and news briefs will have readers gular fluttering. Andy Stewart provides information on the availability of back issues of newsletters and journals and discusses BCFO's first grant project on Barn Owls. Phil Gehlen presents a nice memorial for an important and dedicated BC bird watcher (also mentioned in Martin's *News Briefs*). Derek Matthews, a master bander, discusses hummingbirds and a near impossible banding event. Jo Ann MacKenzie keeps us up to date on the Changhwa Wild Bird Society with an article on her fall trip to Taiwan and Gary Davidson wraps up his intriguing series of bird stories from Tasmania. Wayne Weber presents the much anticipated synopsis of personal bird records in the welcome continuation of *Bird Listers' Corner*. (Frantic gular fluttering, head-scratching, threat and appeasement displays!) Kathy Masse provides an interesting account of a birding trip to Texas. Charles Helm resurrects the *Site Guides* with highlights of and directions for the Bullmoose Marshes near Tumbler Ridge. (I'm happy to report that site guides have also been submitted for the forthcoming June and September issues of *BC Birding*. More are welcome!) Don Cecile wraps up this edition with his thorough compilation of observations of birds throughout our grand province. I reluctantly admit to adding a note in the *From the Field* section which is not intended as some gratuitous scatological diversion but as a legitimate observation.

There was a suggestion to include

contributors' e-mail addresses or other contact information to accompany their names at the end of their articles. I have done so for a few individuals but hesitate to do so for all, without seeking consent. That information is available in the annual directory although it would be more up to date if presented in the newsletter. If anyone cares to comment further on this, please send me a note (strix@uniserve.com).

On a related subject you may wonder sometimes why a brief biography for a particular contributor does not appear in *Authors in this Issue*. I have based my decision to include or not include biographies on the following "loose" rules:

no biography

- regular items or columns contributed each issue (eg.: Martin McNicholl's *Upcoming Meetings and Events* and *BC Birding News Briefs*);
- BCFO news items or announcements relating to the ongoing affairs and operation of the BCFO and items contributed by BCFO Directors.

include biography

- items that appear regularly but not in every issue (eg., *Bird Listers' Corner*, *BC Bird Records*);
- all original articles (or possibly re-prints from other publications) by members and non-members on (eg., *Birds of Tasmania*, *Site Guides*, personal trip summaries, personal notes and anecdotes, observations, natural history notes, etc.).

These rules exclude my occasional memory lapses or errors in preparing and editing the document. Please feel free to bring to my attention any obvious errors and omissions, and feel free to comment on the "rules" as outlined above.

I hope that this is satisfactory. I wish to exclude no one and to acknowledge all contributors appropriately.

My request in the last issue for recipes and advice regarding hot beverages to be consumed while conducting winter

field work went unnoticed, or at least unattended. I received no responses! "Egad," I thought. Surely readers have a favourite beverage with which to stave off the cold while conducting field work. I suspect that they simply hold their recipes so dear and consume the product with such zeal and gluttony that the mere thought of someone else consuming their prized drink drives them deeper into madness. I also thought that it could well be that they are ashamed to admit to the ample quantity of booze they apportion to their secret recipes (when the real secret is that they add any alcohol-diluting fillers at all). These unsubstantiated revelations come crashing upon my hopes just as reliable insider government sources inform me that this oft-maligned government was going to reinstate the Resource Inventory Standards Committee (RISC) with a huge cash infusion (thoughtfully taken from recently decommissioned redundant elementary schools) to produce their definitive guide: *Standard Liquids for Consumption During Cold Weather Sampling*. I fear now that this important work will never see the light. As a closing and parting shot, I will say that Glenn Ryder and I very much enjoyed the hot Jamaican Sorrel drink during a Christmas Bird Count, but I offer no recipe and no comments on the rum.

Spring and near-summer has suddenly descended upon us. My favourite harbingers of spring, the Violet-green Swallows, are back. Four chatty birds darted above our neighbourhood on a sunny, warm March 14th afternoon while at the same time four Bald Eagles circled high above. American Robins now begin the morning pre-light chorus and a pair of House Sparrows — mini-scourges — have taken over a nest box intended for delightful chickadees.

Birds and birders are stirring.

Phil Henderson, Editor



PARKSVILLE

15th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BC FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

(preliminary: further details to follow in the June newsletter)

FRIDAY, August 26, 2005

7:00 - 9:00 pm	Registration – Community Centre, Tidal Room, Bayside Oceanfront Inn, Parksville, B.C.
7:30	Welcome
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Social Hour
9:00 - ??	Possible Owling Trip

SATURDAY, August 27, 2005 (Note: Breakfast and Lunch on your own.)

5:00 & 6:00 am	Field Trips – depart Bayside Oceanfront Inn. Return by 11:00 am
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Technical Session (pm) – Tidal Room, Bayside Oceanfront Inn Speaker A TBA - See June Newsletter Speaker B TBA - See June Newsletter
2:00 - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Technical Session (cont.) Speaker C TBA - See June Newsletter Speaker D TBA - See June Newsletter
3:45 - 5:30 pm	Annual General Meeting - Tidal Room, Bayside Oceanfront Inn
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Social Hour - Tidal Room, Bayside Oceanfront Inn
7:00 - 9:30 pm	Banquet - Tidal Room, Bayside Oceanfront Inn Guest Speaker: Dr. Peter Arcese, University of British Columbia

SUNDAY, August 28, 2005 (Note: breakfast on your own.)

5:00 & 6:00 am	Field Trips – depart Bayside Oceanfront Inn. Return by 11:00 am
12:00 pm	Lunch (no host) & Annual Conference Adjournment - Tidal Room, Bayside Oceanfront Inn

Please see the further conference details on the following two pages and in the forthcoming June issue.



BCFO ANNUAL CONFERENCE FIELD TRIPS

The following descriptions provide a flavor of the field trips we are offering at the annual conference this year in Parksville, and the birds we might encounter. In the company of super observers, fall migration is one of the best times of year to be out in the field. We hope you don't miss it!

Nanaimo:

This outing will focus on a combination of birds found in the drier Douglas fir forests surrounding Westwood Lake; a freshwater marsh within urban Nanaimo at Buttertubs Marsh, and Vancouver Islands largest estuarine habitat, the Nanaimo River Estuary.

Possible species include; American Black Duck, Green Heron, Peregrine Falcon, Virginia Rail, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna's Hummingbird, Hutton's Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager.

Easy walking over moderate distances (1+ kilometer at each site). Gumboots necessary for the estuary.

Rathtrevor/Nanoose Peninsula:

In Rathtrevor Provincial Park, we will search for migrant passerines and shorebirds. From there we will make a number of stops on a driving tour of the Nanoose Peninsula, with equal parts of marine birding from the rocky headlands and shoreline, and forest birding in some of the most northerly Douglas fir/Garry oak habitats on Vancouver Island. We will finish with a walk on the Nanoose estuary.

Possible species include; Greater White-fronted Goose, Harlequin Duck, Merlin, Black Turnstone, Red-necked Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Band-tailed Pigeon, Black Swift, Cassin's Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Townsend's Solitaire, Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Easy walking over short distances.

Englishman River Estuary:

This tour will be spent entirely on the Englishman River Estuary, as we work our way upstream from marine areas at the mouth of the river, through the estuary proper, and then to forested areas along the river.

Possible species include; Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Black Oystercatcher, Pacific-Golden Plover, Bonaparte's Gull, Marbled Murrelet, Black Swift, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hutton's Vireo, American Dipper, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Easy walking over moderate distance (4+ kilometer).

The Qualicum Rivers/Deep Bay:

This outing will begin at the Little Qualicum River Estuary, with searches for early returning waterfowl and gulls. At the Big Qualicum River fish hatchery we will seek migrant passerines and other forest birds. Continuing north on the scenic, old Island Highway, our final destination will be the beaches of Deep Bay.

Possible species include; Early southbound marine species, Black Oystercatcher, Red-necked Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Heerman's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Tern, Marbled Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hutton's Vireo, American Dipper, Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Easy walking over short distances.

Wayne Diakow, Director



BCFO CONFERENCE VENUE AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The 2005 BCFO Annual Conference will be held at the Bayside Oceanfront Inn in Parksville. In spite of the cost challenges – high summer season, on the beach – we think we have arranged comfortable surroundings for reasonable rates, though room rates are higher than we would expect in the Interior. In identifying the following options, please be aware that available rooms will disappear quickly as summer approaches, so book early. At the Bayside, we have blocked 13 rooms at \$109 (the other 11 rooms are already booked!), and 10 rooms at \$139. Here are some preferred locations mostly within walking distance of the Bayside, with their August rates (excluding applicable taxes).

Ian Robertson, Director

Bayside Oceanfront Inn (250-248-8333 / toll free: 1-800-663-4232)

240 Dogwood Street

Room rates: \$109 – streetside; \$139 - beachside (single and double occupancy)

Website: www.baysideoceanfrontinn.com

V.I.P. Motel (across from the Bayside) (250-248-3244 / toll free: 1-800-663-7300)

414 W. Island Hwy

Room rates: \$99 (single occupancy); \$109 (double occupancy)

Website: www.vipmotel.com

Paradise Sea Shell Motel (next door to the Bayside) (250-248-6171 / toll free: 1-877-337-3529)

411 W. Island Hwy.

Room rates: \$79.95 (double occupancy), \$89.95 (with fridge + microwave)

Website: www.paradiseseashellmotel.com

Paradise Resort and RV Park (adjacent to Paradise Sea Shell) (250-248-6612)
(opens middle of March)

Various **Campgrounds** (book early – demand will be high)

BCFO EXTENSION, AUGUST 28-31, 2005: THE WEST COAST (INCLUDING PELAGIC TRIP)

Immediately following our AGM in Parksville (August 28), BCFO will conduct an Extension Tour based in neighbouring Port Alberni. Field trips from Port Alberni will commence August 29 and run until August 31.

The highlight of the Extension will be a 7 hour pelagic trip from Bamfield that will access BC's rich pelagic zone. Likely species encountered will include Black-footed Albatross, Northern Fulmar, 3 species of shearwater, petrels, phalaropes, jaegers, kittiwakes, Cassin's Auklet & Tufted Puffin. Laysan Albatross is possible along with other possible rarities, and various cetaceans.

On the second day of the tour we will visit the Tofino-Ucluelet area on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Shorebirds will be the main focus of our attention, and there is a wide variety of habitats including mudflats, sandy beaches and rocky shorelines, all with their attendant species.

On the morning of the third day we will bird productive habitats in the Nanaimo- Duncan area, before the tour ends in Nanaimo in the afternoon.

The tour cost of \$450 includes the pelagic trip, all transportation and

accommodation (double occupancy), and 3 packed lunches. It does not include breakfasts and dinners. The pelagic portion of the tour would normally be priced at \$150.

