

# BC BIRDING

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**AGM Preview:** Lillooet from Red Rock. See page 15 for details.

## Ms. Cooper goes to Cawston

For the past 12 years I have been banding hawks on southern Vancouver Island as part of my research on urban-nesting Cooper's Hawks. Early on in this study I came to the realization that the public were regularly encountering these marked birds and noting the bands on their leg bands. After my initial year of banding in 1995, I began to mark these hawks with an additional colour band; placing black bands on males and red bands on females. These bands display a unique 2 character alpha-numeric code, which depending on proximity and luck, can be read with either binoculars or a spotting scope.

In the early days of my study, observers typically reported their sightings to me by phone or letter. More recently, these sightings come to me by e-mail and often they are accompanied with a supporting digital photograph. On 7 January 2007, a banded hawk report came in through the BCFO website e-mail address. Kevin Bell forwarded the

*please see Ms. Cooper, page 20*



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

BCFO objectives include fostering cooperation between amateur and professional ornithologists, promoting cooperative bird surveys and research projects, and supporting conservation organizations in their efforts to preserve birds and their habitats.

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*

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### 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*

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*Deadline for the receipt of material for publication is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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

I wish I could regale you with tales of the great birds recently seen, but most of the seed in the feeders is going into Mule Deer. At 4 am this morning (Feb. 12) we were awakened to see one gazing through the sliding door. A second was eating what remains of a globe cedar; a good source of calcium. And a third was in the vegetable garden nibbling on the parsley.

After the successful Christmas Bird Counts in the south Okanagan (the Penticton CBC totaled 111 species and our area list, usually 35-40, was a surprising 51 species) our feeders were becalmed. The House Finch with the white right side of the head continued to visit occasionally. A flock of 150 Cassin's Finches worked the ponderosa cones around the house; infrequently a few would perch on the feeder.

With the snow too deep to walk the old dogs on the woods roads, we head down the road where the overwintering robins, Varied Thrush, Red-winged Blackbirds and starlings are cleaning up the apple orchard. A beautiful dark phase Red-tailed Hawk has been in the neighbourhood all winter. When perched, it is all black except for spots of white on a few feathers on the back of the neck. In flight, the top of the tail has the typical foxy red and the lower surface has a lot of white with a black band across the tips of the feathers. The primaries and secondaries are mostly white with a black band on the trailing edge, whereas the axillaries and underwing coverts are nearly black.

Some say spring is in the air and speak of Western Bluebirds and Red-winged Blackbirds, but all winter 8-10 bluebirds were in the neighborhood and a couple of hundred red-wings lingered to take advantage of the super seed crop on the Ponderosa Pines. The past few days has seen

Pine Siskins, Red Crossbills and 102 Clark's Nutcrackers return to the neighborhood.

On February 3 the directors met at Manning Park Lodge. With the AGM in May it was essential that the program and lodging be announced in this newsletter. Wayne had everything under control! Tony had looked into having the extension in Chilcotin Country and was given the green light to finalize arrangements. There was a lively discussion over a checklist for BC birds and who would publish it and when, and our past experiences in that area. The checklist is linked to the hot potato Bird Records Committee and we explored ways to move ahead in this area. Editor John Sprague is nearly ready to send volume 15 of *BC Birds* to the printer. He, Martin and Andy continue to contact potential authors and raise the profile of the journal.

And THANK YOU to all those who donate time and effort to keep the BCFO chugging along. In particular, Marilyn and Andy Buhler, Ted

Goshulak, Rita Wege, Hue and Jo Ann MacKenzie, and the editors John Sprague and Phil Henderson.

*Jim Ginns, President*



## British Columbia Birds, the journal

A strategy session held on November 20, organized and hosted by Andy Stewart, was attended by former editor Martin McNicholl, editor John Sprague, BCFO treasurer Andy and BCFO president Jim Ginns. The main objective was to, very succinctly, attract more manuscripts. The discussion was wide ranging, including content, formatting (i.e., appearance), major articles, notes, book reviews, special issues (dedicated to a topic), revisions to the web site, electronic versions of the contents, and finances. Martin provided detailed notes on his approaches to this and other journal items. Andy circulated two address lists of ornithologists and birders that we should contact to be sure they are aware of the journal, especially as the best venue for publishing their research results. John presented the current status of submissions and put forth his views on ways to stimulate the in-flow of manuscripts. Every one agreed that there was a lot of good research on BC birds out there and a lot of competent researchers were doing the work. And a look was taken at several journals that are considered our "competitors."

*Jim Ginns*

## Help Wanted - Archivist

BCFO is searching for an archivist. The tasks are neither onerous nor time consuming. Applicants should be able to file documents in an organized manner. Details of the job can be obtained from current Archivist Hue MacKenzie (motmot@telus.net or 604 538-1676). Interested? Contact Jim Ginns (ginnsj@shaw.ca or 250 492-9610).

## Nominations

At the May AGM there will be an election to fill any vacancies on the Board of Directors. The BCFO constitution states: Nominations for new Directors may be made by any Member, and must be sent to the Secretary in writing, together with the signed consent of the nominee. Nomination may also be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting, but must be accompanied by the nominee's written consent, or if the nominee is present, the nominee must give verbal consent.

The Officers shall be chosen by the Directors from among their number as soon as possible after the AGM.

Although not specifically stated nominations via email are acceptable. BCFO has a Nomination Form and I will be glad to email it on request. It is not essential that nominations be on the form.

*Jim Ginns*

## BCFO RESEARCH GRANTS

BCFO encourages submissions of proposals for financial assistance for bird surveys and other ornithological research. It also wishes to foster greater connection between applicants and the society. Potential applicants are reminded that

1. requests for funding must 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 BCFO's journal, *BC Birds*.
4. in order for BCFO directors to give a timely response to project proposals, deadlines for submission are January 1 and July 1.
5. all reasonable requests will be considered within the limits of the society's financial strength.



## Editor's Notes and Notions

Donkey spit. Last issue I left a portion of the CBC listings off the list; seems the V and Vernon was inadvertently dropped. Actually, not only was the V dropped, the whole listing was missing. I hope that no bird-oriented Vernonites missed the count because of this.

In this issue we have many contributors, many views, much passion, some wisdom, some friendly competition, and some good old-fashioned birding fun. Andy Stewart's interesting story wrought from his research on Cooper's Hawks in Victoria heads this issue. (I was fortunate to see Andy's presentation on his research at a recent conference of the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology in Victoria.) Next up is a very important paper that discusses the steady state economy and BCFO's position on that issue. Neil K. Dawe has spear-headed this drive in BC and BCFO has wisely chosen to address this issue and possibly (hopefully) adopt an official position of acceptance. Martin McNicholl, this time with contributions from Wayne Weber, presents various interesting conferences and news briefs of interest to readers. Wayne Diakow has provided all the information for the upcoming BCFO AGM in Lillooet, May 25 to 27th. Registration and waiver forms are included separately with this newsletter. Next, a few items of club notices (see also the page opposite), followed by an interesting and disturbing letter that highlights the role of government in conservation. We have a number of contributions by CBC'ers from the interior and the lower mainland and Jo Ann MacKenzie updates us on Taiwanese birding, notably the selection of the country's "national bird". Dick Cannings remembers an inspirational and influential conservationist from Naramata. Don Cecile gets us caught up with bird sightings from the summer and fall of 2006. The item on page 36 advises you on what to do should you see a

Turkey Vulture with a wing tag. Don't eat it! Wayne Weber presents the results of all the submissions by listers in this year's impressive *Listers' Corner*, pages 37 to 45.

Thanks to the many contributors to this colossal issue. Enjoy.

**Phil Henderson**, Editor



Editor's Note: The UK Department for Environment, Food, & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has said that in the case of a major outbreak of bird flu all birds must be kept inside. (Submitted by Kevin Bell.)



# Economic Growth and Avian Biodiversity Conservation: a fundamental conflict

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*This article was written as an information preamble to a proposal that the British Columbia Field Ornithologists adopt a position statement on the fundamental conflict between economic growth and avian biodiversity conservation following those of a number of ecological and economic societies around the world. While this may be an extraordinary direction for the BCFO to take, the evidence is overwhelming that many avian species are in global decline and that orthodox conservation measures do not appear to be effective on their own. This article attempts to explain why, in spite of serious conservation efforts by ornithologists, ecologists, and conservationists, many avian populations still remain threatened today.*

## Introduction

In 2005, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Board summarized the findings of over 1,300 scientists who evaluated the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being. They wrote:

*Human activity is putting such strain on the natural functions of Earth that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted.*

*The provision of food, fresh water, energy, and materials to a growing population has come at considerable cost to the complex systems of plants, animals, and biological processes that make the planet habitable (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005).*

One wonders how this can be, when there are more environmental laws and regulations, more protected areas, more ecological and conservation research, more ecosystem restoration activities, and more environmental awareness than ever before.

In this article, we discuss the costs to one of those complex systems of animals, the declines in avian populations. We offer an explanation as to why, despite concerted efforts to reduce these declines, many populations continue their

downward spiral. Specifically, we contend that there is a fundamental conflict between what we believe to be the root cause of these declines—economic growth—and avian biodiversity conservation.

Finally, we present a draft position statement for the BCFO membership to consider, one that discusses this fundamental conflict between economic growth and avian biodiversity conservation and considers a solution to continuous economic growth that respects physical and ecological principles.

## The problem: Declining bird populations

Even after a century of conservation efforts around the world, a recent IUCN report (World Conservation Union 2006) notes that at least 12% of the bird species on the planet are threatened with extinction. Projections by Sekercioglu et al. (2004), indicate that between 6% and 14% of all bird species will be extinct by 2100 and a further 7% to 25% will be functionally extinct. Avian extinctions may also be exacerbated by declines in fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals as these groups are 1.7–2.5 times more threatened than birds (Birdlife International 2000).

Pimm et al. (2006) determine that corrected extinction rates for birds since A.D. 1500 are in the order of ~100 extinctions/million species/year (E/MSY). While conservation efforts may have reduced that rate in recent decades (<50 E/MSY), the reduction will be short-lived



and a 21st century rate of ~1,000 E/MSY is predicted. Pimm et al. (2006) also contend that if present forest losses continue, bird extinction rates will reach 1,500 E/MSY by the end of the century.

Canada and British Columbia are no different.

Nationwide, 65 avian taxa are now considered extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened, or of special concern (Environment Canada 2006) and provincially, 43 avian taxa are considered extirpated, endangered or threatened with a further 48 of special concern (British Columbia Ministry of Environment 2006).

If we look at the dominant causes of avian taxa endangerment in British Columbia and the economic sectors of which they are a part, the effect that economic growth is having on our native species is clear (Table 1). The dominant endangerment cause is habitat loss or conversion, however that loss does not occur spontaneously; it is facilitated by urbanization, forestry, and agricultural practices, among others—significant players in the economy. Clearly, all but a few of the endangerment causes are directly related to our perennial demand for economic growth.

### The fatal flaw of neoclassical economics

There are many things wrong with the conventional or neoclassical economic model under which much of the global economy operates and today, conventional economics appears to be at a crossroads (for a brief introduction see Adbusters, 2006). As Stiglitz observes, “[Economics as taught] in America’s graduate schools ... bears testimony to a triumph of ideology over science” (Post-autistic economics network 2006).

Unfortunately, critical discussions on the flaws of conventional economics and their attendant concepts have not yet filtered down to global decision-makers. As a result, most governments still strive for the perennial goal of economic growth.

While it is not within the realm of this paper to go into all the details (the reader is referred instead to Keen 2001, Fullbrook 2004, Daly and Farley 2004, and Post-autistic economics network 2006, for more thorough discussions of the flaws), it is sufficient in the context of biodiversity conservation to show that neoclassical economics has a fatal flaw: it ignores basic principles of physics and ecology.

For example, the conventional economic model assumes it can run forever on its own output much as a perpetual motion machine; thus infinite economic growth on a finite

planet is deemed possible. This, of course, runs counter to thermodynamics.

The current model also assumes near perfect substitutability between factors of production so there’s no need at all for natural resources (Costanza 2004). As economist and Nobel laureate, Robert Solow, confirms: “if it is very easy to substitute other factors for natural resources, then there is in principle no ‘problem.’ The world can, in effect, get along without natural resources, so exhaustion is just an event, not a catastrophe” (Solow 1974). We suggest that an economic model with no connectivity to the biosphere is fatally flawed.

### The fundamental conflict

Economic growth is an increase in the production and consumption of goods and services and is a function of increasing population and per capita consumption (Czech 2000). It is an increase in throughput, or flow of natural resources, through the economy and back to the environment (Daly and Farley 2004). The general indicator of economic growth is gross domestic product (Daly 1996), simply an indicator of the size of the economy, not a reliable indicator of human welfare.

The theoretical framework for explaining the fundamental conflict between economic growth and wildlife conservation is thoroughly discussed by Czech (2000) and is summarized in Figure 1. Essentially, the economy grows by appropriating natural capital from the *economy of nature* and using it for the *human economy*. The natural capital acts as throughput to the human economy where it is converted to manufactured capital and consumer goods. Because of the tremendous breadth of the niche that humans occupy, the human economy grows at the competitive exclusion of wildlife in the aggregate (Czech 2000), including birds.

Czech (2000), using an ecological analogy, identifies economic growth as a *limiting factor* to wildlife conservation. Recall that a *limiting factor* is a factor, such as food or water that controls a process, such as species population size. The key point is that if you don’t address the limiting factor, it doesn’t matter what else you do; the population is in trouble.

If Czech’s analogy is accurate — and we believe it is — it suggests that continuing with orthodox conservation actions will have little effect on avian biodiversity conservation because they do not address the limiting factor. For example, no matter how many biological habitats we secure, as long as our economic goal is



perennial growth, the growth will eventually cave in the political boundaries of those “secured” habitats or pollute them from the outside as is now happening with a number of United States National Wildlife Refuges (National Wildlife Refuge Association 2005).

### Can technological progress solve the problem?

There are many who believe that technological progress will solve environmental problems (e.g., Lomborg 2001) while others believe that technological progress will result in the further liquidation of natural capital and thus biodiversity (Czech 2003).

Trauger et al. (2003) discuss economic growth, technological progress, and wildlife conservation. They argue that there are three main types of technological progress: *explorative*, *extractive*, and *end-use*.

The first two obviously result in the reallocation of natural capital to the human economy and thus a reduction in biodiversity.

The third, end-use technological progress, results in a more efficient use of inputs to the economy. This could be seen as beneficial to the environment but for a variety of reasons this, too, often results in increased consumption and thus faster conversion of natural capital (Foster 2000). The World Health Organization (2005) in their contribution to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, points out that:

*In the 200 years for which we have reliable data, overall growth of consumption has outpaced increased efficiencies in production processes, leading to absolute increases in global consumption of materials and energy.*

*This means that, in practice, economic growth tends to increase consumption of energy and materials.*

Consider, too, that industry conducts research and development as a function of profit (Trauger et al. 2003). Thus technological progress is also a product of economic growth as much as the other way around and as long as it is used to enhance economic growth, competitive exclusion takes place (Czech 2003).

Finally, empirical evidence shows us every day that biodiversity continues its worldwide decline concurrent with attendant and copious technological progress. This implies that technological progress is not being used

for biodiversity conservation or solving environmental problems as technological optimists suggest, but rather for furthering economic growth.

### The solution: A steady state economy.

The solution to this dilemma is to move towards a sustainable economy with reasonably stabilized population and levels of consumption: a “steady state economy” (Daly 1996).

This means our economy must operate sufficiently below the ecological limits (Figure 1) so that enough natural ecosystems and biodiversity remain to allow normal ecosystem functioning, which provides the ecosystem services necessary for life.

Daly and Farley (2004) summarize the concept:

*The main idea of a steady-state economy is to maintain constant stocks of wealth and people at levels that are sufficient for a long and good life. The throughput by which these stocks are maintained should be low rather than high, and **always within the regenerative and absorptive capabilities of the ecosystem** [our emphasis].*

### A position statement from the BCFO ?

Others are now beginning to recognize the disparity between what conventional economists are promising and what’s really happening to the biodiversity of the planet (see, e.g., Naidoo and Adamcowicz 2001).

The number of professional organizations that have taken a position on the fundamental conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation continues to grow and includes, for example, the North American Section of the Society for Conservation Biology (2004), the United States Society for Ecological Economics (2005), and the venerable, The Wildlife Society (2005).

Politicians, too, are now recognizing that without addressing economic growth, efforts to reduce carbon emissions to counter global climate change—which also exacerbates biodiversity loss (Parmesan 2006)—will be futile.

Recently, a group of over 80 British MPs, members of an All-Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group, concluded that although government policies in Britain were lowering carbon emissions, more and more industrial plants resulting from economic growth were swamping the reductions. The group called for the abandonment of





the two hundred year old, business-as-usual pursuit of economic growth (McCarthy 2006).