Tony Greenfield, Director



Membership Notes

1. Address mailing labels will now have your membership expiry date printed on them as follows EXP: Dec 2005
2. Membership is based on a calendar year and expires in December.
3. The March issue of BC Birding will be sent to members who have not renewed but their name will be removed before the June issue if they have not renewed.
4. New members who join after October will have their membership expire the following December (ie. the membership is for 15 months).
5. There is a time lag between when your cheque for renewal is received in Victoria and when I receive that information in Nelson, so there may be times when your expiry date is incorrect. This is mostly true if your cheque is sent just prior to a mailout.
6. Three renewal notices are sent out - the first with the September issue, the second with the December and the third with the March issue.
7. Please feel free to contact me either by phone (250-354-1685) or email (rwege@telus.net) if you have any concerns or questions regarding your membership. I'd be happy to answer!

Rita Wege

BCFO Grant Proposal Policy Changes.

One of BCFO's aims it to "support natural history and conservation efforts to preserve birds and their habitats." As one means of support the society offers financial help for projects such as bird surveys and other ornithological research. BCFO wishes to encourage submissions of proposals for financial assistance, and seeks to foster a greater connection between applicants and the society. The board of directors, at its last meeting (January 15, 2005), approved several changes to the Grant Proposal Policy.

A paraphrase of these changes:

1. Requests for funding are to be for planned, rather than completed, projects.
2. Under normal circumstances, applicants should be, or be willing to become, members of BCFO.
3. Projects and their results are to be reported in either BCFO's journal, BC Birds, or the BCFO Newsletter.
4. In order for the directors to give a timely response to project proposals, deadlines for submission are January 1 and July 1.
5. All reasonable request will be considered within the limits of the society's financial strength.
6. BCFO will do some advertising in order to encourage submission of proposals for project funding.

On behalf of the BCFO board,

John Vooys, Director.

Request for Donations of Back Issues of *BC Birding*

Are you looking to reduce clutter in your home? If you have back-issues of BC Birding newsletters and wish to donate much-needed issues please read on. The BCFO Archivist, Hue MacKenzie and librarian Krista De Groot are looking to fill gaps in these collections. Priority will go to filling gaps in the BCFO Archives followed by gaps in the library and a second set of newsletters to trade with the Peregrine Fund Library for issues of Journal of Raptor Research and more. We would very gratefully accept copies of the following issues: Vol. 1, #2 ; Vol. 7, #4 ; Vol. 9, #1 ; Vol. 9, #4 ; Vol. 10, #1 ; Vol. 10, #4 ; Vol. 11, #1 ; Vol. 11, #2 (2 copies) ; Vol. 11, #3 (2 copies) ; Vol. 12, #1 ; Vol. 13, #2 ; Vol. 13, #3 ; Vol. 14, #4. Please send your donations to Krista De Groot, 5421 Robertson Rd. RR#1, Delta, BC. V4K 3N2 Thank you!

Krista DeGroot

BCFO NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE

Dawn Beynon
Louise Blight
Mary Ann Bower
Bob Carswell
Neil K. Dawe
Cameron Eckhert
Federation of BC Naturalists
John Kalman
Peter Landry
Paul Levesque
Thor Manson
Gordon O'Neill
Brent Schmor
Carolynn Schmor
Maureen Sywolos
Jared Towers



Upcoming Meetings & Events

compiled by *Martin K. McNicholl*

- April 8-10 2005 BRANT WILDLIFE FESTIVAL, location not announced [presumably in Parksville/Qualicum Beach area]. Contact: no mailing address announced, phone (250) 752-9171, webpage: www.brantfestival.bc.ca.
- April 21-24 2005 WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY & ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGY JOINT ANNUAL MEETINGS, Beltsville, MD. Contact: Richard C. Banks, USGS-PWRC-MRC 111, National Museum of Natural History, Box 37012, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012, phone (202) 357-1970.
- April 23-27 2005 FEDERATION OF B.C. NATURALISTS CAMP AT SATURNA ISLAND. Contact: Bev Rainey, phone (604) 224-7689, e-mail bevrainey@telus.net OR Anne Murray, phone (604) 943-4460, e-mail sanderling@uniserve.com; no mailing addresses announced.
- May 12-15 2005 FEDERATION OF B.C. NATURALISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SALMON ARM, B.C. Contact: Shuswap Naturalist Club, c/o Dorothy Parks, 617 Grandview Bench Rd., Salmon Arm, B.C., phone (250) 807-4377, e-mail drparks@telus.net.
- May 29-June 4 2005 FEDERATION OF B.C. NATURALISTS SPRING CAMP, Williams Lake, B.C. Contact: Williams Lake Field Naturalists, c/o Kris Andrews, Secretary, 1385 Borland Rd., Williams Lake, B.C. V2G 5K5, phone (250) 392-2764.
- June 15-18 June 2005 COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. contact details not yet announced.
- August 23-27 2005 123RD STATED MEETING OF AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, Univ. of California-Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, Calif. Contact: Stephen I. Rothstein, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution & Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, phone (805) 893-2834, e-mail rothstei@lifesci.ucsb.edu.
- October 12-16 2005 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING, Green Bay, WI. Dan Varland, Rayonier, 3033 Ingram St., Hoquiam, WA 98550, phone (360) 538-4582, e-mail daniel.varland@rayonier.com.
- October 20-22 2005 20TH TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY CONFERENCE, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Contact: Madeleine Linck, mailing address unknown, phone (763) 694-7851, e-mail ttss@threeriversparkdistrict.org.
- 2005 SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING, Halifax, N.S. Dates & contact information details not yet announced.
- March? 2006 SOCIETY FOR NORTHWESTERN VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING, Olympia, Wash. Dates, exact location & contact details not yet announced.
- Aug. 13-19 2006 24th INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, Hamburg, Germany. Contact: IOC 2006, Institute of Avian Research, An der Vogelwarte 21, 26386, Wilhelmshaven, Germany.
- Oct. 2-7 2006 4TH NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS -JOINT MEETING OF AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS, WATERBIRD SOCIETY & WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY WITH MEXICAN HOSTS, Veracruz, Mexico. Additional ornithological societies may also participate. Contact: Charles M. Francis, National Wildlife Research Centre, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0H3, phone (613) 998-0332, e-mail charles.francis@ec.gc.ca OR Jose Luis Cantara, e-mail jlalcant@colpos.mx.



B.C. Birding News Brief

Compiled by *Martin K. McNicholl*

Dick Cannings Profiled -The latest naturalist to be profiled in a series in *Discovery* is B.C.F.O. Director Richard J. (Dick) Cannings (J. N. M. Smith. 2004. *Discovery* 33(2):7-9). Dick, currently in charge of Bird Studies Canada's programs in B.C., was Curator of the Cowan Vertebrate Museum at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver for over a decade and also chaired the birding section of the Vancouver Natural History Society. While in Vancouver, he published frequently on birds in the lower mainland, but is probably best known ornithologically for publications on owls and for "Birds of the Okanagan Valley," co-authored with his twin brother Syd and their elder brother, Rob. Dick's knowledge of nature is broad and his publications on nature in B.C. and Newfoundland range through "popular" articles to scientific papers. He is also a popular nature broadcaster and trip leader.

North American Loon Fund Dissolves -In July 2004, the Trustees of the North American Loon Fund voted unanimously to dissolve this 25-year organization, not because of lack of interest, but because it had been so successful that it had inspired the founding of numerous more regional loon associations. During its quarter century of existence, NALF awarded over \$300,000.00 U.S. in research, management and public education grants and published a popular record and several scientific symposia proceedings. While Executive Director of Long Point Bird Observatory and for a couple of years thereafter, I had the privilege of representing the Ontario/Canadian Lakes Loon Survey on that board and always found their meetings both educational and enjoyable. At dissolution of NALF, CLLS was one of the four extant affiliates, and continues to conduct research and public education on loons in Canada as a program within Bird Studies Canada. -based partly on dissolution notice from trustees Joseph Kerekes, Scott Sutcliffe and Judith McIntyre.

Howie Contributions Recognized -During its 2004 fall annual general meeting, the Federation of B.C. Naturalists awarded Rick Howie, a former B.C.F.O. director with a well-deserved club service award for his many contributions to knowledge and environmental education in the Kamloops area, including his participation in Breeding Bird Surveys and Christmas bird counts, his swan censuses, his Flammulated Owl research and publication of two editions of a bird checklist of Kamloops. Some of his swan counts [as well as Bald Eagle counts not mentioned specifically in the award announcement] have been published in *B.C. Birding*, others in *B.C. Naturalist*.

Other club service awards presented in part for bird conservation and/or ornithological research activities were to Dorothy Beestra of the West Kootenay Naturalists in part for monitoring bluebird boxes and to Barbara Sedgwick of the Comox Valley Naturalists in part for organizing Christmas, spring and fall bird counts, for hosting a meeting of the North American Trumpeter Swan Society and for organizing and chairing the CVNS Birding Group. -based primarily on J. Best. 2004. *B.C. Nat.* 42(4):8 & 10.

New National Park? -With another provincial election looming, B.C.F.O. members with opportunities to discuss issues with candidates should ask them about their support for a new national park in the southern Okanagan. Former Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Premier Gordon Campbell announced a "decision to investigate the potential" for such a park in October 2003. -see R. Searle. 2004-2005. *Nature Canada* 33(4):24-27 for a brief photo essay on the issues under consideration.

B.C. Loses Two Prominent Birdwatchers -J. E. Victor Goodwill of Victoria died on 20 February 2004 (*Ornithol. Newsletter* 164:5, 2005). He and his wife, Margaret, were long prominent in the birding community of southern Vancouver Island (see R. W. Campbell *et al.* 1990. "The birds of British Columbia." Vol. 1:36). A brief biography appeared in *Wildlife Afield* 1:30-31, 2004.

An e-mail from Phil Gehlen to a birding chat group, forwarded by Andy Buhler on 28 Jan. 2005, announces the death of long-time prominent Okanagan birder Mary Collins in Vernon on 26 January 2005. [Editors Note: See Phil's tribute to Mary on page 16].



Kathleen Mary Collins

1930-2005

Natural history enthusiasts throughout British Columbia and in the Okanagan Valley in particular are saddened by the passing January 26, 2005 of Kathleen 'Mary' Collins.