Since one of the purposes of the BCFO is “the study and enjoyment of wild birds in British Columbia through conservation efforts to preserve birds and their habitats” (British Columbia Field Ornithologists 2006), we’re suggesting that the BCFO join these illustrious organizations and forward-thinkers and adopt a position statement on the fundamental conflict between economic growth and avian biodiversity conservation. How would the BCFO adopting such a position statement help? Here is how Czech (2004) explains it:

*Political scientists describe “iron triangles” that dominate policy arenas. An iron triangle consists of a special interest group, a political faction, and a professional society (usually manifest in a government agency). The economic growth iron triangle is formidable. The “special interest group” is essentially the entire corporate community, which benefits from a theory of perpetual growth and resulting policies. Given our campaign finance system, the entire political community is wedded to corporate interests.... The professional side of the iron triangle is neoclassical economics....*

*The economic iron triangle has had carte blanche to boldly claim, “There is no conflict between economic growth and environmental protection!” If a critical mass of ecological societies adopts a position on economic growth, it will get media attention. Economic growth will be open to public scrutiny....*

We encourage the BCFO and its membership to become engaged in this effort.

### **Proposed BCFO Position Statement on economic growth.**

What follows is a proposal for a position statement on economic growth for the BCFO membership to consider. The position statement has been adapted from a similar statement the North American Section of the Society for Conservation Biology adopted in 2004 (Society for Conservation Biology 2004).

### **The Steady State Economy as a Sustainable Alternative to Economic Growth**

Whereas:

1. Economic growth is an increase in the production and consumption of goods and services, which entails an increase in throughput, or flow of natural resources, through the economy and back to the environment and;
2. Economic growth occurs when there is an increase in the product of population multiplied by per capita production and consumption, and;
3. Economic growth is often and generally indicated by increasing real gross domestic product (GDP) or real gross national product (GNP), and;
4. Based upon established principles of physics and ecology, there is a limit to economic growth, and;
5. A steady state economy is generally indicated by stabilized (or mildly fluctuating) real gross domestic product (GDP) or real gross national product (GNP), and;
6. A steady state economy, with a stabilized (or mildly fluctuating) product of population multiplied by per capita consumption, is an alternative to economic growth; and;
7. A steady state economy, with stabilized (or mildly fluctuating) production and consumption of goods and services, is an alternative to economic growth, and;
8. That British Columbia is a part of the North American economy, which grows as an integrated whole consisting of agricultural, extractive, manufacturing, and services sectors that require physical inputs and produce wastes, and;
9. There is increasing evidence that North American economic growth is having negative effects on the long-term ecological and economic welfare of North America and the world.

Therefore, the **British Columbia Field Ornithologists** take the position that:

1. There is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and avian biodiversity conservation based on the ecological principle of competitive exclusion, and;
2. There is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and the ecological services underpinning the human economy (for example, avian insect and vermin control, avian pollination, decomposition, climate regulation), and;



3. Technological progress has had both positive and negative ecological and economic effects and may not be depended upon to reconcile the fundamental conflict between economic growth and avian biodiversity conservation, and;
4. Because of its negative effects on ecological sustainability and sustainable economic welfare, economic growth is an increasingly dangerous and anachronistic North American goal, and;
5. A steady state economy is a viable, sustainable alternative to a growing economy and has become a more appropriate goal, particularly in the larger, wealthier economies of North America, and;
6. The sustainability of a steady state economy requires its establishment at a size that does not breach ecological and economic capacity during expected or unexpected supply shocks such as droughts and energy shortages, and;
7. A steady state economy does not preclude economic development, a qualitative process in which different technologies may be employed and the relative prominence of economic sectors may evolve, and;
8. Upon establishing steady state economies, it would be advisable for North American nations to assist other nations in moving from the goal of economic growth to the goal of a steady state economy, beginning with those nations currently enjoying the highest levels of per capita consumption, and;
9. For many nations with widespread poverty, increasing per capita consumption (or, alternatively, more equitable distributions of wealth) remains an appropriate goal for the time being; yet the ultimate goal should be the establishment of healthy ecological and social conditions within the framework of a steady state economy.

## Acknowledgements

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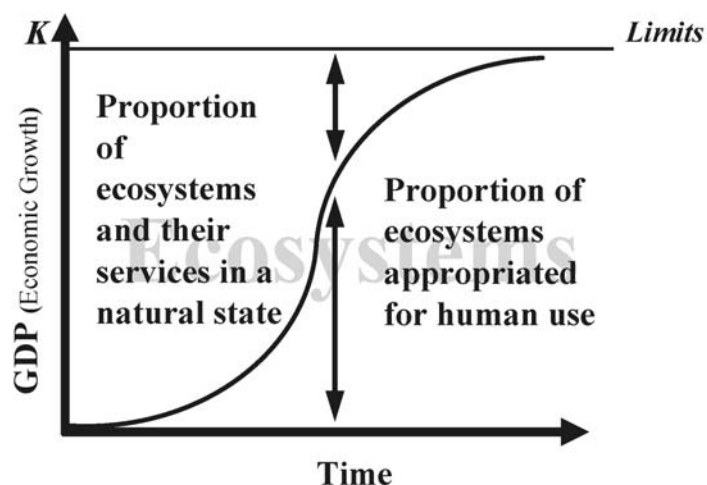
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**Figure 1.** A fundamental conflict between economic growth and wildlife conservation occurs because as the economy grows over time it appropriates a greater and greater proportion of natural capital from the economy of nature for use in the human economy. The tremendous breadth of the niche that humans occupy means that the human economy grows at the competitive exclusion of wildlife in the aggregate with an attendant loss of biodiversity. *K* is carrying capacity (limits) for the human economy. A steady state economy would maintain the economy sufficiently below the limits so that the areal extent of ecosystems would be adequate to maintain biodiversity and thus allow proper ecosystem functioning (Adapted from Czech 2000).

Table 1. Causes of endangerment for red and blue-listed bird taxa in British Columbia and the economic sectors involved in their endangerment.

Causes of Endangerment	Number of taxa <sup>2</sup>	Economic sector
Urbanization (including ruralization)	33	Labour, light manufacturing, service
Forestry (including modified fire regimes)	32	Agro-extractive
Agriculture (including pesticides)	30	Agro-extractive
Small population <sup>3</sup>	16	
Exotic species interactions	10	Trade & commerce
Recreation & tourism	9	Service
Native species interactions	8	
Livestock ranching	7	Agro-extractive
Fishery	7	Agro-extractive
Natural stochastic events (e.g., severe weather)	5	
Harvest	5	Agro-extractive
Global warming	3	Economic by-product
Pollution	2	Economic by-product
Industrialization	2	Labour, manufacturing



## Upcoming Meetings & Events

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl and Wayne C. Weber

The following meetings and other events are those that take place in B.C. and immediately adjacent areas or that potentially include information on birds that occur in B.C. Information on additional meetings are listed in the bimonthly *Ornithological Newsletter* and, for readers with inter-net access, on BIRDNET at [www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/BIRDMEET.html](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/BIRDMEET.html).

- March 22-25 2007      88TH ANNUAL MEETING, WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Boston and Wakefield, Massachusetts. Contact: Carolyn Marsh, 16 Denton Rd., Wellesley, MA 02482-6405; e-mail [cmarsh@jocama.com](mailto:cmarsh@jocama.com). Inter-net details: <http://www.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/birds/wos/meetings/wosmeet2007/html>.
- March 23-25 2007      SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL, Othello, Washington. Contact: Marie Lotz, Box 542, Othello, WA 99344; phone (866) 726-3445; e-mail [marie-lotz@wa.nacdet.org](mailto:marie-lotz@wa.nacdet.org). Inter-net details: [www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org](http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org).
- March 30-April 1      BRANT WILDLIFE FESTIVAL, Parksville, B.C. Contact [no name indicated]: 2007 Nature Trust of B.C., 260-1000 Roosevelt Crescent, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3R4; phone (604) 924-9771; e-mail [info@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:info@naturetrust.bc.ca). Inter-net details: [www.brantfestival.bc.ca](http://www.brantfestival.bc.ca).
- April 23-29 2007      AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION, Lafayette, Louisiana. Contact: ABA Conference, 4945 N. 30th St., Colorado Springs, CO 80919; phone Michelle (800) 850-2473, ext. 230. Inter-net details: [www.aba.org/mtgs/conventions/2007lafayette/](http://www.aba.org/mtgs/conventions/2007lafayette/).
- April 27-29 2007      GRAYS HARBOR SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL, Holquiam, Washington. Contact [no name indicated]: Box 473, Montesano, WA 98563; phone (800) 303-8498. Inter-net details: [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com).
- May 3-7 2007      FEDERATION OF B.C. NATURALISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Okanagan University College, Vernon. B.C. Contact: Larry Adamache, Okanagan College, Vernon Campus, 7000 College Way, Vernon, B.C. V1T 7N2; phone (250) 503-3119; e-mail [larry.adamache@telus.net](mailto:larry.adamache@telus.net).
- May 7-13 2007      WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES BIRD FESTIVAL, Invermere, B.C. Contact [no name or mailing address indicated]: phone (888) 933-3331; e-mail [wings@adventurevalley.com](mailto:wings@adventurevalley.com). Inter-net details: [www.adventurevalley.com/wings/](http://www.adventurevalley.com/wings/).
- May 17-21 2007      MEADOWLARK FESTIVAL, Penticton, B.C. Contact [no name indicated]: Box 80133, Penticton, B.C. V2A 8K3; phone (866) 699-9453; e-mail [meadowlarkfestival@osca.org](mailto:meadowlarkfestival@osca.org). Inter-net details: [www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca](http://www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca).
- May 25-27 2007      B.C.F.O. 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Lillooet. B.C. Contact: Wayne Diakow, 9840 Weller Court, Richmond, B.C. V7E 5S9; phone (604) 275-5S9; e-mail [wdiakow@shaw.ca](mailto:wdiakow@shaw.ca). see W. Diakow. 2006. B.C. Birding 16(4):10-11 and elsewhere in this issue for more details.
- June 19-23      COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 77TH ANNUAL MEETING, Moscow, Idaho. [no mailing address indicated] phone University of Idaho Conference Office (866) 651-5322 ) OR Kerri Vierling (208) 885-5378; e-mail [kerriv@uidaho.edu](mailto:kerriv@uidaho.edu). Inter-net details [www.dfa.uidaho.edu/ceis/conferences/cooper](http://www.dfa.uidaho.edu/ceis/conferences/cooper).



- June 22-24, 2007 OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS annual meeting, Central Oregon Community College, Bend, Oregon. For information, contact Judy Meredith (phone,(541) 389-4039; E-mail, jmeredit@bendnet.com ), or check the OFO website at <http://www.oregonbirds.org>.
- July 26-27 2007 THE ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' 2007 MEETING, Orono, Maine. Contact: Rebecca Holberton, Lab. Avian Biol., Dept. Biol. Sci., Univ. Maine, Orono, ME 04469; phone (207) 581-2526; e-mail: [rebecca.holberton@maine.edu](mailto:rebecca.holberton@maine.edu).
- August 8-11 2007 AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION 125TH STATED MEETING, Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Contact: Craig Benkman, Dept. Zool. & Physiol., Univ. Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071; phone (307) 766-2978; e-mail [cbenkman@uwyo.edu](mailto:cbenkman@uwyo.edu). Inter-net details: [www.aou.org/meetings/2007/](http://www.aou.org/meetings/2007/).
- September 12-16 2007 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND HAWK MIGRATION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA JOINT CONFERENCE, Fogelsville, Pennsylvania. Contact: Laurie J. Goodrich, c/o Acopian Center, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, 410 Summer Valley Rd., Orwigsburg, PA 17961, phone (570) 943-3411; e-mail [goodrich@hawkmt.org](mailto:goodrich@hawkmt.org).
- September 14-17 2007 WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Aberdeen, Washington. Contact details nor yet available. Inter-net details: [www.wos.org](http://www.wos.org).
- September 27-29 2007 SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS/SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA 26TH ANNUAL MEETING, Queen's University Biological Station at Lake Opinicon, Ont. Contact: Joe Nocera, Dept. Biol., Queen's Univ., Kingston, ON K7L 3N6; phone (613) 533-6160; e-mail [nocerajj@biology.queensu.ca](mailto:nocerajj@biology.queensu.ca).
- September 22-28 2008 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Missoula, Montana. Contact details not yet announced.
- September 29-October 4 2009 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Pitlochry, Scotland. Contact: Ruth Tingay [address and phone number not yet announced], e-mail [dimlylit100@hotmail.com](mailto:dimlylit100@hotmail.com).



# B.C. Birding News Briefs

*Compiled by Martin K. McNicholl*

**Nevada-banded Pewee** – A banded Western Wood-Pewee captured by Pierre Johnston near Fort Nelson, B.C. on 26 May 2003 had been band exactly three years previously on 26 May 2000 about 2300 km. away near Beatty, Nevada. –based on J. B. Dunning, Jr. 2006. *North Amer. Bird Bander* 31:133-134.

**Brenda Code** – Members of the Langley Field Naturalists are mourning the loss of one of their more prominent birders and former executive members, Brenda Code, on 5 December 2006 (e-mail of 5 Dec./06 from Annabel Griffiths to LFN board members). Brenda participated in the Langley portion of some White Rock Christmas Bird Counts and led and/or chronicled several of the club's field outings. As noted by Phil Henderson (*Langley Field Nat. Newsletter* Dec. 2006:3), her wit and sense of humour will be missed.

**UBC Student Achieves High Award** – Kelly J. Jewell's presentation on cowbird/Song Sparrow population dynamics on B.C.'s Gulf Islands won one of two Soc. of Canadian Ornithology student presentation awards during the 3-7 Oct. 2006 North American Ornithological Conference, a meeting of numerous major ornithological societies, in Veracruz, Mexico. –based on Anonymous. 2006. *Ornithol. Newsletter* 175:2-3.

**Fall 2006 Federation of B.C. Naturalists Awards** – As usual, several of the awards presented at the fall 2006 meeting of the Federation of B.C. Naturalists were for activities that encompass bird conservation, education and/or research. Those awarded specifically, at least in part, for activities related to birds include the Nature Education Award to Betty Brooks for several projects, including a bird checklist of Oyster Bay Park, her recent book on the "Pioneer Bird Men" of Comox and numerous more general projects and a FBCN Service Award to Victoria Otton for numerous efforts, including work on a bird song CD produced by the Burke Mountain Naturalists. –based on J. Best. 2006. *B.C. Nat.* 44(4):11-12.

**Kevin Bell Profiled** – What connects a half-frozen Blue Tit in Ireland to B.C.F.O? The tit at least partially kindled B.C.F.O director Kevin Bell's interests in birds and their conservation. Other details of his formative years in Ireland and some of his many contributions to bird conservation since moving to B.C. in 1966 through his efforts on behalf of the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre, Maplewood Flats and the Vancouver Natural History Society are profiled by Patricia Mason-Bell in *Discovery* 35 (2):8-14, 2006.

**Butler Elevated** – During the 124th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Mexico in October 2006, Robert W. Butler was among the members elevated from the Elective Membership category to Fellow, a well-deserved recognition. Spence G. Sealy, whose PhD research on alcids was conducted in B.C., was re-elected Editor of *The Auk*. –based on Anonymous. 2006. *Ornithol. Newsletter* 175:3.

**Frank Sigurdson** – The death of Dr. Frank Sigurdson in September 2006 deprived Okanagan birders of one of their active participants, who monitored a bluebird box trail and was President of the South Okanagan Naturalist Club at the time of his death. –based on B. Handfield. 2006. *B.C. Nat.* 44(4):21.

**Travel Awards** – Six of the 114 "outstanding" students receiving travel awards to help defray expenses to attend the North American Ornithological Conference in Mexico in October 2006 currently reside in B.C.: Kathryn Aitken of U.B.C. and Kathrine Broadhead, Joel Heath, Sarah Jamieson, Holly Middleton and Andrea Pomeroy of Simon Fraser University. Kyle Elliott, now at the University of Manitoba, but raised mostly in B.C.'s "lower mainland," was also among the participants. –based on Anonymous. 2006. *Ornithological Newsletter* 175:3-4.



# LILLOOET

## BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held at the Lillooet Friendship Centre in beautiful Lillooet, B.C. on the weekend of May 25-27, 2007.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Banquet on Saturday evening will be held at the First Nations Lillooet Friendship Centre and NO ALCOHOL is permitted on the premises.

### *Other Events:*



Registration & Reception with no host bar and appetizers, plus slide show by local birder Ken Wright on Friday evening at Miyazaki Heritage House on Russell Street behind the Post Office 6:00 – 9:00 P.M.



Birding field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings



Annual general meeting and technical presentations on Saturday afternoon at Lillooet Friendship Centre.



Banquet from 7:00 -10:00 P.M. on Saturday evening at Lillooet Friendship Centre, no alcohol allowed.



Sunday wrap-up

### TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATION

Transportation to the conference and accommodation are up to the individual(s) to arrange. Lovely free camping is available at the BC Hydro campground, which is five minutes from town on the road to Seton Lake.

Great RV and campsites at Cayoosh Campground (250)256-4180 and Fraser Cove campground: (250) 256-0142

4 Pines Motel (250) 256-4247 / Mile 0 Motel (250) 256-7511 / Reynolds Hotel Lillooet (250)256-4202 - also has restaurant and pub attached

Sturgeon Bay B&B is really nice and overlooks the Fraser River (250)256-7792.

2nd choices: Hotel Victoria (250) 256-4112 / Goldpanner (250) 256-2355

### REGISTRATION

The Conference fees are:

Conference only (includes all events except banquet) **\$40.00**

Banquet only **\$30.00**

Saturday and Sunday breakfasts will be the responsibility of individuals attending and we have secured an early morning opening (5:15 A.M.) at a local restaurant (TBA).

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

For information contact Wayne Diakow at wdiakow@shaw.ca

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



# 17TH ANNUAL BCFO CONFERENCE @ LILLOOET, BC

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



### FRIDAY, May 25, 2007

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6:00 – 9:00 P.M. Registration & Social Hour with slide presentation by local birder, Ken Wright – Miyazaki Heritage House (behind Post Office).

### SATURDAY, May 26, 2007

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6:00 A.M. Field Trips – depart Lillooet Friendship Centre, return by 11:30

12:00 – 1:00 P.M. Catered Lunch for those who have ordered

**1:00 – 2:00 pm Technical Session – Lillooet Friendship Centre**

Speaker A Mike Mackintosh – Burrowing Owl Reintroduction

Speaker B Dick Cannings – An Enchantment of Birds

2:00 – 2:30 Break

**2:30 – 3:45 Technical Session – Lillooet Friendship Centre**

Speaker C Doris Hausleitner – Screech Owl Vocalization

Speaker D Ian Robertson – Wind Farms: Implications to Birds

3:45 – 5:30 pm Annual General Meeting – Lillooet Friendship Centre

6:00 – 7:00 pm Social Hour – Lillooet Pub

7:00 – 9:30 pm Banquet (No Alcohol) - Lillooet Friendship Centre – Guest

Speaker – Jared Hobbs – Ecology of the Northern Spotted Owl.

### SUNDAY, May 27, 2007

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6:00 am Field Trips – depart Lillooet Friendship Centre, return by 11:30 am

12:00 – 1:00 pm Catered Lunch for those who have ordered & Adjournment





## AGM FIELD TRIPS

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Trips are subject to change and we intend to add a high elevation trip if weather and road conditions allow, this is just a very small sampling of some of the bird species expected.

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### CURLEW FIELDS

We will drive north along HWY 99 following the Fraser Canyon. This is Ponderosa Pine forest and arid sage brush habitat. Possible species include: Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebirds, Lazuli Buntings, Vesper and Savannah Sparrows, Golden Eagle, White-Throated Swift, Rock Wrens, Curlew, Meadowlark and Chukar.

### FOUNTAIN VALLEY

Fountain valley is 500 meters higher than Lillooet. We will visit three small lakes along this rural road that travels through sage, ponderosa, Douglas-fir and aspen groves. Possible species include Green, Blue and Cinnamon Teal, all five species of swallows, Wilson's Snipe, Sora, Red-naped Sapsucker, Townsend's Warbler, Northern Pintail and Wood duck.

### TEXAS CREEK

Texas Creek follows the western side of the Fraser south to Lytton. This road offers a variety of habitat. We will visit several small ponds and aspen groves. Bird species possible are: Western Meadowlark, Says Phoebe, Vesper, Savannah, Lincoln's and Song Sparrows, Marsh Wrens, Lazuli Buntings, Red-Naped Sapsuckers, American Kestrels, Merlins and Northern Harriers.

### WALDEN NORTH AND THE SPAWNING CHANNELS

This area is closer to Lillooet. We will visit the two BC Hydro Spawning channels and then walk along an old road that follows the Cayoosh creek. It is one of the few places to see Black-throated Gray Warblers in Lillooet. It is also a good area to see Townsend's, Wilson's, and Nashville Warblers. Other possible species are Western Tanager, American Dipper, Chukar, and Harlequin Ducks.

## SOUTHERN CARIBOO EXTENSION

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May 27-30, 2007    Cost: \$690 (all meals included)

Immediately following the conclusion of the AGM at noon on Sunday, 27th May, we will depart in the tour vehicles for our base at the Big Bar Guest Ranch, north of Lillooet. From this full service resort we will explore the varied habitats of the western Cariboo and southern Chilcotin. Habitats range from the arid benchlands of the Fraser River, through the mid-elevation forests (some affected by the mountain pine beetle) to the magnificent alpine heights. We do not promise to access the alpine as snow will still be an issue this early in the year. Many wetlands are interspersed throughout the area and supporting a wide variety of species. Some of the special birds of the area include Long-billed Curlew, American Avocet and Lewis's Woodpecker.

The Big Bar Guest Ranch is a full service resort situated in the heart of cowboy country on the west side of the Fraser River, southwest of Williams Lake. It has a licensed dining room, fireside lounge, billiard room, outdoor hot tub and smoke-free rooms.

The Extension price includes all accommodation, ALL MEALS at the ranch, transportation in mini-vans and guiding. The Extension will start and finish in Lillooet. Participants in the AGM/ Extension who are traveling from Vancouver will be able to travel to/from Vancouver in the tour vehicles (small extra cost).

Come with us to explore the birds and the atmosphere of Cowboy Country.



## Letters

I found John Vooy's piece in BC Birding on "Behavioural Adaptation in House Sparrows" most interesting as I'm observing similar feeding behaviour in the 20 or so house sparrows that invade my feeders every winter from the surrounding neighbourhood. They hang on a metal tube feeder and a collapsible wire mesh feeder and winkle out the black oil sunflower seeds; they fly onto the suet cage and suet log and eat there; and they've even tried to get the niger seed from the metal tube, but thankfully, the holes are much too small for their wide beaks.

Like Mr. Vooy, I offer just these three types of food, plus a bit of millet for the juncos, song sparrows, and one towhee that's here this winter, but the house sparrows grab everything and seem to prefer the black oil to the millet. I have to admire their flexibility and ingenuity anyway!

*Eva Durance*, Penticton, BC

## Useful Publication

Dunn, E. H., J. Bart, B. T. Collins, B. Craig, B. Dale, C. M. Downes, C. M. Francis, S. Woodley and P. Zorn. 2006. Monitoring bird populations in small geographic areas. Canadian Wildlife Service Special Publication. Environment Canada, Ottawa, Canada. Online [<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/AbstractTemplate.cfm?lang=e&id=1099>]

## Environmental / Conservation Issues

<http://www.grenadadovecampaign.com/default.html>  
- contributed by Kevin Bell

## Manning Park Bird Blitz

June 15, 16, 17 2007

Over 200 bird species. Camping, guest speakers, food: \$35 entry.  
To register: Ph: (604) 869-3745 E-mail: [kpearce@uniserve.com](mailto:kpearce@uniserve.com)

## BCFO NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE

**Shirley Coffin**  
Trail, BC

**Agnes Lynn**  
Victoria, BC

**Christine Kent**  
Vancouver, BC

**Rene McKibbin**  
Delta, BC

**Terri Martin**  
Heriot Bay, BC

**Christel Oelschlagel**  
Clifford, Ont

**Ruth Rutledge**  
Duncan, BC

**Danny Sveinson**  
Surrey, BC

**Tania M. Tripp**  
Duncan, BC

## Internet Sources

### BCFO

<http://www.bcfo.ca>

### Alaska Bird Observatory

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

### Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies

<http://www.wildlifebc.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/>

### British Columbia Conservation Data Centre

Information on plants, animals and ecosystems at risk in British Columbia.  
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/>

### eBird Canada

Online interactive program for storing, sharing, sorting and assembling bird sightings.

### Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

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

### Point Reyes Bird Observatory

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

### Rocky Point Bird Observatory

<http://www.islandnet.com/~rpbo/index.html>

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

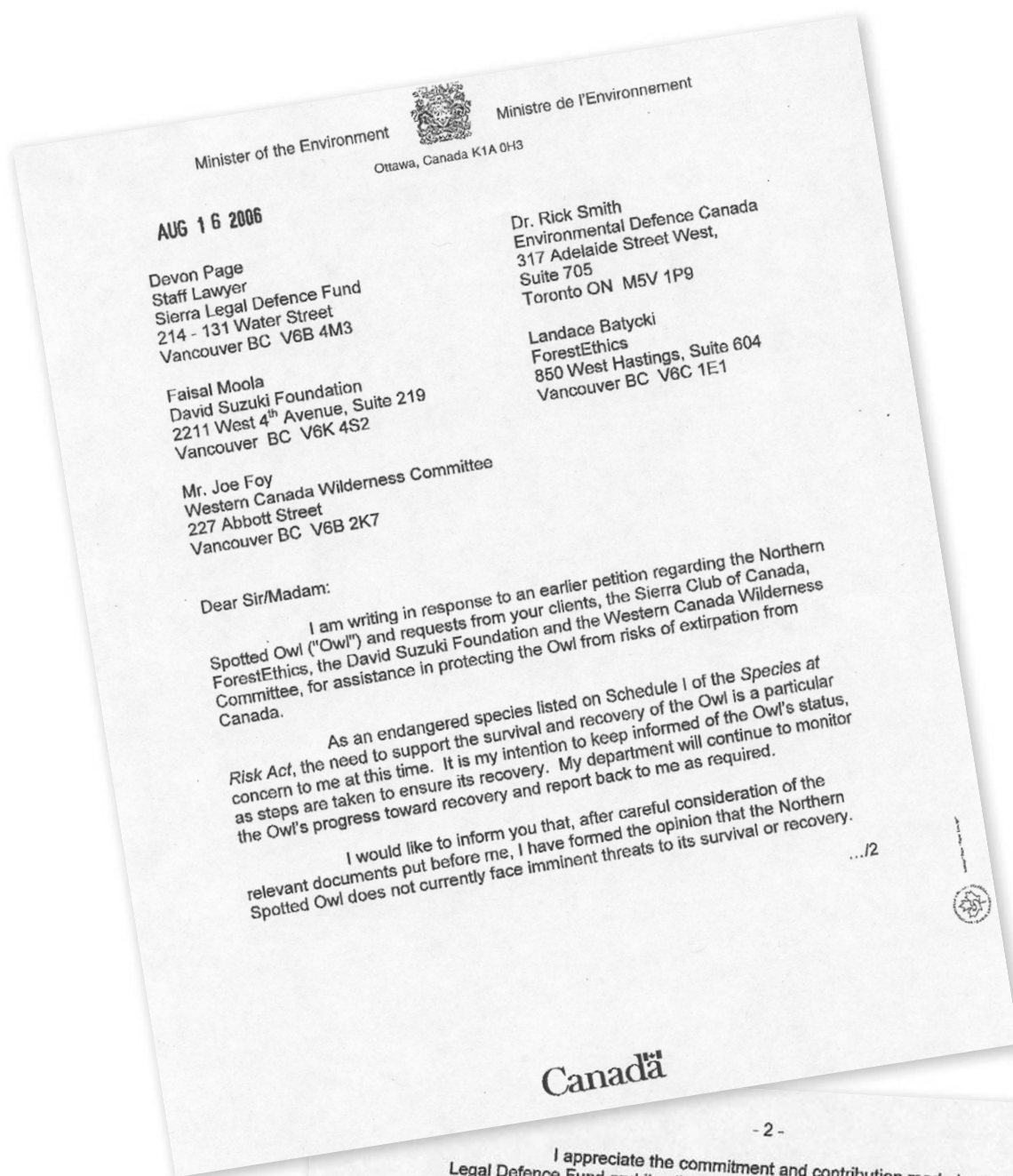
<http://www.aou.org/checklist/index.php3>

### SORA: Searchable Ornithological Research Archive

Search and retrieve online publications from The Auk (1884-1999), The Condor (1899-2000), Journal of Field Ornithology (1930-1999), North American Bird Bander (1976-2000), Pacific Coast Avifauna (1900-1974), Studies in Avian Biology (1978-1999), Wilson Bulletin (1889-1999). All articles are available as DjVu's and PDF's.  
<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/>




Birders might be interested in the following letter which replied to a request by several environmental groups for protection of the Northern Spotted Owl.



- 2 -

I appreciate the commitment and contribution made by the Sierra Legal Defence Fund and its clients in respect of helping ensure the conservation of the Owl.

Yours sincerely,



Rona Ambrose





Figure 1. The feeder under which Red 2 over 7 flushed the flock of California Quail (Photo: Tristan Mennell, 15 February 2007).



Figure 2. Close-up of the colour band placed on Red 2 over 7. Note the distinctive thin line that separates the two characters on this band (Photo: Brad Stewart, 5 July 2006).

record to myself and Dick Cannings to see if we could determine the bander. Since this was a local Victoria sighting, it was easy for me to confirm as a Cooper's Hawk I had marked: an adult male banded in Victoria sometime prior to 2006. I responded to both Dick and Kevin with this information and then contacted the observer for more details. But this exchange got Dick to thinking about another marked hawk that had been reported to him a week earlier from the interior. He forwarded this e-mail to me with the query "could this be one of yours also?" The message was from Robert Mennell, an organic orchardist from Cawston, who had sighted an immature accipiter on 1 January 2007. He thought it was either a Northern Goshawk or a Cooper's Hawk which had been hunting California Quail at his bird feeding station (Fig. 1). In fact the hawk had flushed this flock of quail causing one to crash into a picture window at the Mennell residence. The quail fell dead to

the ground. The hawk, however, was unaware of her disabled prey and lingered around the feeder for another 15 minutes. This gave Robert plenty of time to observe her closely; he could easily see the aluminum numbered band on her right leg and a red colour band on the left leg. He could also read the numbers 2 over 7 and astutely noted that the white characters were repeated around the band circumference and were separated by a thin white line (see Fig. 2).

When I read Robert's description I immediately recognized it as a band type I was using and quickly found it in my database – this hawk, a female, had been banded in Victoria by my son Brad on 5 July 2006. "Where the heck was Cawston," I thought to myself. I recognized the name from somewhere in the Southern Interior but couldn't quite place it. I went to my gazetteer and located Cawston in the Similkameen River valley, just south of Keromeos. WOW, up until this point I had only received mainland BC encounters from the Delta / Boundary Bay area. This was a completely unexpected and a truly significant observation. All previous encounters (both sightings and returns) indicated that most of these hawks remain on Vancouver Island, but that a few leave the main island (mostly females) and move in a southeasterly direction, down through Washington, Oregon, and California, occasionally as far away as San Francisco. But this bird had moved east and a little north, right over the Coast Range and into a dry interior Ponderosa pine environment and into a completely different flyway (Fig.3.)

Unlike most of my hawks which are banded as nestlings in their natal nest, *Red 2 over 7's* story was slightly different. She had been found on the ground in Centennial Park in Central Saanich and taken by the finder to





Figure 3. A view from the Mennell family residence across the orchards at Cawston (Photo: Tristan Mennell, 15 February 2007).

the WildArc wildlife rehabilitation centre in Metchosin. Incidentally, the action taken by this citizen was the correct thing to do, as flightless young on the ground will perish; for reasons unknown, Cooper's Hawk parents do not feed their young away from their nest. WildArc in turn contacted my son.

Unfortunately, this hawk had fallen from an unknown nest outside of my study area. Thus, it would be impossible to return her to her birth nest because we did not know its location. Also, the hawk was at the brancher stage (Fig. 4) which meant that even if we knew the location, her siblings would likely jump from the nest tree when it was climbed, resulting in more hawks on the ground. I was out of town at the time but Brad knew that Cooper's Hawks will readily accept foreign young and apparently have no difficulty feeding an enlarged brood. He selected a foster nest located in Central Park beside the Crystal Pool where we

had earlier banded 4 nestlings of a similar age. The nest was easily accessible to an aerial truck supplied by Dave Hill from Saanich Parks. Not unanticipated, it took two trips up to the nest in the aerial bucket to place *Red 2 over 7*, and one of her step-brothers who jumped on the first trip, back into the nest.

Obviously *Red 2 over 7's* adoption was a complete success, as her appearance in Cawston would subsequently confirm. The distance from Central Park in Victoria to the Mennell family orchard in Cawston is about 277 km. My thanks to the Mennell family for documenting and forwarding this noteworthy observation. Now I wait with anticipation for the coming spring when I once again begin my annual nest searches. Perhaps with luck *Red 2 over 7* will return to the study area to nest, as others before her have done.

**Andy Stewart**



Figure 4. Red 2 over 7 just before her placement into the foster nest. Nestling Cooper's Hawks are generally banded at a younger age in order to minimize the likelihood of them jumping from their nests (Photo: Brad Stewart, 5 July 2006).



# Flurries of Christmas Bird Counts

## The Shuswap Lake Prov. Park

**CBC** was held on Dec. 14 this year. This count encompasses all of the west end of Shuswap Lake and the communities of Sorrento, Notch Hill, Scotch Creek, Magna Bay, Blind Bay and White Lake. It includes the lower reaches of the Adams River which experienced a 4 year return of Sockeye salmon last fall. The 1 million+ fish account for the high count of eagles and waterfowl, which fluctuate greatly with the salmon numbers. The normally high gull population was likely pushed out by a short spell of cold weather prior to the count.

64 species and 4806 individuals were recorded by the 17 observers. Most are members of the North Shuswap Naturalists Club, but several members of the Shuswap Naturalists (Salmon Arm) and Kamloops Naturalists also helped out. This was the 36th year of the count which was started in 1971.