Mary was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on February 1, 1930 and emigrated to the Okanagan as a small child where she resided first in Naramata and then the Vernon area. She spent her entire life in the Okanagan, with the exception of her school years at Crofton House in Vancouver. Mary was extremely fond of both dogs and horses all of her life. She recalled being involved in many equestrian events and shows while growing up. For a number of years she, with her family, she operated a dairy farm in the Lavington area. As many of you are aware, Mary was an ardent birder and truly enjoyed most aspects of natural history in many parts of the world. She contributed to many citizen-science based programs, pertaining to birds in particular, by conducting Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, Nocturnal Owl Surveys and Canadian Lakes Loon surveys for many years. Mary also faithfully

submitted her observations to the Backyard Feeder Watch, Naturescape and other local and international conservation efforts. She, locally, arranged many of the group birding trips to places like Arizona, Texas, Oregon and Manitoba. Mary, with her late husband Tom, loved RV camping throughout Canada, United States and Mexico where Tom enjoyed fly-fishing while she went off to do her birding.

Mary was on the executive of the North Okanagan Naturalists Club for many years and was a founding member and director of the NONC Foundation. This foundation, to which Mary has been very generous, was instituted to accept donations and bequests of land and other assets for the preservation of wildlife habitat and the education of younger citizens in the interests of nature in general. In addition to being a

director of this foundation, Mary was Resident Manager and Docent of the Lydia Bishop Wild Bird Sanctuary for the past eleven years up until March of last year when she found it exceedingly difficult to maintain the property and moved to Coldstream Meadows where she resided until she was admitted to Vernon Jubilee Hospital on January 5th.

Phil Gehlen
Vernon, BC
250-542-8053



The Ultimate Needle in a Haystack!

When volunteers from the Langley Field Naturalists helped clear mist net lanes to commence spring bird banding in the old field at the Forslund Watson property in April 2004 little did they know that they would be part of an amazing story involving a Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*.

This tiny neotropical migrant travels up to 2000 miles from its winter grounds in central America to its summer breeding grounds in Canada consuming roughly its weight in nectar or sugar water every day.

Excitement mounted early on the morning of April 10th when the first hummingbird of the season was trapped at the site. After carefully removing the bird from the net and placing it in a soft lingerie bag for transporting back to the banding table – the bird was identified as an adult female Rufous Hummingbird and banded with a uniquely numbered federal aluminium band and a number of biometric measurements taken:

N25722 was then photographed and released to continue her journey.

Band Number	N25722
Date	4-10-2004
AOU	RUHU
Age	AHY
Sex	Female
Wing	43 mm
?Tail	26 mm
Fat	0
Weight	3.3. grams
Culmen	17.52 mm



When one considers that only about 150 people in the United States and Canada are permitted by their governments to capture and band wild hummingbirds then it becomes apparent that the chances of a recapture of one single tiny bird represents the ultimate needle in a haystack. And yet that is precisely what happened to N25722 when amazingly on May 19th 2004 she was retrapped at Thompson's Farm north of Port Alberni at N 49d 19' 28.8"; 124d 52' 21.3" W on Vancouver Island, weighing a healthy 3.2 grams before once again being released unharmed to continue her long migration.

Retrap information like this is not only exciting but is tremendously important for us to gain a better continent wide understanding of the migration patterns of these amazing birds and to help with our efforts to enhance and restore habitat for breeding birds and to assess the significance of various habitats as important stop over sites for neotropical migrants like this Rufous Hummingbird.

Derek J Matthews



Hummingbird Facts

- Smallest birds in the world – only found in western hemisphere from Alaska to Tierra Del Fuego
- Estimated number of species – 338
- Body weights range from 2 – 20 grams – Bee Hummingbird found in Cuba weighs just 2 grams and is just 2.24” long with bill and tail. Giant Hummingbird of the Andes is 8.5” and weighs 20 grams
- Wing beats up to 80 beats per second and up to 200 times per second in courtship dives
- Hummingbirds can hover, fly forwards, backwards, sideways, up and down and even upside down
- They will visit several hundred flowers a day in search of nectar and insects
- They fly up to 30 mph and can dive up to 60 mph
- Some travel 2000 miles or more from their summer breeding grounds in Canada to their winter grounds in central America
- Hummingbirds do not have a sense of smell – they locate their food by eyesight
- A hummingbirds heart beats 1,260 times per minute in flight – 250 times at rest
- Breathing – about 250 breaths per minute at rest
- Hummingbirds consume roughly their weight in nectar or sugar water each day
- On cold nights they can lower their body temperature by 20 degrees Celsius



Derek J Matthews



Back Issues of BCFO Newsletters and Journals

If you are missing past issues of *BC Birding* or *British Columbia Birds* you can purchase most volumes by contacting the people listed below. Back issues of the journal *British Columbia Birds* can be acquired for \$5.00/ea or the *BC Birding* newsletter for \$2.00/ea (prices include postage) from the following people.

For journals contact:

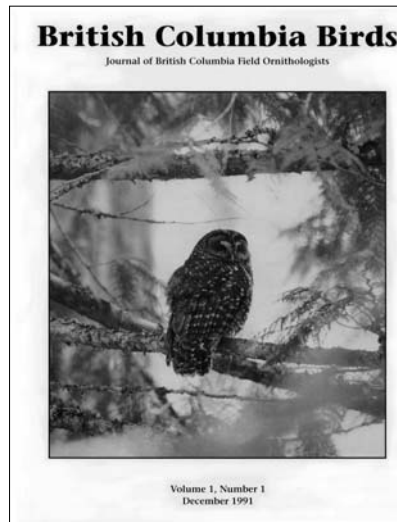
Marilyn Buhler
#7 - 1700 Deleenheer Road
Vernon, B.C. V1T 9S9
brdrs@shaw.ca

For newsletters contact:

Ted Goshulak
9578 - 212B Street
Langley, B.C. V1M 1N4
tgosh@twu.ca

All journal back issues are currently available, except for Volume 8 of *British Columbia Birds* which is out of print. Please pre-pay your order by check or money order made out to BC Field Ornithologists.

Andy Stewart, Director



Journal Articles now On-line

All feature articles and notes published in Volumes 1 – 10 of *British Columbia Birds* are now available from our website www.bcfo.ca. Articles can be down-loaded individually as PDF files using Adobe Reader, version 5 or greater. Based on the recommendation of our current editor, John Sprague, the board of directors took this move to increase awareness and availability of our journal. This is one of several steps the BCFO board plans for 2005 to improve on the number and quality of submissions to *British Columbia Birds*.

Andy Stewart, Director

From the Field

As the temperature warmed, those birds that had long suffered the cold and the paucity of exposed and accessible forage finally caught a break. The Varied Thrushes which frequented the areas of our yard free of snow — beneath the trees and alongside the fence — began to forage in areas newly available. The sun and heat slowly melted the snow around the large objects on the lawn, revealing that which remained invisible beneath the clean blanket of snow, and betraying the contentment of the neglectful yardskeeper. On January 16, 2005 I witnessed a Varied Thrush pecking one such newly exposed soft dark mass and apparently eating it. After about 30 seconds the bird flew away. As I approached this frosty epicurean delight my suspicion was enlivened and then confirmed. There lay thawing a good sized pile of our dog's excrement, complete with bits of undigested carrots. (In addition to being a healthy, and possibly talented excretor, Zama is a healthy eater!) I mention the carrot not for effect but to point out that this unsavoury snack is not without nutrition. Also of note is the fact that our fair dog has a dysfunctional pancreas and may excrete undigested nutrients (proteins, fats and sugars) that exceed levels found in stools of dogs in possession of healthy pancreata. Did the Varied Thrush know this? Probably not. Huge flocks of Varied Thrushes did not soon descend upon our yard to consume dog turds and I did not observe this behaviour after this one incident. However, I cannot rule out the possibility that the thrush may benefit from such distasteful nibbling and seek out these dubious treats in troubled times. I placed an apple beside the stool in the hopes that if the bird did return it would indulge in what was, in my non-thrush opinion, a better snack.

Phil Henderson



Visit to Changhwa

BCFO's partner organization, Changhwa Wild Bird Society, founded in 1991 by Simon Liao in Changhwa, Taiwan, is a dynamic organization with a membership of approximately 2,000; of these, about 300 are considered "active." I had met several of the members and directors in March, 2003, during the Gray-faced Buzzard-Eagle Bird Fair, held on Pa Kua Mountain, on the outskirts of Changhwa. Since then, I wanted to know more, especially after another visit to Taiwan, and the forming of our partnership with CHWBS in November, 2003.

Consequently, Hue and I were delighted to be invited to visit their office and meeting room in Changhwa in November, 2004, during our

third trip to Taiwan, and following our *Birding in Taiwan* tour. Former president Simon Liao accompanied us. We were warmly received by current President Wu Ten-Di and other regular Thursday night attendees. The CHWBS holds small weekly meetings to talk about birds and enjoy good food, often inviting a speaker. I had been asked to present a PowerPoint talk on some of my birding experiences around the world at the Nov. 18 meeting, which I was pleased to do. Simon translated my English into Taiwanese, as needed. While there, Hue and I were impressed by the well-equipped office, with 3 computers, laptop, fax machine, 2 telephones, extensive library of books

and other references, CD and DVD videos, projection equipment for slides and PowerPoint, and 3 full-time staff to manage everything.

The Changhwa Wild Bird Society is an active group. They enjoy birding field trips, and also have been instrumental in bringing about several major conservation initiatives in Taiwan through field work and research.

Jo Ann MacKenzie



Birds of Tasmania - 7

In previous articles I have written about several of Tasmania's endemic birds. These are birds found nowhere else in the world except on this island. There is another species, the Orange-bellied Parrot, that breeds nowhere other than Tasmania, but is not classified as an endemic because it moves to the mainland in the winter. This is a bird with a relatively limited breeding range and has, therefore, never been particularly numerous. But in recent years their numbers have dropped alarmingly. It is estimated that the total population now is around two hundred. The Parks and Wildlife Service in Tasmania has embarked on a program to save this graceful little parrot from extinction.

The current breeding range is restricted to coastal heath areas in south-western Tasmania. This area is totally within a large national park to which there is no road access. The program is centred on a small community called Melaleuca. Here a number of nest boxes have been erected and a feeding platform is maintained to assist staff in monitoring the birds' movements and numbers. Despite the difficult access, I wanted to see Orange-bellied Parrots! There are three ways to get to Melaleuca, a five-day walk; a long boat trip; or a chartered aircraft. Since we had only a weekend, we chose the latter.

The monitoring is conducted by volunteers, who go in for two-week periods and observe the feeding station for four hours a day. By a stroke of good luck, the coordinator of the volunteer program had a son in my Math class. I had talked to the son a number of times in class, about the parrots and birds in general. So when I called Dad to ask about getting in to Melaleuca, he knew who I was

and quickly arranged everything for us! We didn't even have to pay for the flight! We left Hobart on Friday afternoon, on a windy and unsettled kind of day, in a four-seater Cessna plane. Because it was cloudy, the pilot said we would follow the coast all the way, rather than take the more direct overland route. The 55-minute flight was spectacular! The wind picked up as we went toward the west, and the landing on the gravel airstrip was a little bumpy. When we arrived I discovered that there is nothing at Melaleuca except an old homestead, still occupied by descendants of the original owner; the airstrip; and a few huts for hikers and parrot volunteers. The area is open and hilly, the dominant vegetation being coastal heath, grasses, and other woody shrubs. In a few protected areas on the hills, stands of trees grew. The ground was very wet; the water table is virtually at the surface.