The species and totals were as follows:

(note that some waterfowl counts were minimums because of access difficulties to best view large flocks)

Canada Goose	33
Trumpeter Swan	46 adults 14 imm.
Tundra Swan	2 adults
Gadwall	6
Mallard	487
Northern Pintail	1
Green-winged Teal	1
Ring-necked Duck	15
Greater Scaup	611
(likely more but counting conditions were poor)	
Lesser Scaup	26
Harlequin Duck	1
Bufflehead	116
Common Goldeneye	728
(likely higher)	
Barrow's Goldeneye	650
(likely higher)	
Hooded Merganser	93
Common Merganser	43
Red-breasted Merganser	3
Ring-necked Pheasant	24
(recent releases in area)	
Ruffed Grouse	18
California Quail	62
(recent releases within past 2 years; none present historically)	
Common Loon	4
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Horned Grebe	13
Eared Grebe	1
Red-necked Grebe	3
Great Blue Heron	3
Bald Eagle	54 adults

Red-tailed Hawk	34 sub-adults 3
American Kestrel	1
Killdeer	1
Ring-billed Gull	1
Herring Gull	1
Gull species	19
Rock Pigeon	157
Northern Pygmy Owl	3
Barred Owl	1
Downy Woodpecker	2
(unusually low)	
Hairy Woodpecker	3
(unusually low)	
Northern Flicker	30
Pileated Woodpecker	6
Northern Shrike	1
Steller's Jay	56
Clark's Nutcracker	1
Black-billed Magpie	17
American Crow	99
Common Raven	57
Black-capped Chickadee	284
Mountain Chickadee	16
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	82
Brown Creeper	2
Winter Wren	18
(high)	
American Dipper	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
American Robin	1
European Starling	144
Bohemian Waxwing	312
Song Sparrow	21
Dark-eyed Junco	75
oregon form 71 slate-coloured form 4	
Redwinged Blackbird	14
Pine Grosbeak	10
House Finch	84
Pine Siskin	70
American Goldfinch	111
House Sparrow	1

A report of 30 Brown-headed Cowbirds is not included here due to the rarity of this species in winter, the high number reported and lack of details. The likelihood of a flock like this being Brewer's Blackbirds is high.

Highlights of the count include Eared Grebe, Harlequin Duck (seen only once before), Red-breasted Mergansers, the high numbers of scaup, goldeneye and Hooded Mergansers, the appearance of larger numbers (by west Shuswap Lake standards) of recently-introduced pheasants and California Quail, and the low count of Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers.

**Rick Howie**, Kamloops

## The Pender Island Christmas Bird

**Count** for 2006 was held on Saturday, December 16. The bridge spanning the canal marks the centre of a count circle that includes the Penders, Mayne, and Saturna Islands. Forty-nine enthusiasts from all three islands began their day early, venturing out into the 1-degree morning. By the end of the day, 96 species were observed on the three islands, including 64 on the Penders (up from 63 last year). We peered up into the grey sky, under dense salal, and out on the choppy ocean. From proverbial dawn-to-dusk we walked 54 km, drove 130 km, and boated 36 km, to eventually count 9,545 individual birds (3,271 on the Penders).

Some of the more interesting observations included highest numbers ever recorded in the 107-year history of the count. We saw 466 Canada Geese (previous high of 381 just last year), 362 White-winged Scoters (179 in 1975), 121 Northern (red-shafted) Flickers (91 in 1995), 76 Golden-crowned Sparrows (52 in 2006), 45 Dunlins (25 in 19981), and 15 Downy Woodpeckers (14 in 2002). Perhaps due to global warming, we also counted 7 Anna's Hummingbirds, seen for only the 4th time since 1900, and far surpassing the previous record of 1!

Dark-eyed Juncos (1121) and Golden-crowned Kinglets (506) were the most commonly sighted species this year. The Kinglets were particularly noticeable as they hopped around searching for some unknown (to us) morsels of food on the ground. Sylvia Pincott noted that they "looked like fluffy leaves blowing across the road." Unfortunately, far too many of them had also been hit by passing cars. Particularly unusual species included the Northern Harrier, observed by the Mayne Island counters - the first time ever that the Northern Harrier has been seen during our Christmas Bird Count. David Manning and Eroca Dancer also "spotted" a Spotted Sandpiper, seen only once before during the count. Way to go David and Eroca! The Common Loon count was particularly low this year, with only 1 bird sighted. Many marine species seemed scarce this year, perhaps hiding from all the strong winds that preceded our count.

At the end of the day the Pender counters retreated to St. Peter's Anglican Church for





potluck and chili prepared by Vern & Mary Roddick, Marti Tilley, and Tony Merry. With warm and full stomachs we compared notes from another very successful day!

These data, submitted to Bird Studies Canada, which totals all counts for Canada, are ultimately used to track changes and trends in bird populations throughout North America. Such counts have been conducted every year since Christmas Day 1900, as an alternative to the practice at that time of shooting birds after Christmas dinner.

Thanks to everyone who participated, especially Ilka Olsen and Michael Dunn, who coordinated the counts on Saturna and Mayne, respectively.

**Michael Pitt**

### **Narcosli Christmas Bird Count**

Time to again enter that twilight zone in-between the two biozones. Yes, it's Narcosli CBC. What can be more fun than birding in the snow, with temps between -11°C and -20°C? Further, I had agreed to look after someone's dog for the weekend and, as Debbie was at work on December 16, 'Rocky' came along for Narcosli CBC 2006.

At 8 am I met Sandy Proulx and Phil Ranson at Kersley. We started-off at Ruby Johnston's legendary yard along Kersley Road, where the action was thick and fast. Sandy and Phil looked a bit gobsmailed, as if to question, "Is this yard for real?" I said, "Make the most of it guys, it can get pretty lean after this" but, as it turned out, we were in for a great day of birding!

Forty American Goldfinches were in Ruby's yard; a Brown Creeper worked the trees right in front of us; woodpeckers were flying all around the yard; a Song Sparrow was calling and singing from the garage. Ruby says it likes to fight with it's own reflection in the rear window of her truck cab. No Mourning Doves at this point, so we decided to return later.

Next-up, the ranch at the south end of Kersley Road. The flock of House Sparrows is still present, though not easy to get an accurate count as they were keeping warm inside an inaccessible cowshed. Just as we are returning to the vehicle, a lone bird flew over, calling "chew, chew". Phil latches

on to it with his bins, and shouts out "Snow Bunting!" We dipped-out on the usual Song Sparrow here.

Kersley village rarely fails to disappoint. Although there is almost a total lack of feeders, at the few places with feeders there was plenty of activity, so we made a few additions to the list. Phil spotted a flock of Bohemian Waxwings. At the end of Arnoldus Road it was time to set-up scopes and scan The Fraser. There was a female Common Merganser at the near side of the river, happily going about its business as numerous ice-flows went by. On Kersley-Dale Landing Road, Trudie Wootten tallied three Song Sparrows in her yard. We usually find a raptor in this area, but not today. We tried our luck up on French Road. Sandy spotted some far-off blob in a tree. It turned-out to be a lone Sharp-tailed Grouse. Phil speculated that it was likely the sentry for a flock, but we could not see any others so moved on. We tried listening for kinglets at a stop near Alexandria but, although no kinglets were heard, we did add some other birds including two Steller's Jays.

We call half-time. It's out with the coffee, chai tea and Deb's fine English baking: a few mince pies, coconut tarts and sausage rolls later, and it's time to hit the road again.

A stop near the Old Buckshot Ranch proved a wise one. A sleek bird perched atop the opposite hill, overlooking the Cariboo Highway, turned-out to be a Townsend's Solitaire! Closer to the bottom of the same hill, perched a Northern Pygmy Owl. Alexandria Community Hall is normally a good stop. We were looking for Mountain Chickadee but the site was absolutely dead. Another good spot which produced almost zip was the lower buildings of Australian Ranch, on the west side of the highway. We stopped to scan The Fraser and there were three Common Goldeneye loafing off an icy-point! Sandy spotted a Northern Shrike along the highway near Australian. It conveniently flew across the highway so we could all admire it. We then drove up to Australian Ranch, on the east side of the highway and were very surprised to spot a Mallard flying overhead. We decided to explore the area further in case more waterfowl were around.

Letting 'Rocky' out of the vehicle proved a mistake. He saw his opportunity and ran off to start rounding-up about a hundred head of cattle. Phil and I gave chase. I had one chance to grab Rocky and, fortunately, held on to him despite his best efforts to slip away. Phil was knackered (English for very tired). A return trip to Ruby's avian oasis provided nine Mourning Doves, and 20 Rock Pigeons.

We unwound at 'The Alamo' with coffee, a Blueberry Pie and a chat about the Williams Lake CBC on December 17.

The day got even better when Phil and Sandy, on the return trip to Williams Lake, saw a Short-eared Owl on a fencepost near Moffat Ranch. What a day!

The previous record for Narcosli CBC was 30 species but, when we tallied-up, our team had 31 species! I had never seen Snow Bunting or Townsend's Solitaire in the area until this count! Meanwhile, Kathy, Tracy, Manfred and Mary, were having a really tough time of it on the west side of The Fraser! Tracy reported that she and Kathy had to work hard for every bird they found: Manfred wrote that if it weren't for Diamond Island, which provided eight species, they would have ended-up with only a Ruffed Grouse and some ravens.

Manfred and Mary added two further unique species with Mountain Chickadee and Golden Eagle, making a species total of 33! It was also a record number of individual birds tallied, with over 700 for the first time in four years.

Many thanks to Sandy and Phil for making this an awesome day's birding! Many thanks to Tracy Bond, Kathy Wrath, Manfred and Mary Roschitz, for seeking out the few birds up in the high benchlands west of The Fraser!

Last minute note: Kathy Wrath's feeders on West Fraser still had the long-staying Boreal Chickadee to give us a total of 34 species!!

New species to Narcosli CBC are:

Townsend's Solitaire; Boreal Chickadee; Common Goldeneye; Sharp-tailed Grouse; Snow Bunting; Short-eared Owl.

**Adrian Leather**, Quesnel Birding Club



**Quesnel CBC 2006** took place on December 30, a mild day with a slightly overcast sky in the morning which gave way to a clear sunny sky in the afternoon. Temperatures remained mild, between 2°C and -4°C. A light wind blew on and off throughout the day. A little snow underfoot. We have experienced unusual windstorms recently, including the day before the count. Several of the zones were strangely inactive, with few of the roaming flocks one would expect, and that uneasy feeling of, 'Where have the birds gone'? There were a few big misses for Quesnel. We dipped-out on Merlin and Killdeer and nobody found any Short-eared Owls. Many thanks to all participants for a fine effort with all teams contributing unique species to the count and our reliable group of feeder-watchers making some valuable contributions! Thanks also to Baker Creek Enhancement Society for allowing us to use the Nature Education & Resource Centre for our tally-up and potluck!

Zone Report: Quesnel CBC deploys field teams in eight birding zones:

**BOUCHIE.** Manfred and Mary Roschitz joined Betty - Anne Russell.

The team hit paydirt with a single Purple Finch in the McFetridge's yard on Bouchie Lake and four Red-winged Blackbirds near Nazko Highway and Blackwater!

Orie & Gloria Kolenchuk had a flock of 40 Common Redpolls. James & Marilyn Wilson had a varied list for their Tindale yard, including a Brown Creeper, and two Mountain Chickadees, but saved the best for a trip to town, with a Great Gray Owl at the junction of Nazko Highway & Milburn Lake Road!

**DOWNTOWN.** 'Cometh the hour, cometh the man'!

Lake City birder, Phil Ranson, stole the show with a sublime day of fantasy birding! A single Wilson's Snipe is a new species for Quesnel CBC! Other rarities for the count were a Gyrfalcon and a White-crowned Sparrow, both the second of their species recorded! As if that wasn't enough, Phil found (sing along) four American Robins, three American Dippers, two Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk!

**DRAGON.** Madeline Sheppard joined Adrian Leather and 'Rover' the dog.

Cariboo Pulp & Paper Ponds produced 47 Mallard, ten Green-winged Teal and six Northern Shoveler. A very welcome surprise was a Gyrfalcon, presumably the bird Phil spotted earlier in the morning. A nice double find was a Mountain Chickadee sharing a crabapple tree with 40 Bohemian Waxwings on Beach Crescent. Judy Cottyn turned-up the heat with a Black-billed Magpie and six Steller's Jays between Dragon Lake and Hallis Lake! Larry and Dot Paul and Enid and Dudley Leather recorded eight Dark-eyed Juncos in their respective yards. Joan and Kas Jochim added a Brown Creeper. Betty Pascuzzo tallied 40 Pine Grosbeaks and 30 House Finches! John Maile spotted an American Dipper south of Quesnel River Bridge! Phil Ranson completed a magnificent day with a Northern Pygmy Owl flying over the Cariboo Highway, near Pinnacle Pellet Plant, on his way home!

**EAST FRASER** Cathy and Clara Antoniazzi teamed-up with Nancy Muirhead from Prince George and Quesnelites Alex & Luanne Coffey.

Johnston Sub, normally brimming with winter birds, was surprisingly serene. Carson Sub held a good number of House Finches and House Sparrows. The star bird here was a Great Blue Heron flying over the Quesnel River, also seen by John Maile.

**NORTH** Sandy Kinsey of Prince George, joined Bev and Bill Ramey of Vancouver, Pat and Dennis Asher of Quesnel, Sharlene Logan of Quesnel and Andrea Johnson, Editor of Quesnel Cariboo Observer.

An excellent find was a single Rough-legged Hawk at Quesnel Airport! Aside from the birds, the team enjoyed viewing three Otters and 15 Elk. Brigitte Kollner listed two Steller's Jays and three Mountain Chickadees in her Ten Mile Lake yard. Jeff Dinsdale reported three Spruce Grouse and a Brown Creeper and Chris and Heather Hartridge also spotted a Brown Creeper. Dan Churchill's list on Allcock included 14 Evening Grosbeaks, a Brown Creeper, a Black-billed Magpie, and a Great Gray Owl!

#### RED BLUFF & RICHBAR

Earle Gillard of Quesnel joined Laird Law and Sandra Hepburn of Prince George.

Bird of the day here was a single, immature Northern Goshawk perched along Lust Road. Another impressive return was two Northern Shrikes! Christy Wootten had a flock of Pine Siskins visit her Richbar Hill yard.

**WEST FRASER.** Quesnel trio, Kathy Wrath, Chris Roschitz, and Tracy Bond, tallied an excellent 16 species in this notoriously avian challenged zone! Scanning the Fraser from Skyline Road proved fruitful with two Barrow's Goldeneyes! A long-staying Boreal Chickadee remained in the area and a single Gray Jay was added to the list. Elena Borsato recorded a flock of 40 Pine Siskins in her yard!

**WEST QUESNEL.** Laurie and Sheila Jarrett from England joined experienced Prince George birder, Nancy Krueger, and well-known 'Bluebird Man', Sandy Proulx.

Apart from counting Rock Pigeons outside West Park Mall, 72 House Finches were a good return and this team was the only one to locate Common Merganser!

#### Quesnel CBC 2006 Tally:

Great Blue Heron	1
Mallard	47
Northern Shoveler	6
Green-winged Teal	12
Barrow's Goldeneye	2
Common Merganser	2
Bald Eagle	23
Northern Goshawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruffed Grouse	48^
Spruce Grouse	3^
Rock Pigeon	950^
Northern Pygmy Owl	1
Great Gray Owl	2
Downy Woodpecker	53
Hairy Woodpecker	65^
Northern Flicker	45
Pileated Woodpecker	46^
Northern Shrike	7^
Gray Jay	1
Steller's Jay	9
Black-billed Magpie	2
American Crow	178
Common Raven	495
Black-capped Chickadee	1,015^
Mountain Chickadee	19
Red-breasted Nuthatch	87^
Brown Creeper	9
American Dipper	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
American Robin	4
European Starling	2,500
Bohemian Waxwing	217





Song Sparrow	6
White-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	51
Red-winged Blackbird	4
Brewer's Blackbird	96
Pine Grosbeak	335
Purple Finch	1
House Finch	241 <sup>^</sup>
Common Redpoll	457
Pine Siskin	70
Evening Grosbeak	96
House Sparrow	105
Gyr Falcon	1
Wilson's Snipe	1 <sup>^</sup> **NEW**
Boreal Chickadee	1
Total individual birds	7,324
Total species	49

### Count Week Species:

Great Horned Owl 1 (Marilyn Wilson, Milburn Lake)  
 Northern Saw-whet Owl 1 (Pat & Dennis Asher, Barkerville Highway)  
 American Goldfinch 20 (Manfred & Mary Roschitz, Milburn Lake)

<sup>^</sup> denotes a new record high count in the history of the Quesnel CBC

### Quesnel CBC Stats :

year	# of birds	# of species
1987	1,890	26
1988	5,090	37
1989	786	23
1990	1,790	24
1991	1,331	28
1992	1,544	24
1993	1,131	19
1994	1,513	23
1995	5,468	31
1996	2,153	26
1997	1,220	30
1998	4,066	39
1999	3,630	44
2000	4,169	43
2001	8,311	52
(Record Count)		
2002	5,695	48
2003	8,092	51
2004	6,981	44
2005	5,315	45
2006	7,324	49
20 yr avg	3,874	35
10 yr avg	5,480	44
5 yr avg	6,681	47

**Adrian Leather**

### Williams Lake Christmas Bird Count, 2006

When the organiser of a CBC says to you, "It's one of the nicer areas", what this usually translates to is "Enjoy the drive and the walk, but good luck finding any birds"!

After such a phenomenal day's birding on December 16 at Narcosli CBC, I couldn't help feel that this could be a tough day. Phil Ranson assigned me to some goat-track high in the mountains, known as the Old Soda Creek Road. I was to cross Rudy Johnson's Bridge, and complete Meldrum Creek Road, then return to The Lake City.

After driving through various mills that were completely devoid of any birds, even Rock Pigeons, I decided to drive around a trailer park that Sandy Proulx had mentioned. Though it looked totally uninspiring and was stepped-up a very steep hill, it turned-out to be the most productive stop. The top road was particularly good just by virtue of having a natural shrubby bank which held a flock of House Finches, some Dark-eyed Juncos, and some very lively chickadees (some of the few I was to see all day). I bet there is a Song Sparrow in there somewhere!

I rejoined the Old Soda Creek Road and stopped just before the trailer park ran out. This proved a good stop. I added a flock of Bohemian Waxwings and then heard a Brown Creeper. I stood still. Suddenly a bird whipped out from a tree and landed near the base of the tree right in front of me, a most obliging Brown Creeper. The way the houses are laid-out along Old Soda Creek Road does not lend itself well to a CBC (must speak with these town planners, Phil) as it would be difficult to not look as if you are spying on folks in their homes: short driveways and very open frontal aspects. Pished and listened, but almost nothing except some Mountain Chickadees. Now I started to gain some serious height and found myself in the high mountains. A beautiful serenity up there. Nice to admire the scenery but where were the birds? Finally, near a cattleguard, some more Mountain Chickadees, having what sounded like an argument over who is washing dishes on Christmas Day. Further along the road I hear a Pine Grosbeak then, shortly after, six fly overhead.

Every now and then a Townsend's Solitaire

stood guard atop a tree surveying its mountain hideaway, fascinating for myself, as I never see any around Quesnel. At times it felt like the old song ... "Solitaires, the only bird in town" ... but I pressed-on. And then, drum roll!, I heard a tapping that caught my attention. Moving toward it, I saw a female Black-backed Woodpecker enthusiastically working a tree, both conveniently low on the trunk, and close to the road, around Km 109. Only my second Black-backed Woodpecker. I knew now I would return to Quesnel a happy-chappy.

After crossing Rudy Johnson's bridge, I noticed something was perched by the barn at Buckskin Ranch but it vanished quicker than a butcher's dog! I spin around to see a Bald Eagle flying towards the top of a hill.

I decided to make a stop by a large sweep of agricultural land between Buckskin Ranch and Moon Ranch and it proved to be very fortuitous. My loud pishing flushed a Short-eared Owl that was roosting in some low pines. It glided gracefully for a distance before landing in another cluster of low pines. A little further along the road I saw a fine looking Red-tailed Hawk which allowed me a surprisingly close approach before flapping nonchalantly away. I reached the Moon Ranch and found the frozen marsh which indicates my turnaround area. After I set up the scope, I found a Northern Pygmy Owl 'scoping me out' from the marsh. A scan over long distance with the scope picked-out three Black-billed Magpies along Meldrum Creek Road.

On leaving the Moon Ranch a vehicle was following me rather closely but I didn't think much of it and continued with the business at hand. After scoping a magpie, I turned around to see some guy glaring at me. He said, "I am getting a bit concerned about what you are doing here!" (I was thinking, who is this arrogant \*\*\*\*?) I replied, "Why would you be?" to which I received a very self-righteous and arrogant reply along the lines of, "I am a big boss rancher around here and I have had some cattle stolen". So, there I am, minding my own business, and now I am being suspected of working as some sort of advanced scout for a cattle-rustling operation? I wafted a hand at the guy in a dismissive manner, which saved us both a few verbal expletives, but doubtless



communicated most clearly and concisely how I felt about him and he went on his way.

On the return trip, a real bonus was a perched Golden Eagle. It just looked at me for a while then flew out over the valley. (I bet that rancher had had a word with it.)

In summary, not many birds along this winter route but some of good quality! Really nice country out there. There is something really cool about taking part in other CBCs, over which you do not have to organise and agonise. I know I will be back for more, but I am promised to Prince George next year.

**Adrian Leather**

### **39th Annual Williams Lake Christmas Bird Count**

The Williams Lake Christmas Bird Count was held on Dec 17th in good conditions with mostly clear and cool weather and only light winds. Williams Lake had frozen over in late November removing any realistic chance of improving on the count high total of 58 species set in 2004 when the lake was open. Williams Lake River was open from the bottom parking lot to the Fraser and did offer some sanctuary to water birds, but as usual in winter after the lake freezes, many ducks took refuge in the City Sewage lagoons.

30 observers forming nineteen field parties set out soon after dawn to cover as much of the 450 square kilometers that is accessible within the count circle centered near the Post Office. At nightfall the parties met at Fred McMechan's to tally the count and share stories of close calls, near misses and birds that got away. Feeder watchers were also calling in their results and after the last call was in a total of 54 species had been recorded for the 4th best count in the 39 years that the Williams Lake Field Naturalists' have been conducting the count.

No new species were recorded but several were seen in record numbers bringing the total birds counted to a new high of 4898, almost 500 birds more than the previous high set in 1999. Woodpecker numbers were again up with count highs for both Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers. A Black-backed Woodpecker was seen

for the second year in a row as well as an American Three-toed Woodpecker at Esler.

Other highlights of the count include:

6 Trumpeter Swans inexplicably appearing over the valley long after local lakes had frozen.

Black-billed Magpie numbers have been steadily increasing with another high count of 33 birds.

47 Townsend's Solitaires fell 3 short of our previous best but was still the highest number seen on any count in Canada this year, eclipsing the next highest of 27 reported from Penticton.

Chickadee numbers seem to be leveling off after several years of increases and Red-breasted Nuthatches had their lowest showing for over 10 years

Another species that is on the increase in winter is the Snow Bunting which more than doubled the previous high count set last year with 150 birds seen near the Onward Ranch and another 12 at the Williams Lake Airport.

The bird of the count was probably the Fox Sparrow, rarely seen in winter in the interior but showing up at a North Lakeside feeder. This individual was believed to be a 'Sooty' or coastal subspecies and not the interior breeding 'Slate-coloured' form.

The Field Naturalist's would like to thank all those that participated in the field and at feeders and put in the extra effort to record the most birds since the count started in 1968.

**Phil Ranson**

### **Ladner Christmas Bird Count 2006**

The 2006 Ladner Christmas Bird Count took place on December 23rd, a day which started out overcast and cool, but finished up with the sun breaking through in the middle of the afternoon. A total of sixty-nine birders identified 145 species on count day, plus one species (an Anna's Hummingbird) within count period. This year's (2006 CBC) species total of 145 makes Ladner the Number One count in Canada again.

Around the shores of Boundary Bay, Brunswick Point and Westham Island

(including Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary), very high tides most of the day played a role in the numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds counted. Area leaders reported that the ducks and geese were far offshore and hard to count even through spotting scopes. On the other hand, raptor numbers (hawks, eagles and owls) were generally up. Again this year Snowy Owls were recorded on the count (7) but not in the numbers reported last years (24). Bald Eagle numbers were up considerably from 302 last year to 587 this year. A total of 191 eagles were recorded in the Vancouver Landfill area alone. Other raptor numbers recorded were: Northern Harrier (119), Cooper's Hawk (27), Sharp-shinned Hawk (10), Northern Goshawk (3), Red-tailed Hawk (110), American Kestrel (3), Merlin (11), Gyrfalcon (3), Peregrine Falcon (21), Barn Owl (14), Great Horned Owl (5), Long-eared Owl (1), Short-eared Owl (31) and Northern Saw-whet Owl (4). Our only miss was the Barred Owl – one of the more common owls of the area!

Other highlights included: Brant (2878), Trumpeter Swan (926), and Golden Eagle (1). Rare or unusual birds for the count circle included: Barn Swallow (1), Common Redpoll, (35) Ruddy Turnstone (1), Red Knot (6), Swamp Sparrow (1), and White-throated Sparrow (1). Eurasian Collared-Doves (2) were recorded for the first time on the count. This species was first noted in BC in the South Okanagan a few years ago and is said to be expanding its range coastward in British Columbia and Washington.

The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary (including the CWS Alaksen property and some of the surrounding farmlands), provided a few of the rarer or unusual birds and was also the individual high area in the Ladner count circle recording 101 species. Thanks to Team Leader Martin McNicholl and his wonderful birding sleuths for finding all these birds on count day.

Thank you also to all the other Area Leaders and their teams for their effort which provided the wonderful results on count day. Mark your calendar for the next Ladner CBC on Sunday December 23rd, 2007.

**Jude Grass**, Ladner CBC Coordinator



## National Bird Campaign in Taiwan

The Changhua Wild Bird Society, BCFO's partner society in Taiwan, helped to launch the Taiwan National Bird Campaign on January 12, 2007. Present at the event were Changhua County Legislators Lin Cang-min, Yang Cheng-te, Jiang Zhao-yi; Changhua Wild Bird Society Executive Secretary, Shie Meng-lin, and others. A presentation was made by Simon Liao of the Taiwan International Birding Association, and former Chairman of the Changhua Wild Bird Society.

The four candidate species in the running for National Bird are **Formosan Magpie**, **Mikado Pheasant**, **Swinhoe's Pheasant** and **Yellow Tit**.

The primary National Bird Campaign launch for national media took place in Taipei on January 7. The campaign is scheduled to end on March 20, but may be extended. Anyone may vote for National Bird. Log onto [www.birdingintaiwan.org](http://www.birdingintaiwan.org) for the latest news.

*Jo Ann MacKenzie*



**L to R:**  
Changhua Wild Bird Society Executive Secretary, Shie Meng-lin; Changhua County Legislators, Lin Cang-min, Yang Cheng-te and Jiang Zhao-yi.



**L to R:**  
Legislator Yang Cheng-te; Simon Liao, former Chairman of the Changhua Wild Bird Society (standing); Legislator Lin Cang-min.





**Mikado Pheasant**

## **The Four Candidates for Taiwan's National Bird: Why They Were Selected**

There are over 500 species of birds on Taiwan's official list. Fifteen of Taiwan's resident species are endemic; however, some authorities consider that there are more than 15 endemics; that there are 17 or more. There are more than 60 endemic subspecies.

The four birds selected as candidates for Taiwan's National Bird, Mikado Pheasant, Swinhoe's Pheasant,\* Yellow [Taiwan] Tit and Formosan Magpie, are endemic species. They were chosen as National Bird candidates for particular reasons.



**Swinhoe's Pheasant**

For a time, the two pheasants and the tit were on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List. The IUCN Red List is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species. It has a strong scientific base, and is used to evaluate the extinction risk of thousands of species and subspecies. The aim of the List is to convey the urgency and scale of conservation problems, so that governments, communities and the public can take action to try to save Endangered Species from extinction. Swinhoe's Pheasant, Mikado Pheasant and Yellow [Taiwan] Tit were Endangered.

The government of Taiwan and non-government organizations undertook a campaign of public awareness and conservation to try to save these three species. At the same time, Taiwan's six National Parks were established (between 1984 and 1995), in part to augment the conservation efforts. The campaign was successful, and in 1998, the three species were removed from the IUCN Red List. They are now classed as Uncommon Residents; no longer Endangered. The population is stable, and they illustrate a Taiwan conservation success. That is why Swinhoe's Pheasant, Mikado Pheasant and Yellow Tit are candidates for National Bird.



**Yellow Tit**

The fourth candidate species, Formosan Magpie, was selected for a different reason. Like the other three species, it is an Uncommon Resident in Taiwan, but not as hard to find and see as the two pheasants and the tit. It is considered an emblem of good fortune. Pairs usually mate for life. Their nesting behavior, called "nest helper system" or "cooperative rearing," is unusual among birds. When the young have hatched and the parents are busy looking after them, other Formosan Magpies arrive to help feed and care for the new chicks. These "nest helpers" are probably related to the parents and are most likely young birds from the previous nesting. Because the Formosan Magpie is devoted to its family, it embodies the spirit and character of the Taiwanese people. That is why Formosan Magpie is a candidate for National Bird.



**Formosan Magpie**

The four candidate species were selected by members of the Taiwan International Birding Association.

\*Named for British ornithologist and naturalist Robert Swinhoe who first described the species in 1862. Swinhoe carried out significant scientific research in Taiwan from 1856–1866.

*Jo Ann MacKenzie*



## Violet Hazel Gibbard

On November 25, 2006 the naturalist community of British Columbia lost a long-time champion and friend with the passing of Violet Gibbard of Naramata. Violet and her husband Les, who died in 1996, were pioneer members of that naturalist community and contributed a tremendous amount to its development.

Violet was born in 1910 in Eburne, which included both the present area of Marpole in Vancouver and part of Sea Island. She grew up in a farming family and soon developed the direct, smart and no-nonsense characteristics common to that upbringing. Violet also became keenly interested in gardening, and visits to her grandfather Thomas Hoskins in Lynn Valley sharpened her skills. Thomas had been a gardener in Kew Gardens before emigrating to Canada.

Violet met her future husband, Les, in the blueberry fields of the Fraser Valley and they were married in 1930. By then, Les was working as an electrician in Penticton, so they built a new house there. Violet started her flower garden before the foundations were even laid and she became a life member of the Penticton and District Garden Club. Her first son, Clarence, was born in 1931 and Bob followed 10 years later.

In 1952, Les and Violet bought 23 acres of land on Arawana Road in Naramata and Violet immediately began gardening. Eventually the lawns, shrubs and flower beds expanded to locally famous 2.5 acre garden. It was most spectacular in spring, when 80,000 daffodils of 83 varieties bloomed under the big pines. Violet opened the garden to the public for three Sundays each spring for over 20 years, the admission

fees going to the Penticton Hospital Medical Foundation.

In 1962, Violet and Les, along with Steve and Jean Cannings, founded the South Okanagan Naturalists Club and all four later became honorary life members. I fondly remember club field trips to the Gibbard property, the multitude of nest-boxes amid stately ponderosa pines, the cool shrubbery along Arawana Creek where white ladyslippers grew and Wilson's Warblers sang. And although I lived in a wonderful rural homesite myself, I remember thinking that the Gibbard's had the ideal yard for a nature lover.

Violet was fond of her bird nest-boxes and became heavily involved with the British Columbia Nest Record Scheme. In fact, for over 20 years she was the secretary of the program, sending out blank cards to participants in early spring and gathering filled cards at the end of the summer. Violet was an ideal role-model for the scheme, contributing more than 100 cards each year herself, filled with incredible detail.

Some of her nesting data, particularly those from nest-boxes of Western Bluebirds, House Wrens and Pygmy Nuthatches, form an incredibly valuable database of breeding biology that my brothers and I freely used when writing *The Birds of the Okanagan Valley*. It was Violet's example of finding and cataloguing more than 100 nests in a summer that gave my brother Syd and I the competitive urge to find more—in 1968 we filled out more than 200 cards and in 1969 we managed more than 800. Those two summers taught me a lot about birds, biology, and the natural world and I owe a lot of it to Violet.

Violet was also passionate about

serving her community. She was a First Aid instructor and attendant with St. John's Ambulance for over 30 years; before the days of provincial ambulance service she attended many of the local rodeos, parades and sporting events, treating the resulting horse kicks, broken bones, heat strokes and heart attacks.

Violet and Les were active in early conservation efforts in the Okanagan, both through the South Okanagan Naturalists Club and the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society. The latter group spearheaded successful efforts to preserve large parts of Okanagan Mountain, Cathedral Lakes, Vaseux Lake, and the Osoyoos pocket desert. Violet and Les were particularly instrumental in the creation of Rock Ovens Regional Park in Naramata, setting aside one of the most impressive stands of old-growth ponderosa pines in the valley as well as a number of unique historical features. The designation of this park came at the end of a 10-year struggle with provincial bureaucracy, a struggle that stands as a testament to the Gibbard's tenacity and persistence in the face of government inaction. Rock Ovens is one of my favourite places and is still the only large regional park in the south Okanagan.

As the population of the Okanagan grew, Violet watched with sadness as the native habitat around her yard turned from buttercups, balsamroot and shootingstars to houses and swimming pools. My family and I moved into one of those houses near the Gibbards in 1995, the closest I could get to living in that ideal yard.

Violet kept gardening until she suffered a stroke just after her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. I and many other British Columbians will miss her. I am glad that I have daffodils and irises in my



garden to remember her by, plants that Violet gave to me one fall a few years ago. We all benefit from her legacy.

I would like to thank Fern Gibbard and Melody Hessing for allowing me to draw directly on eulogies that they had written for Violet.

***Dick Cannings***



## British Columbia Bird Sightings: Summer 2006

June started unsettled and cool but this changed by the 3rd week as high pressure built over the Region. There were occasional breakdowns which brought showers and thundershowers but precipitation deficits occurred widely and temperatures were above normal everywhere. It was frequently breezy in many areas, including the coast. These winds were likely the trigger for a significant upwelling algal bloom off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Lesser Nighthawks were recorded in the province for the first time with two sight-records during the period.

†: field notes submitted; ph.: photographed.

### Swans through Shorebirds

Accidental in summer in the southern interior, a Trumpeter Swan was on Vaseux L. 26 Jul (RuC). The only Yellow-billed Loon reported involved a single 13 Jun (CD) on Tameka L. A pair of Clark's Grebes were off Haynes Point in Osoyoos 24 Jun (RuC), this species is known to breed further north in Salmon Arm. Brown Pelicans continued their northward flight which began in spring, but with many more birds involved. As usual, most of the numbers came from the outer coast: 32 birds at Cleland I. 2 Jun (RP); 35 flew n. along Long Beach 7 Jun (AD) and 50 were at Plover Reef 7 Jun (MM); 30 were off Vargas I. 17 Jun (GA). The northward movement of pelicans ended in Jul with only two reports: 18 birds off Carmanah Point 14 Jul (JE); and a single at Cleland 29 Jul (RP). Most of these pelican records were gratefully received from the Strawberry Island Research Foundation based in Tofino. A Double-crested Cormorant was in Salmon Arm 14 Jun (AB, DM) where casual. Talk about a wonderful addition to a yard list: an ad. male **Magnificent Frigatebird** 27 Jun was soaring over Sooke with Turkey Vultures (†RTo) likely a first confirmed record for the Victoria area and the 9<sup>th</sup> provincial record.