The next morning I was up early and off to the observation blind at 06:00. Almost as soon as I arrived, so did the first of the parrots! There is something special about seeing a creature as rare as the Orange-bellied Parrot. We sat in the blind, (actually a large and comfortably building with chairs, large windows, and a telescope), for two hours. During that time I saw at least eight parrots. Most of the nestlings from the last 6 or 7 years have been banded and this enables the Parks and Wildlife Service to monitor the birds and provide valuable information about the success of the program.

The Orange-bellied Parrot is a small and very graceful parrot. At about 20 cm in length, it is only marginally bigger than a Budgerigar. We spent several hours in the hide over the next day or two. There always seemed to be something going on! One pair had

taken ownership of a nearby nest-box. They seemed to think that this gave them first rights on the feed tray. Interestingly enough, the "resident male" was not terribly successful at driving off other parrots, but as soon as the female arrived, they all scattered!

After thoroughly enjoying our two days in the Melaleuca wilderness, we packed our things and awaited the arrival of the scheduled four o'clock flight to take us back to Hobart. When the plane hadn't arrived by five o'clock, we were told that it was now too late and it wouldn't be here today! Since we were both due at work the next morning, this was a problem! But there was absolutely nothing we could do about it, except plan to enjoy an extra day tomorrow! The following day, the wind was still blowing and the visibility still not great, and again we saw no plane! Finally, at 2 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, the plane finally arrived. Our 2-day wilderness experience had turned into four. This would have been fine, except that we had only packed food for two days!

This is an area of Tasmania I would love to visit again some day. There is so much more to see in the region, if we'd just had a bit more food and some more clothes!

Gary Davidson

Editor's Note:

This is the last installment in Gary's series of interesting accounts and observations of birds in Tasmania.

For images of the birds mentioned in Gary's articles, please visit the Australian Bird Image Database at <http://www.aviceda.org/abid/>

Additional information on Australian birds and their distributions can be found at the Atlas of Australian Birds site: <http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/atlas/index.html>



BIRD LISTER'S CORNER

by Wayne C. Weber

This year, a total of 54 people sent in one or more lists for this column - a gratifying increase from only 38 people last year. A total of 351 lists were submitted, although a few of these were for areas that we do not recognize (e.g. Yukon, Manitoba) or were below the thresholds that I established. It appears that listing is still alive and well among the BCFO membership.

As a result of a complaint, and some reflection on my part, I lowered the threshold for the ABA area from the 500 species stated on the listing form to 400. I contacted several contributors whose ABA lists were between 400 and 500, and had originally not submitted them. My apologies go to anyone with over 400 on that list whose total does not appear here.

I received comments from a couple of contributors who disagreed with the policy of setting thresholds, and felt that it discriminated against relatively new birders, and in favour of "elite birders", whatever those are. (If there is such a beast, I'm obviously not one, because my World list is far short of the threshold of 1000 species!) However, I set the thresholds at levels such that very few lists published last year do not qualify this year. I believe that setting thresholds should serve as an incentive to see more bird species in an area, not a discouragement for not having seen enough. Every other publication I have seen that publishes birders' individual list totals uses thresholds, and the ones I set initially are similar to those used in the American Birding Association's ABA List Report, and in the Listers' Corner for Canada, compiled for years by Burke Korol, and now by Larry Neily. (For more details on these, check out their websites: <http://www.americanbirding.org/bigday/index.html> for the ABA, and <http://ca.geocities.com/neilyworld@rogers.com/listerscorner/>

[listers-corner.htm](#) for Larry's "Listers' Corner".) Besides, as I pointed out to one contributor, you can always select a favorite area that you bird frequently, such as a city park or nearby provincial park and submit a list for that area, even if you don't meet the threshold for some of the large areas.

For the British Columbia list — and this list only — I included, for the sake of comparison, lists submitted last year to ABA and to Burke Korol. There are 68 B.C. lists, of which 18 are a year old and are marked with an asterisk (*), either because they are from other publications or from BCFO members who did not re-submit their lists this year. Mike Toochn continues to top this list. However, the biggest gains were posted by Len Jellicoe, who added 25 species to his provincial list, and Lloyd Esralson, who added 20.

Jo Ann and Hue MacKenzie still lead in the World List category, and both added many species in 2004. However, the biggest increases were by Laird Law, who added 600 species (sheesh!) to his list, and Mike Mulligan of Calgary, who did almost as well with 499.

In the ABA Area listings (Canada plus the USA, minus Hawaii), Mike Toochn continues to hold a slim lead over Mike Mulligan and Roger Foxall. The biggest gains in the ABA area were posted by John Vooy (70 species), Barbara Begg (41 species), Andy and Marilyn Buhler (34 species), Rand Rudland (30 species), and Russ Tkachuk (27 species). It seems noteworthy that 4 of these 6 birders are current or former residents of the Sunshine Coast-- maybe finally getting itchy feet after years of being cooped up there?

The Canada listings showed few big changes from last year. Roger Foxall and the MacKenzies are still far ahead of anyone else. The biggest movers in this category were John Vooy, who added

29 species, and Len Jellicoe, who added 18.

There may have been some confusion about the "North Pacific Pelagic Waters" category. My intention was to continue Ken Morgan's policy of allowing species seen in the pelagic zone anywhere from Alaska south to California for this list. However, I neglected to include this category on the listing form, or to say what the boundaries were. It appears that some people did not submit lists for this category at all, and others included only species seen offshore from BC. My apologies, and I will try to make this clear next year.

There are lots of other interesting statistics in the lists for other areas. I couldn't help noticing that two lists declined by one from last year - Eric Tull's ABA Area list, and Laurie Rockwell's Okanagan Valley list. What happened, guys-- an error in tallying your lists last year??

For next year, I am considering adding the Yukon and NWT to areas for which lists may be submitted. Both of these territories have a common border with BC, and several birders submitted lists for both this year, even though they were not among the "allowable" reporting areas. However, I am not planning to allow lists from provinces east of Alberta. If you want to see your list totals for other Canadian provinces in print, please submit them to Larry Neily's "Listers' Corner" (details above).

Many thanks to all of you who submitted your listing totals. I hope you enjoy this report, and I look forward to an even more interesting bunch of listing totals next year.



BIRD LISTING STATISTICS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005

BRITISH COLUMBIA (482 species)

OBSERVER	TOTAL	PERCENT	INCREASE				
Mike Toochin	438	90.9%	+3	Martin McNicholl	335	69.5%	---
Rick Toochin*	427	88.6%	---	Brent Schmor	332	68.9%	---
Jo Ann MacKenzie	425	88.2%	+2	Ken Ward*	329	68.3%	---
Hue MacKenzie	424	88.0%	+3	Marika Ainley	29	68.3%	+8
Dale Jensen	419	86.9%	+3	Alex Gray*	325	67.4%	---
Tom Plath*	416	86.3%	---	John Sprague	323	67.0%	+4
David Stirling	415	86.1%	+1	Suzanne Benoit*	321	66.6%	---
Wayne Weber	414	85.9%	+2	Eva Durance*	318	66.0%	---
Michael Force*	413	85.7%	---	Burke Korol*	15	65.4%	---
Tony Greenfield	408	84.6%	+3	Kenneth Burden*	315	65.4%	---
Danny Tyson*	406	84.2%	---	Ken Taylor	14	65.1%	---
John Luce*	403	83.6%	---	Judy Latta	310	64.3%	---
Sharon Toochin	401	83.2%	+3	Laurie Rockwell	310	64.3%	+2
David Allinson	400	83.0%	+2	Carolyn Schmor	309	64.1%	---
Brian Self	398	82.6%	---	Kyle Elliott	302	62.7%	---
Lloyd Esralson	398	82.6%	+20	Blake Maybank*	301	62.4%	---
Bryan Gates	394	81.7%	+5	Dorothy Copp	300	62.2%	---
Roger Foxall	393	81.5%	+7	Gwen Nicol	287	59.5%	---
Hank Vanderpol*	392	81.3%	---	Mabel Crocker	285	59.1%	+11
Dick Cannings	392	81.3%	---				
Russ Tkachuk	389	80.7%	+1				
Rick Tyson*	388	80.5%	---				
Mike McGrenere	385	79.9%	---				
Keith Riding	384	79.7%	---				
Barbara Begg	381	79.0%	+5				
Ken Klimko	376	78.0%	+4				
Audrey Viken*	374	77.6%	---				
Val George	374	77.6%	+6				
Stefan Zaremba	373	77.4%	+2				
Kevin MacPherson*	372	77.2%	---				
Brian Stech	372	77.2%	---				
Murray Brown	372	77.2%	+5				
Larry Cowan	368	76.3%	---				
Don Wilson	63	75.3%	+2				
Chris Charlesworth	360	74.7%	---				
Eric McAlary*	357	74.1%	---				
Ken Morgan	357	74.1%	+1				
Ron Walker	357	74.1%	+9				
John Vooy	352	73.0%	+5				
Andy Buhler	347	72.0%	+6				
Laird Law	347	72.0%	+2				
Marilyn Buhler	347	72.0%	+6				
Len Jellicoe	45	71.6%	+25				
Gwynneth Wilson	343	71.2%	+4				
David Mark*342	71.0%	---					
Dannie Carsen	342	71.0%	---				
Peter Blokker	339	70.3%	+7				
Eric Tull	336	69.7%	+1				
Rand Rudland	336	69.7%	+4				



WORLD (9838 species)

OBSERVER	TOTAL	PERCENT	INCREASE
Jo Ann MacKenzie	4130	42.0%	+177
Hue MacKenzie	4089	41.6%	+137
John Cartwright	3862	39.3%	---
David Stirling	3663	37.2%	+206
Keith Riding	3618	36.8%	---
Roger Foxall	3332	33.9%	+19
Mike Toochin	3168	32.2%	+68
Stefan Zarembo	3100	31.5%	+110
Mike Mulligan	3061	31.1%	+499
Ron Walker	2931	29.8%	---
Dick Cannings	2655	27.0%	---
Barbara Begg	2474	25.1%	+71
Dale Jensen	2310	23.5%	+64
Ken Taylor	2136	21.7%	---
Laird Law	1977	20.1%	+600
Sharon Toochin	1970	20.0%	---
Brian Self	1931	19.6%	---
Eric Tull	1904	19.4%	+107
Kyle Elliott	1581	16.1%	---
Hank Vanderpol*	1407	14.3%	---
Bryan Gates	1345	13.7%	+31
Ken Morgan	1180	12.0%	+52
Val George	1163	11.8%	+64
Don Wilson	1151	11.7%	+3
Sandra Eadie	1080	11.0%	---
George Innes	1073	10.9%	---
Rand Rudland	1045	10.6%	---

ABA AREA (927 species)

Mike Toochin	757	81.7%	+3
Mike Mulligan	750	80.9%	+2
Roger Foxall	750	80.9%	+9
Hank Vanderpol*	725	78.2%	---
Stefan Zarembo	714	77.0%	+1
Russ Tkachuk	713	76.9%	+27
Jo Ann MacKenzie	700	75.5%	0
Hue MacKenzie	696	75.1%	+1
Dale Jensen	675	72.8%	+1
David Stirling	665	71.7%	+1
Wayne Weber	665	71.7%	+3
Sharon Toochin	655	70.7%	---
Eric Tull	653	70.4%	-1
Dorothy Copp	627	67.6%	---
Brian Self	619	66.8%	---
David Allinson	613	66.1%	+1
Keith Riding	609	65.7%	---
John Sprague	601	64.8%	+3
Tony Greenfield	601	64.8%	+2
Barbara Begg	593	64.0%	+41
Don Wilson	593	64.0%	+3
Gwynneth Wilson	593	64.0%	+11
Lloyd Esralson	591	63.8%	+10
Marika Ainley	589	63.5%	+5
Mabel Crocker	578	62.4%	+1
Ken Klimko	576	62.1%	+3
Dick Cannings	567	61.2%	---
Bryan Gates	561	60.5%	+1
Andy Buhler	555	59.9%	+34
Marilyn Buhler	555	59.9%	+34
Chris Charlesworth	550	59.3%	---
Kyle Elliott	532	57.4%	---
Ken Morgan	521	56.2%	0
Martin McNicholl	520	56.1%	---
Mike McGrenere	512	55.2%	---
Sandra Eadie	507	54.7%	---
Gwen Nicol*	497	53.6%	---
John Vooy	464	50.1%	+70
Ken Taylor	464	50.1%	---
Laure Neish	462	49.8%	+9
Laird Law	461	49.7%	+2
Murray Brown	457	49.3%	+9
Larry Cowan	456	49.2%	---
Brent Schmor	447	48.2%	---
Rand Rudland	424	45.7%	+30
Dannie Carsen	421	45.4%	---



CANADA (638 species)

OBSERVER	TOTAL	PERCENT	INCREASE
Roger Foxall	516	80.9%	+2
Hue MacKenzie	514	80.6%	+2
Jo Ann MacKenzie	512	80.3%	+1
David Stirling	484	75.9%	+1
Mike Toochn	484	75.9%	+3
Eric Tull	482	75.5%	0
Brian Self	477	74.8%	---
Marika Ainley	470	73.7%	+2
Dale Jensen	464	72.7%	+2
Russ Tkachuk	463	72.6%	+6
Wayne Weber	461	72.3%	+2
Dick Cannings	452	70.8%	---
Stefan Zarembo	447	70.1%	+2
Sharon Toochn	447	70.1%	---
David Allinson	440	69.0%	+1
Martin McNicholl	438	68.7%	---
Keith Riding	437	68.5%	---
Mike McGrenere	437	68.5%	---
John Cartwright	436	68.3%	---
Barbara Begg	433	67.9%	+3
Lloyd Esralson	426	66.8%	+10
Ken Morgan	424	66.5%	+1
Tony Greenfield	421	66.0%	+2
Larry Cowan	419	65.7%	---
Bryan Gates	413	64.7%	+2
Gwynneth Wilson	408	63.9%	+4
Murray Brown	403	63.2%	+4
John Sprague	400	62.7%	+3
Mike Mulligan	399	62.5%	+3
Don Wilson	398	62.4%	+3
Sandra Eadie	397	62.2%	---
Peter Blokker	394	61.8%	+4
John Vooy	392	61.4%	+29
Brian Stech	386	60.5%	---
Andy Buhler	382	59.9%	+4
Marilyn Buhler	382	59.9%	+4
Ron Walker	379	59.4%	---
Len Jellicoe	378	59.2%	+18
Ken Klimko	376	58.9%	+4
Rand Rudland	375	58.8%	+8
Laird Law	373	58.5%	+2
Chris Charlesworth	365	57.2%	---
Dannie Carsen	355	55.6%	---
Brent Schmor	353	55.3%	---
Mabel Crocker	352	55.2%	+9
Laure Neish	323	50.6%	---

WASHINGTON STATE (476 species)

Wayne Weber	370	77.7%	+8
Jo Ann MacKenzie	346	72.7%	0
Hue MacKenzie	340	71.4%	0
Mike Toochn	312	65.5%	+7
Brian Self	271	56.9%	---
Dick Cannings	267	56.1%	---
David Stirling	254	53.4%	0
Roger Foxall	247	51.9%	+8
Keith Riding	244	51.3%	---
John Vooy	244	51.3%	---
Lloyd Esralson	231	48.5%	+3
Dale Jensen	229	48.1%	0
Chris Charlesworth	227	47.7%	---
Brent Schmor	216	45.4%	---
Carolyn Schmor	211	44.3%	---

ALBERTA (406 species)

Eric Tull	351	86.5%	+2
Mike Mulligan	327	80.5%	+8
David Stirling	284	70.0%	0
Brian Self	271	66.7%	---
John Cartwright	256	63.1%	---
Hue MacKenzie	244	60.1%	0
Martin McNicholl	241	59.4%	---
Roger Foxall	41	59.4%	0
Hank Vanderpol*	239	58.9%	---
Jo Ann MacKenzie	239	58.9%	0
Wayne Weber	235	57.9%	0
Laure Neish	222	54.7%	---
Bryan Gates	222	54.7%	0
Dick Cannings	208	51.2%	---



Vancouver Island (387 species)

OBSERVER	TOTAL	PERCENT	INCREASE
David Allinson	337	87.1%	+6
David Stirling	336	86.8%	+7
Barbara Begg	327	84.5%	+5
Bryan Gates	326	84.2%	+8
Mike McGrenere	318	82.2%	---
Dannie Carsen	273	70.5%	---
Mike Toochin	270	69.8%	+5
Ken Morgan	266	68.7%	0
Wayne Weber	253	65.4%	0
Hue MacKenzie	249	64.3%	+1
Jo Ann MacKenzie	248	64.1%	0
Roger Foxall	235	60.7%	+2
Brent Schmor	233	60.2%	---

Victoria Area (362 species)

David Allinson	322	89.0%	+4
David Stirling	320	88.4%	+3
Barbara Begg	314	86.7%	+5
Hank Vanderpol*	312	86.2%	---
Bryan Gates	312	86.2%	+4
Mike McGrenere	305	84.3%	---
Dannie Carsen	263	72.7%	---
Mike Toochin	242	66.9%	+1
Wayne Weber	234	64.6%	0
Brent Schmor	229	63.3%	---

Rocky Point Area (297 species)

David Allinson	257	86.5%	---
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Salt Spring Island (238 species)

John Sprague	147	61.8%	---
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Saturna Island

Tony Greenfield	102
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Queen Charlotte Islands (250 species)

Ken Morgan	134	53.6%	0
Val George*	126	50.4%	---

Vancouver Area (398 species)

Mike Toochin	353	88.7%	+5
Jo Ann MacKenzie	343	86.2%	+2
Hue MacKenzie	338	84.9%	+2
Brian Self	331	83.2%	---
Wayne Weber	330	82.9%	+1
Lloyd Esralson	319	80.2%	+7
Keith Riding	318	79.9%	---
Sharon Toochin	312	78.4%	---
Stefan Zarembo	309	77.6%	+3
Ken Klimko	305	76.6%	+5
Larry Cowan	297	74.6%	---
Roger Foxall	288	72.4%	+12
Dick Cannings	284	71.4%	---
David Allinson	278	69.8%	+1
Kyle Elliott	270	67.8%	---
John Vooy	262	65.8%	+12
David Stirling	242	60.8%	0
Brian Stech	240	60.3%	---
Bryan Gates	235	59.0%	0
Don Wilson	234	58.8%	+1
Brent Schmor	230	57.8%	---

Sea & Iona Islands (316 species)

Wayne Weber	226	71.5%
Lloyd Esralson	199	63.0%

Westham & Reifel Islands (260 species)

Wayne Weber	212	67.1%
Lloyd Esralson	183	57.9%

Sunshine Coast (292 species)

Tony Greenfield	264	90.4%	+2
Russ Tkachuk	240	82.2%	+1
Rand Rudland	218	74.7%	+1

Kamloops Area (295 species)

Wayne Weber	253	85.8%	
David Stirling	198	67.1%	0



Okanagan Valley (329 species)

OBSERVER	TOTAL	PERCENT	INCREASE
Chris Charlesworth	295	89.7%	---
Gwynneth Wilson	287	87.2%	+4
Dick Cannings	285	86.6%	---
Don Wilson	283	86.0%	0
Judy Latta	283	86.0%	+2
Laurie Rockwell	68	81.5%	-1
Peter Blokker	267	81.2%	+5
Mike Toochnin	261	79.3%	0
Eva Durance*	257	78.1%	---
Laure Neish	257	78.1%	+4
Wayne Weber	257	78.1%	0
David Stirling	242	73.6%	0
Hue MacKenzie	236	71.7%	0
Jo Ann MacKenzie	233	70.8%	0
Tony Greenfield	230	69.9%	---
Ken Klimko	227	69.0%	+2
Laird Law	217	66.0%	+1
Keith Riding	208	63.2%	---
Lloyd Esralson	205	62.3%	0
John Vooy	94	59.0%	+3
Bryan Gates	192	58.4%	+4
Russ Tkachuk	189	57.4%	---
Brent Schmor	85	56.2%	---
Dannie Carsen	175	53.2%	---

North Okanagan (278 species)

Peter Blokker	237	85.3%
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West Kootenay (313 species)

Gwen Nicol*	230	73.5%	---
Jo Ann MacKenzie	179	57.2%	0
Wayne Weber	177	56.5%	0
Hue MacKenzie	169	54.0%	0

Creston Valley (283 species)

Gwen Nicol	148	47.4%	---
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Revelstoke Area (242 species)

Wayne Weber	145	59.9%
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100 Mile House

Laurie Rockwell	175
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Williams Lake Area (248 species)

Bryan Gates	138	55.6%
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Prince George Area (283 species)

Laird Law	255	90.1%	+1
Don Wilson	190	67.1%	0
Peter Blokker	151	53.4%	+2

Peace River Area (272 species)