Swainson's Hawks were well n. with 3 e. of Dease L. in mid-Jun (GLM). Accidental in Jun, especially in the southern interior, a Rough-legged Hawk was near Anarchist Summit, Osoyoos 6 Jun (ph. Bob McKay). A late push for Semipalmated Plovers furnished June records for Chesterman Beach, where 11 were present 5-6 Jun (AD), and a pair in the Highland Valley near Kamloops 3 Jun (RH, CC). A pair of Black-necked Stilts was seen mating just n. of Osoyoos in a flooded field 21 Jun (RuC) and were later thought to be incubating. There was one prior failed nesting attempt in the Okanagan in 2001 at Alki L. Kelowna. Whimbrel are often found lingering along the outer coast in early June but this season they remained longer and in larger numbers almost to the point of overlapping with southbound birds, with 12 present as late as 21 Jun (AD). An ad. **Little Stint**, in worn alternate plumage was discovered

at Iona STP 19-21 Jul (†TP, †MT, m.obs) furnishing a 13<sup>th</sup> provincial record. Rare in the province away from the Peace R. area, an ad. White-rumped Sandpiper was at Boundary Bay 2 Jul, (IP, et. al.).

### Jaegers through Finches

Long-tailed Jaegers were an inland treat with 3 on Atlin L. 4 Jul (MC). Franklin's Gulls occasionally wander as far as the coast, usually in autumn, 2 were early at White Rock Beach 1 Jul (IP). Sabine's Gulls, although regular in the fall in the interior, are very rare spring vagrants such as the ad. in Salmon Arm 14 Jun (AB, DM). Horned Puffins are very rarely encountered away from the few suspected nesting sites on the outer coast but a single at Cleland Island 4-6 Jul (RCh, MM) was well south. Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to appear along the coast with singles: in Gibson's 1 Jun (GP, LP); and a single at Iona landed on the mud next to shorebirds 11 Jul (MT). Casual in the province, a **White-winged Dove** visited a Castlegar feeder 23 Jun (ph.VJ) and furnished a 10<sup>th</sup> provincial record. Also casual in the province, a Black-billed Cuckoo was at the Corn Creek Marsh, Creston, 20 Jun (MAB et. al.).

A Barn Owl feather was photographed in a Tree Swallow nestbox on Anarchist Mountain indicating the Barn Owl may well have been at an unusually high elevation of 1200 m (RJC). Snowy Owls lingered very late with two in the Knutsford area south of Kamloops, early Jun (*fide* RH). Evidence of Northern Hawk-Owls breeding in Kootenay National Park came with the observation of 2 ads and 4 young gathered together 29 Jun (†DN,VH).

During a pelagic trip off the west coast of Vancouver Island, Mike Yip was taking shots of seabirds when a strange brown bird came flying along. He photographed the bird and thought it to be a Common Nighthawk. Upon posting photos on the internet, some sharp-eyed viewers began to wonder if indeed this was the correct identification. After some scrutiny, the bird was identified as a 1<sup>st</sup> summer male **Lesser Nighthawk**, a provincial



first! This individual was 80 kilometers offshore 5 Jun (ph MY). Then oddly enough, birders (IP, ph PC) discovered a freshly dead nighthawk at Iona Island on 30 Jun, photographed it and voilà—a second provincial record of **Lesser Nighthawk**! The specimen was donated to the Cowan Vertebrate Museum at the University of British Columbia. One can only wonder how many birds were involved in this northward push. There is one previous Canadian record, of a female from Point Pelee National Park, 29 Apr 1974 (AW pers. comm.).

Alder Flycatchers are very rare along the coast but this individual was audio-taped 14-15 Jun near Surrey Lake (RF, CG). Furnishing a first for the Okanagan, a Black Phoebe was in Osoyoos 4 Jul (DB) and an Eastern Phoebe, rare away from the Peace R. was at Surrey L. 15–19 Jun (ph. CG, IP et. al.). Rare in the Lower Mainland, a Rock Wren was at Pit L. 4 Jun (MT).

The only report of Northern Mockingbird was of a single in Surrey 2 Jun (CG). Sage Thrashers returned to the south Okanagan with 3 individuals at White L. 20 Jun (CC et. al.) and a vocal male at Chopaka 21 Jun (RuC). A singing male **Northern Parula** was at Royal Roads University, Victoria 13 Jun (DA) providing the 8<sup>th</sup> provincial record. This species has been annual in the province since 2002. Another “eastern” warbler, a male Chestnut-sided Warbler, singing and in full breeding plumage, was at the south end of Long Beach and later in pursuit of a Yellow Warbler 7 Jun (AD). This is the second record for the west coast region. Another male Chestnut-sided Warbler was a surprise in Kelowna 17 Jul (CC et. al.). Sparsely scattered across the northern spruce forests, a Cape May Warbler was a visual treat at Chilkat Pass 4 Jul (RF). A bird study conducted in the Bell-Irving River area produced **700** Wilson’s Warblers during a 4-hour survey in early Jun (GLM). Casual in the province, a Black-throated Sparrow was at Colony Farm, Coquitlam 10–13 Jun (II, DJ). Very rare on the coast, a Lark Sparrow was at Long Beach 2 Jun (GB). Casual in the province, a male Lark Bunting was at Miracle Beach, just north of Courtenay, 2 Jun (TB, †BB). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder in Sayward at a very suspicious time of year 15 Jul (PR); there are no known coastal breeding records.

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## British Columbia Bird Sightings: Fall 2006

The first three months of the period continued the drought conditions prevalent throughout the Region for quite some time now. This changed abruptly at the start of November as the Pacific storm track revved up. Reservoirs at record low levels at the start of the month were topped up by the end. As well, a batch of Arctic air slid all the way past the coast during the last five days leading to significant snowfalls and blizzard conditions on both the Inner and Outer coasts. Interior snowpacks were at normal or above readings by the end of the month, the first “early winter” in a decade. An unprecedented number of accidentals and vagrants were reported from the west coast of Vancouver I. While it has long been known to be a good vagrant trap, there are very few resident birders and much of the coast is inaccessible however this fall’s showing with an increased observer effort was remarkable.

†, field notes submitted; m. obs.: many observers; ph: photographed.

### Swans through Shorebirds

Surprisingly early, a Tundra Swan, likely from the w. Alaska population was seen in flight over Port Renfrew 2 Sep (JF) nearly six weeks ahead of schedule. A female or eclipse male Garganey was carefully scrutinized from Green-winged Teal at Iona 9–11 Aug (†MT et al.) this would represent the 13<sup>th</sup> record for the province and the first in six years. Breeding Rock Ptarmigan were discovered on Cheam Peak 5 Aug (MD, ph. AF et al.), a female with 4 chicks present which is the most southerly breeding record in western North America. A basic Yellow-billed Loon was seen near Skidegate, Q.C.I., 26 Aug (RF, AF). The province’s 8<sup>th</sup> record of **Manx Shearwater** involved an adult, flying close to shore off Jordan River 28 Aug (†RTo). Sightings involving this species continue to increase in recent years with more coverage of the outer coast. Following a good spring migration of Brown Pelicans which petered out in early Jul, pelicans returned in even greater numbers this fall, flocks of post-breeders and juvs were reported from various locations around the perimeter of Vancouver I. The largest flock was an astounding **294** off Port San Juan, 8 Sep (JC), which more than doubles the previous provincial high count. There were at least four reports of birds lingering into Nov with the latest, an imm., in flight over Ladner 26 Nov (CDC). Few egrets were reported this season with the most noteworthy on the outer coast of Vancouver I.: a Great Egret was on Long Beach 29 Oct (RD); and a Cattle Egret was at Ucluelet 29 Oct (BS). Broad-winged Hawks are an expected occurrence in mid-Sep off Sooke where two ads. and an imm. were found 16 Sep (CSa, RTo); one ad. 22 Sep (RTo, LH), and a single 23 Sep (RS). An adult Ferruginous Hawk, casual in the province, was discovered just s. of Kamloops 1–10 Sep (CC ph DGC, et al.) and created quite a stir for interior birders as it remained in the area thus providing many opportunities for study. A second adult was seen in flight over Creston 29 Sep (†GLM). A **Eurasian Hobby**,

never before reported in the province was described as an imm. when it perched in a fir tree in Sooke 29 Sep (†RTo, PL). Rare but regular along the south coast in autumn, a Bar-tailed Godwit was at Port Renfrew 1–12 Sep (JF, ph RTo, TZ et al.). Also rare along the s. coast, a Hudsonian Godwit was at Oyster Bay Shoreline Park s. of Campbell River 11 Sep (ph. AT) another was at Boundary Bay 10–15 Sep (RTo, IP). Casual in the province, a moulting adult Red-necked Stint was discovered at Boundary Bay 11 Aug (†IP, GC). The vast majority of records involve adults as juvs are very difficult to discern among the more numerous juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were recorded in average numbers until a count of **12** was made at Reifel 25 Sep (JI), the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest flock ever recorded in the province. After a few years of very good Buff-breasted Sandpiper migration in the province, numbers were very low this season with: 2 juvs. on the Salmon Arm mudflats( a regular stop-over location) 1 Sep (DGC); and one juv. was at Jordan River 13 Sep (RTo); and 2 were at the Roberts Bank Jetty 26 Sep (*fide* PC). The Short-billed Dowitcher migration on the outer coast was protracted with a number of birds sighted in Oct, the latest being a flock of 22 at Tofino 31 Oct (AD).

### Gulls through Jays

A pair of juv. Franklin’s Gulls were along the mudflats in Salmon Arm 30 Aug –1 Sep (DGC) where they have become a regular autumn visitor. While birding in a wind storm, a few Victoria birders were able to find a very late Pomarine Jaeger that struggled against the wind 10 Nov (CSa et al.). An ad. Iceland Gull was record-early at the mouth of Mission Creek, Kelowna 29 Sep (RyT) sightings of this species have been increasing in recent years all along the south coast and southern interior but the first usually arrive in Nov. The first Slaty-backed Gull of the season was at Cattle Point, Victoria 13 Oct (CSa), another



was 30 nautical miles sw. of Tofino 14 Oct (ph. AD, GB et al.). A Black-legged Kittiwake, unheard of in the s. interior, with only one previous interior record near Prince George, was photographed by a fisheries crew working in the night at Trail 30 Nov (ph. DeB). Casual in the province, aside from their single-known breeding location on Triangle Island, a Thick-billed Murre was seen on the rising tide at Gordon's Beach near Sooke, 20 Sep (RTo, LH). Arriving from much more southerly waters, a **Xantus's Murrelet** was discovered in Father Charles Channel, off Tofino 2 Oct (ph. AD) for an 8<sup>th</sup> provincial record. Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to surface in the south-west corner of the province with 2 in Parksville 22 Aug (GLM); another pair was along River Road, Delta for at least 2 months, according to the locals, seen by birders 18-29 Oct (m. obs.). If determining origin for these outlanders is not difficult enough, consider the one in Prince George 9-12 Nov (fide JB). White-headed Woodpeckers continue to be seen on Anarchist Mtn. near Osoyoos with 1-2 birds sighted 10 Oct (SL). Casual along the south coast, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was in Port Renfrew 25 Sep (†RTo, PL). Least Flycatchers are rarely found along the coast during migration such as the imm. that was found in Jordan River 21 Aug (RTo). Dusky Flycatcher was early along the coast 5-6 Aug (DA, MR) at Rocky Point Bird Observatory and one was at Jordan River 20-21 Sep (RTo). The only Tropical Kingbird of the season was in Parksville 5-6 Nov (MY, GLM et al.). This species is more often encountered in Oct on the s. or w. coast of Vancouver I. Casual in the province, an imm. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was observed at close range in Westbank, near Kelowna, 7 Oct (†EB, HB). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was discovered in a warbler fallout on the outer coast of Vancouver Island at Jordan River. This bird was in association with a **Blackburnian Warbler** 13-15 Sep (†RTo, ph. MB). Steller's Jays staged an invasion of the c. interior and the coast this fall as they seem to do every five years or so. Many reports were received from various locations indicating increased numbers of jays or arrivals of jays in areas where they are either scarce or absent (m. obs.). Presumably, northern areas experienced high breeding success as the vast majority of birds banded at Rocky Point Bird Observatory were immature birds (fide AN).

### Swallows through Finches

Bank Swallows are rare autumn transients along the coast with a single at Rocky Point Bird Observatory 13 Aug (DA). Chestnut-backed Chickadees almost never grace these pages but this year they staged a small but widespread invasion into the southern interior. The most

significant count was 9 in Naramata 17 Nov (RJC). Very rare along the south coast, a Rock Wren was at the Cypress Parking Lot 9 Oct (MT). A female or imm. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Reifel 4 Sep (†QB, MMD) furnishing the 8<sup>th</sup> provincial record. Right on its heels came the 9<sup>th</sup> provincial record with one in Nakusp 14-23 Nov (ph GSD et al.). A Gray Catbird was rather late in Nakusp 20 Oct (GSD). Casual in the province and found any time of year, a **Brown Thrasher** was discovered at Long Beach 13-15 Sep (GB, RTo) for a second record for the west coast of Vancouver I. A male Tennessee Warbler, a very rare transient in the Okanagan, was heard during daily census at Vaseux, 20 Aug (DB et al.). possibly the same bird was found during census at Vaseux 8-10 Sep (RJC, BH) as it was in the exact same spot. An ad. female was later banded at Vaseux 13 Sep (DB). **Northern Parulas** have become annual in the province over the past five years, but this year was a banner year with 4 records from Jun-Oct. The province's 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> records involved single males at: Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Metchosin, 16 Aug (GD, CSa, MR); Swan L. Victoria 2-4 Oct (DL, MH ph, CSa, †BB) and relocated at the mail processing plant in Victoria 7 Oct (†RTo). The province's 13<sup>th</sup> record of **Black-throated Blue Warbler** came from Sooke 2 Oct when an imm. male was observed (RTo). This species is a casual autumn transient with three winter records and only one spring record. The province's 11<sup>th</sup> **Blackburnian Warbler** was a male discovered in a warbler fallout at Jordan River 13 Sep (†RTo). An imm. Magnolia Warbler, very rare in the Okanagan, was discovered in Sutherland Hills Park, Kelowna (†RyT). Likely the scarcest of our breeding warblers, from the ne. corner of the province, an imm. Bay-breasted Warbler was found at the Wickaninnish parking lot, Pacific Rim National Park 15 Sep (RTo) one of only a small handful of records for the coast. Vancouver's first photo-documented Blackpoll Warbler was discovered 3 Sep (†ph. BW) at Burrard and Hastings. Vancouver has but a handful of records for this species. Northern Waterthrush, rare but regular along the coast, was at Reifel in Ladner 12 Aug (fide DM) and one was at Mount Douglas Beach, Saanich 13 Aug (JT). An imm. Canada Warbler was at Swan L., Victoria 1-2 Oct (DL, MH). Rarely encountered in the Lower Mainland, a male Yellow-breasted Chat was singing along River Rd, Delta 22 Sep (MMcN) which is also very late. A female or imm. Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a surprise find in Sooke 1 Aug (RTo). A Clay-colored Sparrow, very rare on the coast, was at a feeder in Victoria 2-3 Oct (ph. TA) yet another was discovered in Victoria 28 Oct (CSa, ph. TA). An imm. Lark Sparrow, well out of range, was in Sooke 15 Sep (RTo, ph TZ). A Grasshopper Sparrow was in Sooke 18 Sep (RTo) where very rare. A Harris's



Sparrow, very rare on Vancouver I. was in Victoria 29 Oct (DA). Casual in the Peace R. area and regularly found only in the extreme nw corner of the province, a Smith's Longspur was at McQueen's Slough in the Peace R. area 13 Sep (GLM). A first for the Okanagan, a male Indigo Bunting was seen and heard singing during the daily Vaseux survey 27 Aug (DB) and a female or imm. was at Jordan River 21 Sep (RTo, MM, LH). A very late Bullock's Oriole was frequenting a suet feeder at Qualicum Beach 26 Nov to end of period (C&DB, ph. GLM et al.). Pine Grosbeaks arrived early in southern interior valleys and staged a mini-invasion of the south coast and Vancouver I. with many sightings of very small groups suggestive of an altitudinal migration. Rare on Vancouver I., a Common Redpoll was with a flock of Pine Siskins 10 Nov (RTo).

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**David Allinson** (Victoria), **Cathy Antoniazzi** (c. interior), Ted Ardley, Barbara Begg, Michael Bentley, Ed Beynon, Hazel Beynon, Catherine and Don Bonnar, **Jack Bowling** (weather summary), George Bradd, Doug Brown, Quentin Brown, Demetria Burgoon, Peter Candido, **Richard J. Cannings** (s. Okanagan), Bob Chapman, George Clulow, John Cooper, Christopher Di Corrado, Mark Dalton, **Gary S. Davidson** (Kootenays), Robert Dobos, **Adrian Dorst** (Tofino-Ucluelet), Jerry Etzkorn, Jamie Fenneman, Andrew Foxall, Roger Foxall, Bob Handfield, Louis Haviland, Margaret Huntley, John Ireland, Paul Levesque, Sherry Linn, Darryl Lum, Murray MacDonald, Derrick Marven, Martin McNicholl, Guy L. Monty, Ann Nightingale, **Mark Phinney** (Peace River), Ilya Povalyaev, **Phil Ranson** (Cariboo), Mary Robichaud, Chris Saunders, Rick Schortinghuis, Barbara Schramm, Mike Tabak, Jeremy Tatum, Ryan Tomlinson, Anton Turner, Bruce Whittington, Mike Yip, Tim Zurowski.