Tony Greenfield	207	76.1%
Laird Law	206	75.7%
Jo Ann MacKenzie	191	70.2%
Bryan Gates	184	67.6%
Wayne Weber	164	60.3%
David Stirling	158	58.1%
Larry Cowan	150	55.1%

Pacific Rim National Park (254 species)

David Stirling	175	68.9%
David Allinson	170	66.9%

Mount Revelstoke National Park (147 species)

Don Wilson	100	68.0%
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Yoho National Park (125 species)

Wayne Weber	125	60.1%
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Miracle Beach Provincial Park (160 species)

David Stirling	159	99.4%
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Mitlenatch Island Provincial Park (160 species)

OBSERVER	TOTAL	PERCENT	INCREASE
David Stirling	110	68.8%	

Mount Seymour Provincial Park (120 species)

Wayne Weber	85	70.8%
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Manning Provincial Park (206 species)

Mike McGrenere	139	67.5%
Wayne Weber	125	60.7%
Jo Ann MacKenzie	109	52.9%

Mount Robson Provincial Park (168 species)

Laird Law	133	79.2%
David Stirling	120	71.4%

Haines Triangle

David Stirling	88
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North Pacific Pelagic Waters

David Allinson*	75	---
Lloyd Esralson	63	+2
David Stirling	60	0
Ken Morgan*	58	---
Val George	8	0
Mike Toochin*	52	---
Jo Ann MacKenzie	51	+3

Birding by RV

Bill and I struggled out of our snowy driveway on January 13th, towing our new trailer, with our destination the Texas Gulf region and its many sanctuaries and wildlife refuges. We spent the first 12 days travelling and visiting family and friends in Oregon and California before finally arriving in rugged mountainous Big Bend National Park. Our southern birding adventure had begun! We saw so many birds, that I couldn't list them all here but I'd like to share some of the exciting highlights. Bill's goal was to take pictures of the birds we saw to keep a visual record. His bird photography skills improved as the weeks went by.

As we set up our trailer in Big Bend we noticed a different type of woodpecker which we identified as the Golden-fronted Woodpecker. We saw this friendly fellow, a Texas specialty, frequently in the Big Bend and Rio Grande valley regions as we travelled. On our first walk I noticed a flycatcher sitting on a wire and when I got my binoculars on it, I was amazed to see that it was bright red: a Vermillion Flycatcher! The next morning on our walk, we saw a flock of these flycatchers swooping throughout the campsite. Bill tried to take pictures of these fast moving birds with limited success. On the same morning walk, we hiked up a steep hill and saw our first Northern Cardinals. The Northern Cardinal was a frequent companion at most of our campsites on the Gulf. I thought I was looking at maybe a female Cardinal when I realized that with its yellow bill and beige plumage tipped with red that that I was looking at a Pyrrhuloxia, a cardinal of the desert! We saw him frequently in the Big Bend area. We got used to the Greater Roadrunners racing across the roads in the park and kept watching for Wiley Coyote! We



identified the Northern Mockingbird here, but we were to see these birds wherever we went on our travels.

Leaving the spectacular Big Bend area we headed down to the Rio Grande Valley region on the Texas Gulf. Our first stop was Rio Bensen National Wildlife Refuge. Here we had our first views of the noisy, colourful Green Jays. Feeding stations had been set up and the Jays could always be seen at the stations feeding on the seeds and grapefruits provided. Another easily seen bird at the stations was the Chachalaca, a large, noisy game bird that was generally seen in groups. The weather at Rio Bensen was quite cold, but that didn't deter the many birders we saw on their own birding quests. We started seeing these same birders as we moved on to Santa Ana Wildlife refuge. Here they were on a quest for a Blue Bunting, a rarity from Mexico that had been spotted. We looked carefully but had no luck ourselves. We saw our first Brown Thrasher at Santa Ana as well as many Least Grebes.

The next day we visited Frontera Audubon Sanctuary. At the feeding station were several Curved-billed Thrashers which we became used to by the end of our trip. Hanging around the edges of the feeding station was a rarity from Mexico, a Rose-collared Grosbeak. Nearby was a resident Buff-bellied Hummingbird. Other birders were obsessing about a rare White-throated Robin and a rarely seen Clay-colored Robin. No luck for us, until we moved on to Laguna Atacosa Wildlife Refuge and spotted 3 Clay-colored Robins hopping around the garden near the Visitors Centre. We saw the very rare Aplomado Falcon posing in full view on a branch and Crested Caracaras standing in a field. Our campsite near Laguna Atacosa was

a birder's paradise, with Green Jays and Cardinals hopping right beside our trailer. In the Arroyo (or ox-bow lake), White and Brown Pelicans as well as Great Egrets, Cormorants and Great Blue Herons could be seen. At Sable Palms Audubon Sanctuary, we had close-up views of Great Kiskadees and a White-eyed Vireos as well as the rarity, the Gray-crowned Yellowthroat. The lagoon offered sightings of Anhinga, Ringed Kingfisher and Black-crowned Night-Heron. .

We travelled north on our quest to find the wintering grounds of the Whooping Crane. As our headquarters, we camped for 5 nights at Goose Island State Park. Everyone there walks around with binoculars and the park has naturalist-led bird walks 4 mornings a week. On the walk I went on, we saw 57 different species, the best one being a Clapper Rail that popped out of the grasses beside the beach long enough for us to have a good look. I think I have some of the shore birds sorted out for now! We had a tour of Aransas Wildlife Refuge and although we saw alligators, armadillos and wild pigs, we only had distant views of those Whooping Cranes. The next day we went to nearby Rockport and went for a birding boat trip to get right up close. And indeed we had very close views of a female, male and juvenile Whoopers. Whooping Cranes are very territorial and each family inhabits about a square mile. We could see other family groups off in the distance. On the trip we also got close to Roseate Spoonbills, oystercatchers and a Great Blue Heron herony. At one point our boat was escorted by Bottle-nosed Dolphins.

When we left Texas, we headed back to spend some time in Arizona, hoping to find some sunshine and warmth, as the weather hadn't been as warm as

we were expecting. We spent a couple of wonderful days camping at Tucson Mountain State Park in the Saguaro National Forest. The giant cacti were perfect perching places for birds, which made it easy to add some new birds to our list. A black crested bird I saw frequently was a Phainopepla, which is a silky-flycatcher (Family Ptilonotidae). Sitting in plain view was a Cactus Wren and a very pretty Black-throated Sparrow. Flying between the many huge saguaros were Gila Woodpeckers and scampering through the underbrush were Gambel's Quail. We thoroughly enjoyed these birds, seen against the backdrop of the spectacular red mountains of Arizona.

Of course, birding was not our only activity on our 8,000 mile RV adventure. We saw beautiful landscapes, visited historical towns and met many interesting fellow travellers. But once we were at our southern destination, we were caught up in the excitement of seeing those new birds. Although we were not in Texas and Arizona during migration season, we certainly experienced many birding highlights for our memory book. Where will we go RV birding next year?

Kathy Masse



SITE GUIDE: BULLMOOSE MARSHES

Many BCFO members were able to enjoy the Bullmoose Marshes as a part of one of the field trips during the 2004 AGM in Tumbler Ridge.

This wetland interpretive area is situated just off Highway 29 (well signposted) 24 kilometers from Tumbler Ridge and 67 kilometers from Chetwynd.

The trails and platforms were built in 2003 by the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society (WNMS), Tumbler Ridge's volunteer outdoors group that has designed and maintained 22 hiking trails in the area. WNMS includes "TROG", the Tumbler Ridge Ornithology Group.

The 250 m (one way) Sora Trail and 650 m (one way) Bittern Trail lead through a diversity of forest and wetland habitats, past beaver dams and meadows, to viewing platforms over bodies of water, with views of the foothills and mountains in the distance.

The marshes represent a pause in the flow of the waters of Bullmoose Creek to the Arctic Ocean. Mature spruce forest was logged here in 1971. The area was replanted in 1974, but forest was slow to regenerate, and in 1990 an excavator was used to create mounds to enhance regeneration. The unanticipated result of all this activity was an alluring birding site where possibly one had not existed before, which the Ministry of Forests has been delighted to see converted into a wetland interpretive area.

The trails are adorned with benches, feeders and nest boxes, and a floating island, donated by Ducks Unlimited, was installed in early 2004. A box with self-guiding brochures and bird list is available at the trailheads.

Seventy-six species have been identified so far, including eight species of waterfowl and ten warblers, and the only area records of American Bittern, Vaux's Swift and Red-naped Sapsucker. Nesting Solitary Sandpiper and Wilson's Snipe, Tree Swallow and Red-winged Blackbird are to be found close to the viewing platforms. Patient viewing is often rewarded with good Sora sightings. In early spring this is a reliable site for Boreal and Great Horned Owl. May, June and early July are by far the best times to visit.

In addition to the birds, there is abundant sign of large mammals, especially moose. The Bittern Trail was temporarily closed after a Grizzly kill beside the trail (and later because of a very aggressive yellow-jacket nest).

All four species of northeastern BC frogs occur here, as well as the only area reptile, the Common Garter Snake. Because of the variety of habitats there is a corresponding diversity of plant species.

Donations for the project were made by Ducks Unlimited, Bullmoose Operating Corporation, and Tumbler Ridge businesses and residents.

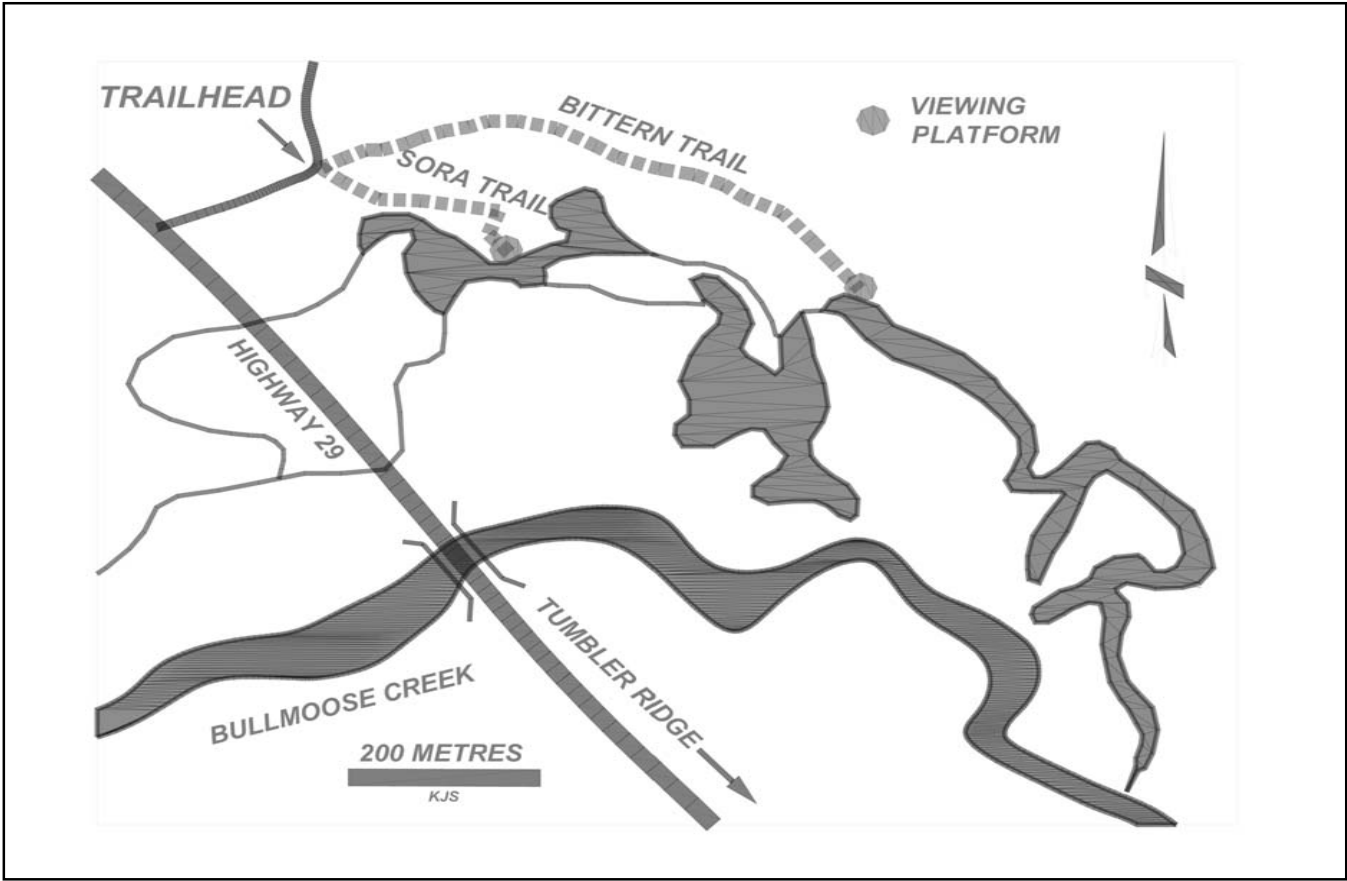
While there are many more important wetlands in the province, the accessibility of this pleasant birding destination, its peaceful ambience, and the opportunity to see many species at close range has made it a popular regional feature.

The interpretive guide, with a complete bird list, can be downloaded at www.pris.bc.ca/wnms/brochures.htm

Visiting birders are welcome to call Charles Helm: 250 242 3984 or email at drchelm@pris.bc.ca

Charles Helm





Charles Helm



British Columbia Bird Records: August - November, 2004

August was mostly hot and dry until the 3rd week when it turned wet, September was cool, often windy and wet, October started out wet and windy but ended cold and snowy, and November was milder and occasionally rainy on the coast and snowy inland. However, buried in the broad monthly descriptions were some notable weather events:

- Freak snowstorm in the BC Peace Sep. 15-16 resulting in many downed trees and likely considerable migratory bird casualties.
- A strong westerly storm track scraping the south Alaskan Shore on its way to BC the first half of October bringing a healthy invasion of Siberian specialties
- A strong cold northerly flow straight from the Mackenzie Delta mid-October that redirected many Prairie Flyway waterfowl migrants such as Tundra Swans into eastern BC.

Passerines had a good summer as evidenced by near record totals banded at Vaseux and record numbers banded at Rocky Point Bird Observatory.

Loons through Raptors

Small numbers of Pacific Loons move through the southern interior every fall but finding a Red-throated Loon among them is very rare. Such was the case on Vaseux L. 12–13 Nov (DB *et al.*). A local record high count for Pied-billed Grebes was established with 47 in Salmon Arm 25 Sep (DGC). The province's first photo-documented Manx Shearwater and 4th provincial record, was an ad. 5kms se. of Race Rocks, near Victoria 8 Aug (ph. JJ *et al.*). An American White Pelican, very rare along the south coast, landed near a private dock on Powell L., where it allowed people to feed and pet it 6 Sep (FS). The summer invasion of Brown Pelicans continued with at least 16 birds reported, 11 were seen from Carmanah Point, on the west coast of Vancouver I. 23 Oct (JE). Very rare on Vancouver I. and having traveled about as far west as it can get, a juv. Black-crowned Night Heron was in Ucluelet 14-17 Aug, where it enjoyed feeding at the Thornton Creek Fish Hatchery (BSI *et al.*). Black-crowned Night Herons are very rare in the Okanagan valley where 4 were discovered circling Deadman's L. 19 Aug (DB). Cattle Egrets staged their best invasion since the fall of 1992 when 150 birds were reported, this year there were 68 birds reported, with the most northerly near 115 Mile, 11 Nov (KD) and the last reported were two birds in Castlegar 25-30 Nov (GL). The third Okanagan record, and first fall record of Green Heron came from Vaseux L. 3 Sep (DB). Many flocks of southbound Tundra Swans were reported east of the Fraser R. during the cold snap in mid-Oct, in particular many sizeable flocks of 75-100 followed the Robson Valley (RZ). Snow Geese were also reported more than usual in the central interior and a new interior high count of 55 was established over the Quesnel airport 18 Oct (JB). A

single Brant at Vanderhoof 19 Sep (NK, MP) provided the first local record. A colour-banded Brant seen in spring at Parksville, was found to have been banded in the Lena River Delta, Russia in July 2003, over 5000 kms away! (GLM). Salmon Arm is a staging area for southbound waterfowl as well as shorebirds. Further evidence of this location's significance came as 315 Ring-necked Ducks were counted 3 Oct (DGC), the highest provincial total on record since 1959. An astounding total of 760 Turkey Vultures was recorded at Rocky Point Bird Observatory 26 Sep (DA). A few Osprey were very late on Vancouver I. with the latest being a single in Tofino 27 Nov (RC). For the fourth year in a row, the gray morph Gyrfalcon returned to Kelowna 6 Nov to end of period (CC *et al.*). Prairie Falcons are very rare along the coast with most suspected as escaped birds. One such bird, on Mandarte I., was in a mistnet eating captured European Starlings but it managed to free itself as the bander approached 8 Sep (KE).

Shorebirds through Alcids

An American Avocet made a rare appearance in Metchosin 8-10 Oct (fide DA) and a flock of 7 were record-late in Salmon Arm 3-10 Oct (CC, TF *et al.*). Following a high tide, 26 Pacific Golden-Plovers flew into the Masset airstrip, QCI, 25 Aug (PH, MH) which was surprisingly, not a local high count. Although shorebirds were plentiful in both number and variety this fall in Salmon Arm, the southern interior shorebird hotspot, Killdeer numbers were only 20% of last year's total. The family of Black-necked Stilts at T'Kumlups Marsh was still present 22 Aug (RH) with 3 adult-sized juvs that were capable of flight; this was the



2nd successful nesting in the province. The Salmon Arm mudflats, just a few kilometers in length, produced 26 species of shorebirds this fall, (see table 1 for details of high counts).

Table 1: Record high counts of shorebirds at Salmon Arm

Species	Qty	Date	Observer(s)
Black-bellied Plover	28	19 Sep	CC, RyT
American Avocet	7	10 Oct	CC, TF <i>et al.</i>
Greater Yellowlegs	163	20 Aug	DGC
Solitary Sandpiper	18	20 Aug	DGC
Spotted Sandpiper	41	20 Aug	DGC
Upland Sandpiper	2	20-21 Aug	DGC <i>et al.</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper	45	28 Aug	DGC
Baird's Sandpiper	260	22 Aug	DGC
Stilt Sandpiper	48	25-28 Aug	DGC
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	9	25 Aug	DGC
Short-billed Dowitcher	8	29 Aug	CC, CoC
Long-billed Dowitcher	134	18 Sep	DGC

Among the numerous yellowlegs present in Salmon Arm this fall, a single leucistic Lesser Yellowlegs was an odd sight 20-28 Aug (ph. DGC *et al.*). Upland Sandpipers were more prevalent this fall than usual with singles at: Rocky Point Bird Observatory 16 Aug (DA, JJ); Chichester Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna 22 Aug (CC) and an ad. with a juv in Salmon Arm 20-21 Aug (ph DGC *et al.*). A pair of juv Long-billed Curlews, rare on the coast, strolled the beach among the tourists at Chesterman Beach, Tofino 3-11 Aug (ph. AD *et al.*). Hudsonian Godwits are rare anywhere away from the Peace R. area, 7 birds were reported this fall with the most notable, a juv at Robert L., Kelowna 29 Aug (RyT). A wonderful opportunity to study godwits occurred in Boundary Bay as a trio of juv godwits were discovered 5 Sep (RTo). Although Bar-tailed Godwits are very rare, there were 3 reported from Boundary Bay and a 4th was at the Rocky Point Bird Observatory 28-29 Aug (DA, JJ) for a sixth Victoria area record. An ad. Black Turnstone furnished a fifth interior record, and the first since 1979 when discovered in Salmon Arm 22 Aug (ph. DGC, *et al.*). The province's 9th and 10th records of Little Stint involved single juvs at: Boundary Bay 11 Sep (†RTo); Iona I. 14-15 Sep (†RF). Above-average numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers occurred this fall with 16 juvs involved, almost all singles, and the only interior report came from Salmon Arm 18-24 Sep (DGC *et al.*). Stilt Sandpipers arrived in unprecedented numbers in the southern interior with numerous counts in the double-digits, see table 1 for high count. Buff-breasted Sandpipers also appeared in numbers that smashed all historical counts: 9 found in Salmon Arm

25 Aug (DGC) had tied the all-time provincial high count but was soon outdone by counts on the coast with: 16 juvs at a turf farm in Delta 24-31 Aug (ph. RTo, *et al.*); and 15 at the Sandspit airport, QCI, 30 Aug (PH, MH). This fall migration involved at least 50 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, most of which were along the coast, one can only wonder how many escaped unnoticed, particularly in the interior. Very rarely seen, a dark morph Long-tailed Jaeger was a highlight off Tofino 25 Sep (AD). It was a good passage year for southbound Sabine's Gulls in the central interior with many of the larger lakes hosting small numbers 28 Aug – 5 Sep (fide JB) with the largest total involving 5 at Eaglet L. e. of Prince George 5 Sep (CA). Fewer were seen in the southern interior with only 5 reported. Franklin's Gulls were found in record numbers in Salmon Arm with 20 present 11 Sep (DGC). A Black-headed Gull, casual along the coast, was with the large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls in Active Pass 25 Oct (JAM). For the 4th year in a row a LBBG showed up in Vernon, this is the first that could be a returning bird. This basic-plumaged ad. was in Vernon 9, 12, 26-30 Nov (ph †DGC *et al.*) and was later seen on Shannon L., Westbank on (MF). A Caspian Tern was very late at William's L. 26 Sep (KA). A few wayward juv/first basic Ancient Murrelets were discovered in the interior at: Salmon Arm 1 Aug (ph. SP); and along the south shore of Quesnel L. 5 Sep (†WR). A pair of ad. Xantus's Murrelets furnished the 6th provincial record when seen offshore from Tofino 25 Sep (†AD).