# Have you seen a wing-tagged Turkey Vulture?



Researchers at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, together with colleagues in Venezuela, recently placed color wing tags on more than 100 Turkey Vultures over-wintering in northwestern Venezuela. The tagged birds are members of the *meridionalis*, or western North American, subspecies. The birds were tagged to study long-distance migration in the species. They are expected to begin migrating back toward their breeding areas in February. Their movements should take them through Central America and Mexico and into the western United States and Canada.

Reports of these birds will help Hawk Mountain scientists determine the timing and geography of migration in Turkey Vultures, as well as the breeding areas of the birds. Some of the birds have red tags with white numbers, others have light-blue tags with black numbers.

*Please report the date and specific location of your sighting, color and number of the tag, the wing (right or left) to which the tag is attached, and the circumstances of the sighting, including whether or not the bird was alone or in a group of vultures, flying or perched, feeding or roosting, etc. Dead birds also should be reported. Report sightings to Keith Bildstein, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Acopian Center for Conservation Learning, 410 Summer Valley Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961; [Bildstein@hawkmtn.org](mailto:Bildstein@hawkmtn.org); 1-570-943-3411 ext. 108. All reports will be recognized, and individuals reporting tagged birds will receive summary information about the study. Thank you.*



## Bird Listers' Corner

About 50 BCFO members, almost the same as last year, sent in one or more list totals this year. We didn't hear from some of our usual contributors (where are you, Bryan Gates, Brian Self, Chris Charlesworth and Andy & Marilyn Buhler?), but we got first-time reports from Gary Davidson, Guy Monty, and Kevin Neill, plus reports from some people who reported in the past but not last year. To cover those who may simply have forgotten to send in their lists this year, we retain one-year-old listing totals (marked \* below) and even two-year-old totals (marked \*\*), but we will drop any totals more than two years old. However, we do appreciate getting up-to-date statistics.

B.C. lists for 81 birders are included in the report. This is the only category in which lists submitted to other publications are included, for the sake of completeness. A number of these lists were published in last year's "ABA List Report" and "Canadian Listers' Corner", but are included with those submitted to BCFO.

Hardly any of the top provincial listers (those with over 400 in B.C.) were able to add more than 3 or 4 species to their B.C. lists, the exception being the energetic Roger Foxall, who added 7. However, several of those in the lower half of the rankings were able to add 10 or more species, including Brent and Carolyn Schmor, Gwen Nicol, Ted Goshulak, and Mabel Crocker. It should be noted that

these "increases" are since the last list was received, and in some cases they are over two years, not just a single year. Nevertheless, congratulations to all those who are making major gains in their B.C. lists!

In the category of world lists, some jaw-dropping advances were made. The biggest of these (932 species by Sharon Tootchin and 770 by Ken Taylor) were over two years, but those are still huge gains! Mike Tootchin added 493 species, Laird Law added 479 species, and six others (including Ken Morgan, the author of this column for many years) added 200 or more to their world lists. In total, 14 of our members reported adding 100 or more to their world lists in the last year or two. Jo Ann MacKenzie, Hue MacKenzie, and Keith Riding now have more than 4000 on their world lists, and Keith is not far behind the MacKenzies.

Roger Foxall added 6 species to his ABA area list (North America north of Mexico) to nudge out Mike Tootchin for top spot in this category. However, I don't expect that situation to remain static for long. The biggest gainers in the ABA area lists were Brian Stech (112 species!), Brent Schmor (76 species) and John Vooys (66 species). I know that John has been birding for many years-- maybe even more years than me-- and it must be satisfying to finally build up a good ABA area list.

There were few major changes in the Canada list rankings. Roger Foxall continues to run a few

species ahead of Hue and Jo Ann MacKenzie; all three observers added 3 species each to their lists. The only people who reported adding 10 or more species to their Canada lists were John Vooys (11 species) and Barbara Begg and Rand Rudland (10 species each).

In Washington State, your compiler added 10 species and is slowly closing in on a state list of 400, but not too many other B.C. birders seem to have expended a lot of effort there.

Most of the local and regional lists do not show a lot of changes from last year. However, Guy Monty submitted lists from three areas not previously reported on (Nanaimo area, Rath Trevor Beach Prov. Park, and Strathcona Prov. Park), and is still the only one reporting from those areas. I'm sure he wouldn't mind a bit of competition; could we get more Vancouver Island birders to submit lists next year?

I'd like to urge our members to submit more lists for National and Provincial Parks. Some of these are excellent birding areas, some are fairly close to major cities, and since we still aren't getting too many lists from parks, yours could be the top list for Park X if you choose to send it in!

One area where we may be falling short is in updating the totals for species recorded in various areas. The ABA constantly updates totals for provinces and states, but we know that some of our totals for local areas and parks are out of date. Thanks to those that did provide updates (especially Guy



Monty and Tony Greenfield), and if you have a more current species total for any area on the listing form, please let us know!

A reminder: BC BIRDING accepts mainly list totals for areas within or immediately adjacent to BC, and there are other outlets for other kinds of listing totals. For members of the American Birding Association, there is the ABA Big Day and List Report (<http://americanbirding.org/bigday>). They will accept lists for all Canadian provinces and U.S. states, as well as many regions of the world outside North America. Also, for \$6.00 per year, you can subscribe to and send lists to the CANADIAN LISTERS' CORNER, edited by Larry Neily of Ottawa (<http://ca.geocities.com/neilyworld@rogers.com/listerscorner/listers-corner.htm>). This report publishes lists for all Canadian provinces and territories, for any local areas where you have seen 150 or more species, and also "Big Days" and winter lists. Finally, for

Washington State, Ken Knittle (e-mail [washingtonbirder@hotmail.com](mailto:washingtonbirder@hotmail.com)) puts out a newsletter called WASHINGTON BIRDER (no website) for \$12 (US) per year which publishes life and year lists for individual counties and some other areas within Washington, plus lots of other useful birding information. We encourage you to support the ABA, Larry Neily, and Ken Knittle; BCFO does not have the space to publish all these kinds of lists from outside BC.

Sincere thanks to everyone who sent in their list totals for this compilation, good birding, and we hope to hear from you again next year!

**Wayne C. Weber**

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# BIRD LISTING STATISTICS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006

## BRITISH COLUMBIA (493 species)

Mike Toochn	443	89.9%	+3	Andy Buhler*	347	70.4%	0
Hue MacKenzie	432	87.6%	+3	Laird Law	347	70.4%	0
Jo Ann MacKenzie	431	87.4%	+3	Marilyn Buhler*	347	70.4%	0
Dale Jensen	426	86.4%	+4	Gwynneth Wilson	346	70.2%	+2
David Stirling	419	85.0%	+4	Rand Rudland	345	70.0%	+5
Wayne Weber	418	84.8%	+3	Peter Blokker	344	69.8%	0
Tom Plath**	416	84.4%	0	Brent Schmor	343	69.6%	+11
Tony Greenfield	414	84.0%	+3	Dannie Carsen**	342	69.4%	0
Michael Force**	413	83.8%	0	David Mark*	341	69.2%	0
Danny Tyson*	412	83.6%	0	Eric Tull	341	69.2%	+4
John Luce*	408	82.8%	0	Marika Ainley*	332	67.3%	0
David Allinson	404	81.9%	+2	Ken Ward*	329	66.7%	0
Lloyd Esralson	403	81.7%	+1	Roy Arlt*	327	66.3%	0
Roger Foxall	403	81.7%	+7	John Sprague	326	66.1%	+2
Brian Self*	402	81.5%	0	Alex Gray*	325	65.9%	0
Sharon Toochn	402	81.5%	+1	Carolynn Schmor	324	65.7%	+15
Dick Cannings	396	80.3%	+2	Suzanne Benoit*	321	65.1%	0
Russ Tkachuk	395	80.1%	+4	Kenneth Burden*	318	64.5%	0
Bryan Gates*	394	79.9%	0	Ken Taylor	316	64.1%	+2
Hank Vanderpol	394	79.9%	+1	Laurie Rockwell	316	64.1%	+1
Rick Tyson*	394	79.9%	0	Judy Latta*	315	63.9%	0
Keith Riding	391	79.3%	+2	Burke Korol*	314	63.7%	0
Mike McGrenere*	387	78.5%	0	Paul Lehman*	310	62.9%	0
Val George	387	78.5%	+7	Howard Braun*	305	61.9%	0
Barbara Begg	386	78.3%	+4	Gwen Nicol	304	61.7%	+17
Guy Monty	384	77.9%	---	Kyle Elliott**	302	61.3%	0
Murray Brown	384	77.9%	+5	Blake Maybank*	301	61.1%	0
Brian Stech	381	77.3%	+5	Dorothy Copp	301	61.1%	+1
Ken Klimko*	380	77.1%	0	Joan McDonald*	300	60.9%	0
Stefan Zaremba	379	76.9%	+2	Malcolm McDonald*	300	60.9%	0
Larry Cowan	376	76.3%	+3	Ted Goshulak	299	60.6%	+15
Gary Davidson	372	75.5%	---	Kevin Neill	297	60.2%	---
Don Wilson	364	73.8%	0	Mabel Crocker	297	60.2%	+12
John Vooy	364	73.8%	+4	Brooke Clibbon*	290	58.8%	0
Ron Walker	362	73.4%	+5	Bill Wilson (AB)*	289	58.6%	0
Chris Charlesworth**	360	73.0%	0	Bill Crins*	287	58.2%	0
Ken Morgan	360	73.0%	+3	Theo Hoffman*	286	58.0%	0
Thor Manson*	360	73.0%	0	Laure Neish*	276	56.0%	0
Bruce Whittington	358	72.6%	+2	Bill Wilson (ON)	263	53.3%	---
Len Jellicoe	356	72.2%	+6	Mike Mulligan	257	52.1%	0
Martin McNicholl	350	71.0%	+2				



## WORLD (9838 SPECIES)

Jo Ann MacKenzie	4392	44.6%	+248
Hue MacKenzie	4332	44.0%	+233
Keith Riding	4145	42.1%	+287
John Cartwright**	3862	39.3%	0
David Stirling	3807	38.7%	+115
Mike Toochin	3710	37.7%	+493
Roger Foxall	3496	35.5%	+131
Stefan Zaremba	3170	32.2%	+63
Mike Mulligan	3142	31.9%	+10
Ron Walker	3100	31.5%	+169
Ken Taylor	2906	29.5%	+770
Sharon Toochin	2902	29.5%	+932
Dick Cannings	2674	27.2%	+3
Barbara Begg	2474	25.1%	+153
Laird Law	2456	25.0%	+479
Dale Jensen	2390	24.3%	+68
Eric Tull	2148	21.8%	+36
Hank Vanderpol	2026	20.6%	+296
Brian Self*	2019	20.5%	0
Don Wilson	1631	16.6%	+1
Kyle Elliott**	1581	16.1%	0
Val George	1480	15.0%	+42
Ken Morgan	1466	14.9%	+259
Tony Greenfield	1425	14.5%	0
Rand Rudland	1366	13.9%	+50
Sandra Eadie	1347	13.7%	+267
Bryan Gates*	1346	13.7%	0
Gary Davidson	1285	13.1%	---
George Innes**	1073	10.9%	0

## ABA AREA (939 SPECIES)

Roger Foxall	762	81.2%	+6
Mike Toochin	761	81.0%	0
Mike Mulligan	752	80.1%	0
Hank Vanderpol	738	78.6%	+3
Stefan Zaremba	738	78.6%	+7
Russ Tkachuk	728	77.5%	+4
Jo Ann MacKenzie	702	74.8%	+1
Hue MacKenzie	698	74.3%	+1
Dale Jensen	679	72.3%	+1
David Stirling	670	71.4%	+3
Wayne Weber	670	71.4%	+1
Dorothy Copp	659	70.2%	+16
John Luce*	657	70.0%	0
Eric Tull	656	69.9%	+2
Sharon Toochin	654	69.6%	0
Brian Self*	635	67.6%	0
Brian Stech	634	67.5%	+112
David Allinson	616	65.6%	+2
Gary Davidson	616	65.6%	---
John Sprague	614	65.4%	+8
Keith Riding	613	65.3%	+2
Tony Greenfield	604	64.3%	+2
Don Wilson	602	64.1%	0
Gwynneth Wilson	600	63.9%	+1
Barbara Begg	598	63.7%	+4
Danny Tyson*	596	63.5%	0
Andy Buhler*	592	63.0%	0
Marilyn Buhler*	592	63.0%	0
Lloyd Esralson	591	62.9%	0
Marika Ainley*	591	62.9%	0
John Vooy	585	62.3%	+66
Mabel Crocker	580	61.8%	+2
Ken Klimko*	577	61.4%	0
Dick Cannings	571	60.8%	+1
Ken Morgan	564	60.1%	+1
Bryan Gates*	563	60.0%	0
Chris Charlesworth**	550	58.6%	0
Kevin Neill	543	57.8%	---
Sandra Eadie	536	57.1%	+29
Thor Manson*	536	57.1%	0
Kyle Elliott**	532	56.7%	0
Rand Rudland	531	56.5%	+30
Brent Schmor	523	55.7%	+76
Martin McNicholl	522	55.6%	+2
Gwen Nicol	515	54.8%	+18
Mike McGrenere*	509	54.2%	0
Howard Braun*	504	53.7%	0
Carolynn Schmor	503	53.6%	---
Laure Neish	485	51.7%	+23
Murray Brown	478	50.9%	+13
Larry Cowan	466	49.6%	+2
Ken Taylor	465	49.5%	---
Laird Law	461	49.1%	0
Ted Goshulak	448	47.7%	---
Dannie Carsen**	421	44.8%	0
Peter Blokker	402	42.8%	0





## CANADA (643 species)

Roger Foxall	523	81.3%	+3
Hue MacKenzie	517	80.4%	+3
Jo Ann MacKenzie	515	80.1%	+3
John Luce*	493	76.7%	0
Mike Toochn	487	75.7%	+2
David Stirling	486	75.6%	+2
Eric Tull	483	75.1%	+1
Brian Self*	480	74.7%	0
Marika Ainley*	473	73.6%	0
Russ Tkachuk	473	73.6%	+4
Dale Jensen	472	73.4%	+2
Wayne Weber	464	72.2%	+2
Danny Tyson*	462	71.9%	0
Dick Cannings	457	71.1%	+2
Stefan Zaremba	452	70.3%	+2
Sharon Toochn	450	70.0%	+3
Barbara Begg	448	69.7%	+10
Hank Vanderpol	444	69.1%	+1
David Allinson	443	68.9%	+2
Keith Riding	441	68.6%	+1
Martin McNicholl	439	68.3%	+1
Mike McGrenere*	439	68.3%	0
John Cartwright**	436	67.8%	0
Larry Cowan	429	66.7%	+3
Lloyd Esralson	429	66.7%	+1
Ken Morgan	426	66.3%	+2
Tony Greenfield	426	66.3%	+3
Len Jellicoe	418	65.0%	+8
Bryan Gates*	414	64.4%	0
Gwynneth Wilson	410	63.8%	+2
Murray Brown	410	63.8%	+3
John Voos	408	63.5%	+11
Mike Mulligan	407	63.3%	+3
John Sprague	406	63.1%	+1
Rick Tyson*	404	62.8%	0
Kevin Neill	403	62.7%	---
Don Wilson	402	62.5%	0
Sandra Eadie	402	62.5%	+5
Gary Davidson	400	62.2%	---
Peter Blokker	397	61.7%	0
Rand Rudland	394	61.3%	+10
Brian Stech	389	60.5%	+4
Andy Buhler*	382	59.4%	0
Marilyn Buhler*	382	59.4%	0
Ken Klimko*	380	59.1%	0
Ron Walker	380	59.1%	+1
Laird Law	373	58.0%	0
Chris Charlesworth**	365	56.8%	0
Ted Goshulak	365	56.8%	---
Brent Schmor	362	56.3%	+9
Mabel Crocker	357	55.5%	+5
Dannie Carsen**	355	55.2%	0
Gwen Nicol	354	55.1%	---
Carolynn Schmor	345	53.7%	---
Laure Neish*	323	50.2%	0

## WASHINGTON STATE (484 spp)

Wayne Weber	384	79.3%	+10
Jo Ann MacKenzie	349	72.1%	+2
Hue MacKenzie	343	70.9%	+2
Mike Toochn	313	64.7%	+1
Guy Monty	285	58.9%	---
Brian Self*	272	56.2%	0
Hank Vanderpol	272	56.2%	---
Dick Cannings	267	55.2%	0
David Stirling	254	52.5%	0
John Voos	254	52.5%	+9
Roger Foxall	252	52.1%	+5
Keith Riding	244	50.4%	0
Lloyd Esralson	235	48.6%	+1
Dale Jensen	231	47.7%	+1
Chris Charlesworth**	227	46.9%	0
Brent Schmor	223	46.1%	+7
Carolynn Schmor	219	45.2%	+8
Dorothy Copp	208	43.0%	+2
Eric Tull	201	41.5%	---
Brian Stech	200	41.3%	---