Owls through Finches

When Snowy Owls began to arrive at Iona I. on 30 Oct (PC) it was hoped that an invasion may follow but numbers increased only to 4 by 4 Nov (m.obs.). Northern Hawk Owls were noted moving south with a single bird in Kelowna, in the Okanagan Mountain Park fire burn area 31 Oct (MS) and at least 5 were reported from the Cariboo-Chilcotin with the earliest a single at 139 Mile, on 24 Oct (PR, KA). Accidental in the Lower Mainland, an ad. Boreal Owl was picked up alive after a collision with a window in Tsawwassen 3 Oct (fide CCI). The province's 7th record of White-winged Dove came from Rocky Point Bird Observatory 7 Oct (†GLM, PG). A White-throated Swift surprised coastal observers at Englishman R. estuary as it flew with a small flock of Black Swifts 11 Sep (†GLM, BD) and furnished one of very few coastal records. A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was exceptionally late at Reifel Refuge 23 Nov (JI). Bank Swallows are rare on Vancouver I. but this fall they were more numerous with singles: at Rocky Point Bird Observatory 9 & 30 Aug (DA); and in Courtenay 11 Sep (JF). The 7th regional Western



Scrub-Jay, initially found in Squamish 23 Jun, was seen occasionally through to 27 Nov (ph GrD, MaD). Casual in the Lower Mainland, an imm. Ash-throated Flycatcher was in Delta 12 Oct – 15 Nov (CG, MT, *et al.*). Chickadees of at least three species were on the move with 100 Black-capped Chickadees tallied in the Osoyoos Oxbows DATE NEEDED (DB); Mountain Chickadees staged an invasion into the lower mainland with singles: in South Surrey 9 Oct (RTo); Langley 16 Oct (DTy) and record numbers were found at Reifel Refuge 2-27 Oct (JI *et al.*) with up to 20 birds the highest single count in the Vancouver area. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee, recaptured 18 Sep at the Rocky Point Bird Observatory became the oldest on record as it was at least 8 years and 3 months old with its original capture being at the Observatory 2 Aug 1997 (DA). Chestnut-backed Chickadees were also found outside their usual range with 9 birds found at three feeders in Princeton 11 Nov (fide RJC). Rock Wrens continue to appear on Vancouver Island where rare, with a single at McMicking Point in Oak Bay 2-22 Oct (m. obs.). A Sage Thrasher, rare in the province and accidental along the south coast, was at Brunswick Point 19 Nov (ph.GP). The province's 2nd but first photo-documented Gray Wagtail was an imm. at Carmanah Point, on the west coast of Vancouver I., for a single day visit 26 Oct (ph.JE, JaE). A Eurasian Skylark, on the outer coast at Jordan River 28 Oct (RS, ph. TA) was thought to be from the small surviving population from Victoria.

A Warbling Vireo was very late in Salmon Arm 25 Sep (DGC, CC).

A good variety of warblers were found west and south of their usual range this fall with: Chestnut-sided Warbler near the United States border along Chopaka Rd. 2 Sep (DTy); a Magnolia Warbler, a Blackpoll Warbler and a Black-and-white Warbler were banded at Vaseux L. 3 Sep (TH, RCa); another Magnolia Warbler was in Salmon Arm 3 Oct (RyT, CC); two Cape May Warblers were in William's Lake 23 Oct and one remained to 30 Oct (PR); an imm. male Blackburnian Warbler, the region's 9th record, was at Amphitrite Point, Ucluelet, 22 Sep (†RTo); a Palm Warbler was in Osoyoos 6 Oct (DB); another Blackpoll Warbler was at Reifel Refuge 19 Sep (JF, RTo); 6 American Redstarts produced a new Vancouver area high count in Queen Elizabeth Park, 29 Aug (LJ); an imm. Ovenbird was in Aldergrove 21 Sep (ph.JD, SD); and a late Wilson's Warbler was in Tofino 11-25 Nov (AD). Continuing the late theme, a Western Tanager was

record-late in Salmon Arm 3 Oct (DGC). A Dickcissel was discovered in the bulb fields of central Saanich 13 Oct (BG *et al.*) for a 14th regional record. Vancouver's 2nd Nov record of Chipping Sparrow came from Brunswick Point 12 Nov (JV). Clay-coloured Sparrows are rare in the lower mainland away from their dry interior haunts, single immatures were at Boundary Bay 15-26 Sep (DTy); and Iona I. 19 Sep (JK). A Lark Sparrow, accidental on the coast, was in Parksville 23 Nov (JH *et al.*) in the same location where one was seen two years prior! A Grasshopper Sparrow surprised observers at Whiffin Spit in Sooke 21-25 Nov (TP, JG†). A female or imm. Bobolink, accidental in fall in the Lower Mainland, was at Sea Island, along the airport fence 11 Sep (MKM) and a record-late bird was heard calling overhead in Salmon Arm 18 Sep (DGC). A late Bullock's Oriole was in Tofino 30 Oct (AD), this species clears out of the interior in August.

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Don Cecile

Don has been an active birder for 17 years. He first became interested in birds when he was hired as a park naturalist at Point Pelee National Park. Don also has a keen interest in bird photography. Having been a coastal birder upon his arrival from Ontario, he now resides in Vernon, where he writes B.C. seasonal bird summaries for the magazine North American Birds.

Gary Davidson

Gary Davidson, Nakusp's resident birder and pre-eminent British Columbia birder accepted a teaching position in Hobart, Tasmania where he and his wife Marie lived for a year. Gary has contributed bird records from throughout BC. Before moving to Nakusp he explored the Fort Nelson area and co-authored an important paper on the birds of the Fort Nelson area with Tony Erskine in 1976. His contributions in Nakusp and beyond have significantly added to our knowledge of the birds of BC. [Editor]

Phil Gehlen

Phil was born in Saskatchewan and immigrated to British Columbia in the late eighties where he pursued careers in both finance and construction prior to becoming a Real Estate Appraiser in 1972. It was about the same time he became unalterably hooked on the study of birds, an avocation he has ardently followed ever since. His career brought him to Vernon from the Lower Mainland in 1992 where he retired in 1998. Phil has participated in many bird study programs such as Vernon's Christmas Bird Count (as compiler), Nocturnal Owl Surveys and Breeding Bird Surveys. He is also a director of the Bishop Wild Bird Foundation in Vernon.

Charles Helm

Charles Helm is a South African-born family physician who came to Canada in 1986 and has lived in Tumbler Ridge since 1992. He is secretary of the Wolverine Nordic and Mountain Society, Tumbler Ridge's outdoor group. Along with his Saskatchewan-born wife, Linda, and his children, Daniel (13) and Carina (10), he has extensively explored the Tumbler Ridge area. He has been instrumental in the design and construction of the nineteen hiking trails that have helped transform it into a tourist destination. He is Vice President of the Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation, and has been involved in the discovery, research and exhibition of local dinosaur and other palaeontological material. He has written three books on Tumbler Ridge history, trails and dinosaurs. He is an avid birder and was the local organizer of the 2004 BCFO Conference in Tumbler Ridge.

Jo Ann MacKenzie

Jo Ann's interest in creatures of the wild began in very early childhood in Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A. At about age 2, she tried to persuade a neighborhood squirrel to eat walnuts from a spoon. Some 30 years later, her interest focused on birds. She became active in the birding section of the Toronto Field Naturalists and the Ontario Bird Banding Association. Jo Ann and husband Hue moved to the Vancouver area in 1983, and were soon leading field trips for the Vancouver Natural History Society and the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists. They were founding members of BCFO in 1991. Jo Ann was elected to the Board of Directors in 1999, serving as Secretary for 3 years, and President for 1 year, retiring in June, 2003.

Kathy Masse

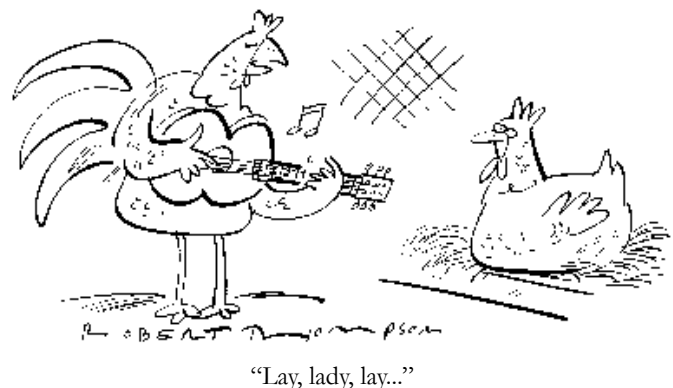
Kathy Masse grew up in Vancouver and is a life-long nature lover. Her latent interest in birds was awakened by taking a birding course at a Vancouver night school in 1993. She has been hooked on birdwatching ever since! Kathy is an active member of Langley Field Naturalists and enjoys associating with other birders to increase her knowledge. Since retirement from the business world in 2003, Kathy has more time to devote to birds, both in her backyard and while travelling with binoculars in hand.

Derek J. Matthews

Derek Matthews is a Canadian and British citizen who has trained extensively in bird identification and banding in Britain and North America. He is a Master Bander who also has advanced hummingbird banding training and experience. He was recently involved in a banding project with the Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia (WBT) and Langley Field Naturalists at the Forslund-Watson conservation area in Langley, and is conducting studies within GVRDs Burnaby Lake park. He has operated a Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) station at Burns Bog and has worked with Peter Pyle at Point Reyes Bird Observatory in California. He designed and now manages (including banding nestlings) the stewardship program for Purple Martin colony for WBT at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver. [Editor, with notes from D.J. Matthews]

Wayne Weber

Wayne is a native British Columbian, and started birding in Penticton in the early 1960s under the mentorship of Steve Cannings. He is a serious ornithologist as well as a birder, and earned B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees at the University of B.C., and a Ph.D. at Mississippi State University. He has spent most of his working life as a wildlife and fisheries biologist with the B.C. Government. Wayne has lived most of his life in the Vancouver area, and his credits include 18 years as organizer/compiler of the Vancouver Christmas Bird Count, and terms as a Board member of the Vancouver Natural History Society, Pacific Northwest Bird & Mammal Society, and BCFO. He was one of the founding directors of BCFO, and remains a strong supporter of the society.



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