## ALBERTA (406 species)

Eric Tull	354	87.2%	+1
Mike Mulligan	337	83.0%	+3
Hank Vanderpol	288	70.9%	0
David Stirling	284	70.0%	0
John Cartwright**	256	63.1%	0
Hue MacKenzie	244	60.1%	0
Martin McNicholl	241	59.4%	0
Roger Foxall	241	59.4%	0
Jo Ann MacKenzie	240	59.1%	+1
Wayne Weber	235	57.9%	0
Bryan Gates*	222	54.7%	0
Laure Neish**	222	54.7%	0
Gary Davidson	215	53.0%	---
Dick Cannings	214	52.7%	0

## YUKON TERRITORY (296 spp)

Dick Cannings	172	58.1%	0
Eric Tull	155	52.4%	0
David Stirling	149	50.3%	0
Tony Greenfield	149	50.3%	0
Roger Foxall	139	47.0%	+7
John Sprague	104	35.1%	0
Brian Self*	102	34.5%	0



## VANCOUVER ISLAND (387 spp)

David Allinson	344	88.9%	+1
David Stirling	340	87.9%	+4
Barbara Begg	331	85.5%	+3
Bryan Gates*	326	84.2%	0
Hank Vanderpol*	322	83.2%	0
Mike McGrenere*	319	82.4%	0
Guy Monty	311	80.4%	---
Mike Toochn	276	71.3%	+3
Dannie Carsen**	273	70.5%	0
Ken Morgan	267	69.0%	+1
Wayne Weber	254	65.6%	+1
Hue MacKenzie	251	64.9%	0
Jo Ann MacKenzie	250	64.6%	0
Roger Foxall	242	62.5%	+4
Danny Tyson*	238	61.5%	0
Brent Schmor	234	60.5%	+1

## VICTORIA AREA (362 species)

David Allinson	329	90.9%	+2
David Stirling	324	89.5%	+4
Barbara Begg	317	87.6%	+3
Hank Vanderpol	313	86.5%	+1
Bryan Gates*	312	86.2%	0
Mike McGrenere*	305	84.3%	0
Bruce Whittington	301	83.1%	+1
Dannie Carsen**	263	72.7%	0
Mike Toochn	245	67.7%	+2
Guy Monty	238	65.7%	---
Wayne Weber	235	64.9%	+1
Brent Schmor	230	63.5%	+1

## CLOVER POINT & DALLAS ROAD, VICTORIA

David Stirling	199		+1
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## ROCKY POINT AREA (299 species)

David Allinson	268	89.6%	+1
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## NANAIMO AREA (292 species)

Guy Monty	261	89.4%	---
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## PARKSVILLE & QUALICUM BEACH (292 species)

Guy Monty	256	87.7%	---
David Allinson	177	60.6%	0

## SALT SPRING ISLAND (238 spp)

John Sprague	153	64.3%	+1
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## SATURNA ISLAND (175 spp)

Tony Greenfield	102	58.3%	0
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## CAMPBELL RIVER AREA (266 species)

Guy Monty	170	63.9%	---
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## QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS (250 species)

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



## VANCOUVER AREA (398 spp)

Mike Toochin	356	89.4%	+1
Jo Ann MacKenzie	347	87.2%	+3
Hue MacKenzie	342	85.9%	+1
Wayne Weber	334	83.9%	+2
Brian Self*	332	83.4%	0
Danny Tyson*	331	83.2%	0
John Luce*	330	82.9%	0
Lloyd Esralson	325	81.7%	+3
Keith Riding	324	81.4%	+1
Rick Tyson*	316	79.4%	0
Stefan Zarembo	313	78.6%	+1
Sharon Toochin**	312	78.4%	0
Ken Klimko*	310	77.9%	0
Larry Cowan	305	76.6%	+2
Roger Foxall	301	75.6%	+10
Dick Cannings	285	71.6%	0
David Allinson	279	70.1%	+1
John Vooys	276	69.3%	+4
Kyle Elliott**	270	67.8%	0
Brian Stech	262	65.8%	0
David Stirling	242	60.8%	0
Brent Schmor	241	60.6%	+11
Bryan Gates*	234	58.8%	0
Don Wilson	234	58.8%	0

## SEA & IONA ISLANDS (316 spp)

Mike Toochin	256	81.0%	+1
Wayne Weber	231	73.1%	+1
Danny Tyson*	210	66.5%	0
Lloyd Esralson	203	64.2%	+2
David Allinson*	198	62.7%	0
Rick Tyson*	171	54.1%	0

## WESTHAM & REIFEL ISLANDS (260 species)

Wayne Weber	213	81.9%	0
Danny Tyson*	193	74.2%	0
Lloyd Esralson	185	71.2%	+1
Rick Tyson*	171	65.8%	0

## BLACKIE SPIT, SURREY

Jo Ann MacKenzie	189		0
Hue MacKenzie	186		0
Wayne Weber	176		+2
Danny Tyson*	156		0

## WHITE ROCK CHRISTMAS COUNT AREA

Hue MacKenzie	265		+3
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## COLONY FARM REGIONAL PARK (187 species)

Larry Cowan	154	82.4%	0
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## SUNSHINE COAST (301 spp)

Tony Greenfield	268	89.0%	+2
Russ Tkachuk	244	81.1%	+3
Rand Rudland	221	73.4%	0
Danny Tyson*	165	54.8%	0

## KAMLOOPS AREA (306 species)

Rick Howie	277	90.5%	---
Wayne Weber	254	83.0%	+1
David Stirling	198	64.7%	0
Gary Davidson	183	59.8%	---



## OKANAGAN VALLEY (333 spp)

Chris Charlesworth**	295	88.6%	0
Gwynneth Wilson	289	86.8%	+2
Dick Cannings	287	86.2%	0
Don Wilson	286	85.9%	+1
Judy Latta*	284	85.3%	0
Laurie Rockwell	277	83.2%	0
Peter Blokker	269	80.8%	+1
Howard Braun*	266	79.9%	0
Mike Toochn	262	78.7%	0
Laure Neish	261	78.4%	+2
Hank Vanderpol*	259	77.8%	0
Eva Durance**	257	77.2%	0
Wayne Weber	257	77.2%	0
Gary Davidson	254	76.3%	---
Danny Tyson*	246	73.9%	0
David Stirling	242	72.7%	0
Hue MacKenzie	236	70.9%	0
Jo Ann MacKenzie	234	70.3%	+1
John Luce*	231	69.4%	0
Tony Greenfield	230	69.1%	0
Ken Klimko*	228	68.5%	0
Laird Law	217	65.2%	0
John Vooy	211	63.4%	+5
Keith Riding*	208	62.5%	0
Lloyd Esralson	208	62.5%	+3
Bryan Gates*	192	57.7%	0
Russ Tkachuk**	189	56.8%	0
Rick Tyson*	188	56.5%	0
Brent Schmor**	185	55.6%	0
Gwen Nicol	179	53.8%	---
Dannie Carsen**	175	52.6%	0
Brian Stech	171	51.4%	+1
Larry Cowan	165	49.5%	---

## NORTH OKANAGAN (278 spp)

Peter Blokker	248	89.2%	+3
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## WEST KOOTENAY (313 species)

Gary Davidson	270	86.3%	---
Gwen Nicol	233	74.4%	+3
Jo Ann MacKenzie	180	57.5%	+1
Wayne Weber	177	56.5%	0
Hue MacKenzie	168	53.7%	0

## CRESTON VALLEY (283 spp)

Gary Davidson	170	54.5%	---
Gwen Nicol	167	53.5%	+19

## REVELSTOKE AREA (242 spp)

Wayne Weber	145	59.9%	0
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## 100 MILE HOUSE

Laurie Rockwell	175		0
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## WILLIAMS LAKE AREA (248 species)

Bryan Gates*	138	55.6%	0
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## PRINCE GEORGE AREA (283 species)

Laird Law	257	90.8%	+2
Don Wilson	190	67.1%	0
Danny Tyson*	166	58.7%	0
Peter Blokker	151	53.4%	0

## BULKLEY AND KISPIOX VALLEYS (237 species)

Ray Sturney*	209	88.2%	0
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## PEACE RIVER AREA (272 species)

Tony Greenfield	207	76.1%	0
Laird Law	223	82.0%	+17
Jo Ann MacKenzie	191	70.2%	0
Bryan Gates*	184	67.6%	0
Wayne Weber	164	60.3%	0
David Stirling	158	58.1%	0
Larry Cowan	151	55.5%	+1



## PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK (254 species)

David Stirling	175	68.9%	0
David Allinson	169	66.5%	0

## YOHO NATIONAL PARK (208 species)

Wayne Weber	125	60.1%	0
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## MIRACLE BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK (160 species)

David Stirling	159	99.4%	0
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## MITLENATCH ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK (160 spp)

David Stirling	110	68.8%	0
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## MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK (206 species)

Mike McGrenere*	139	67.5%	0
Hue MacKenzie	129	62.6%	---
Wayne Weber	125	60.7%	0
Jo Ann MacKenzie	110	53.4%	+1
David Stirling	103	50.0%	0
Brent Schmor	103	50.0%	---

## MOUNT ROBSON PROVINCIAL PARK (168 species)

Laird Law	133	79.2%	0
David Stirling	120	71.4%	0

## RATHTREVOR BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK

Guy Monty	170		---
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## STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK (136 species)

Guy Monty	105	77.2%	---
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## HAINES TRIANGLE

David Stirling	88		0
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## NORTH PACIFIC PELAGIC WATERS

David Allinson*	75		0
Bruce Whittington	74		+7
Lloyd Esralson	63		0
David Stirling	62		0
Ken Morgan	58		0
Val George	59		0
Mike Toochn	52		0
Jo Ann MacKenzie	51		0



## Authors in this Issue

### Suzanne Beauchesne

Suzanne Beauchesne is an environmental consultant with an interest in wildlife and habitat conservation issues. She has studied forest, grassland, and freshwater birds, mammals, amphibians, and molluscs in British Columbia and the western United States. Suzanne has authored or co-authored numerous technical reports on birds. She is also involved in stewardship initiatives pertaining to local bird populations.

### Dick Cannings

Dick Cannings was born and raised in the Okanagan, in a family keenly interested in natural history. This early involvement in birds, bugs and plants led him to a university education in zoology, including a BSc degree from the University of British Columbia and a MSc from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Dick was Curator of the Cowan Vertebrate Museum at the University of British Columbia and now works half-time for Bird Studies Canada, coordinating eBird Canada, Canadian Christmas Bird Counts and the British Columbia-Yukon Owl Survey. He has written a number of books and is also the bird co-chair of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

### John Cooper

John Cooper is a professional biologist and co-owner of Manning, Cooper and Associates Ltd, an environmental consulting firm with three offices in British Columbia. John specializes in ornithology, wildlife biodiversity studies, conservation of rare wildlife, and environmental impact assessments. He has 30 years experience working on wildlife issues in British Columbia and is co-author of the Birds of British Columbia, the Rare Birds of British Columbia, Wildlife and Trees in British Columbia, and has written or co-authored more than 150 other publications. John currently lives in Errington, BC with his wife Suzanne, where they operate a horse-breeding farm.

### Neil K. Dawe

Neil K. Dawe, Registered Professional Biologist, retired (2006) from the Canadian Wildlife Service after 31 years in civil service. He is a co-author of the four-volume work, The Birds of British Columbia, three children's books including The Bird Book, and over 50 other publications. Dawe is a founder of the Brant Wildlife Festival and a founding Director of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation and The Qualicum Institute, a society for ecological, social, and economic sustainability. In 2001, he was honoured with the Ian McTaggart-Cowan Award of Excellence in Biology from the Association of Professional Biologists of British Columbia.

### Jude Grass

Jude Grass has had a life long interest in natural history. She worked as a park naturalist for both B.C. Parks and Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks. She is active with Federation of B.C. Naturalists, currently serving as Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator. She has been involved with the Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS) since the early 1970s and has served as VNHS President and is currently a Board Member and Birding Section Committee Chair. She has coordinated the VNHS Monthly Raptor Counts since the mid-70's; the Ladner Christmas Bird Count since 1975; and was the original Bald Eagle Survey coordinator in the Lower Mainland in the early 1980's. She started The Wandering Tattler (VNHS Birding Section newsletter) in 1977 and after a few years off as editor, she is again doing the newsletter.

She is also an active member of the B.C. Field Ornithologists, Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies, Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Canada, Langley Field Naturalists and Burke Mountain Naturalists.

### Tony Greenfield

In a prior lifetime lasting 35 years, Tony was a reforestation contractor and his company planted 80,000,000 trees in BC & Alberta. Since 2003 he has been operating Whiskeyjack Nature Tours and guiding nature based tours to Arizona, Utah, British Columbia, Yukon and Panama. Tony is a current director of BCFO and a past president 1996-2000, and is president of the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society. He has been studying the birdlife of the Sunshine Coast since 1971 and has completed a book on the waterfalls of British Columbia.

### Rick Howie

Rick Howie graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1970 with a degree in wildlife management. He then spent 24 years in conservation education in parks across Canada. He has lived in Kamloops since 1978 where he spent 10 years in habitat conservation work. He is a Registered Professional Biologist and formed his own consulting company in 2004 when he retired from government service. Rick was an editor for Birds of British Columbia, and continues to author reports and coordinate various projects by community naturalists. He believes that habitat conservation is our most critical mission.

### Adrian Leather

Adrian Leather is a casual birder born in Manchester, England, where his interest in birds stemmed from his mother feeding them in the garden. A friend really engaged Adrian with the hobby of birding at age twelve. Adrian became an active member of Heald Green Naturalist's Society in Cheshire, Manchester Ornithological Society, and The Young Ornithologist's Club, the youth branch of The Royal Society For The Protection Of Birds.

Having 'migrated' to BC in 1997, Adrian formed Quesnel Birding Club with Manfred Roschitz. He is a member of FNBC and BCFO.

### Terri Martin

Terri Martin was born near Kingston Ontario. She spent her childhood years at the edge of Amherst View's suburbia, rambling around in the nearby fields that were once part of her father's family farm. Those fields—now condominiums—seemed to hold all the mysteries of the universe and they enticed her into the study of biology at the University of Guelph. Terri is now a Registered Professional Biologist living on Quadra Island with her partner and an assemblage of rescued dogs. She has been monitoring the spring Brant migration and documenting Bald Eagle nest trees for almost 15 years.

### Michael Pitt

Michael Pitt is Professor Emeritus in Agricultural Sciences at UBC, and is currently Chair of the Grassland Conservation Council of BC. He now lives on Pender Island, from where he pursues his passion for quite landscapes and extended canoeing sojourns in Canada's Arctic regions.

### Ian Robertson

Ian Robertson, M.Sc., R.P.Bio., attended the University of B.C. (B.A., B.Sc., M.Sc.(1971)) and focused on seabird and waterfowl ecology early in his career. After four years in the emergency section of Environment Canada, he moved to the environmental consulting sector. Though his work has taken him to South America, Europe, Africa and Asia, most of his career has been spent in western Canada, primarily B.C. He has directed the affairs of Robertson Environmental Services Ltd. since its 1993 inception, including the vegetation and wildlife assessment components of major projects (highways, wind farms), and environmental review and planning projects for local governments, primarily their parks departments.

### Andy Stewart

Andy Stewart, Registered Professional Biologist, has worked for the Province of British Columbia for over 34 years. Much of his career has been devoted to the field of habitat inventory and mapping. Andy is on the BCFO Board of Directors and is a co-author of Volume 4 of the Birds of British Columbia. He is currently employed as a zoologist with the Conservation Data Centre in the Ministry of Environment.



# BIRDS OF PANAMA

8-20<sup>th</sup> January 2008

## WHISKEYJACK NATURE TOURS

**Panama** is one of the most famous birding destinations in the world with 950+ species in an area one twelfth the size of British Columbia. There are legendary birding destinations such as Pipeline Road & Achiotte Road (both of which we visit).

This fully escorted tour, with leader Dr. Rand Rudland, is based at the Canopy Tower Ec lodge in Soberania National Park, and in El Valle de Anton at the magical Canopy Lodge located in an extinct caldera and designed by birders for birders. Local guides such as Tino & Alexis can “whistle in” most of the local species.

315 species of birds were seen/heard on this tour in 2006, plus 21 species of mammals. Blue Morpho butterflies abound and the Helicopter Damselfly is an amazing sight. Some of the bird species seen included Agami Heron, Crested Guan, Great Tinamou, White Hawk, Bat Falcon, Mottled & Spectacled Owls, Keel-billed Toucan, Great Jacamar, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Tody Motmot, Rufous-crested Coquette, Streak-chested Antpitta, White-headed Wren, Blue Cotinga, Golden-headed Tanager, Shining Honeycreeper & many more.

For mammal enthusiasts Howler & White-faced Capuchin Monkeys, Three-toed Sloth, Agouti, Coati, Kinkajou & Anteater are likely.



Long-tailed Tyrant



Great Jacamar



Blue-grey Tanager



Collared Aracari



Short-tailed Tanager

COST: From Panama City \$4290CAD (sharing)

Single Rooms - limited availability \$4100CAD

GROUP SIZE: Maximum 8 guests

MEALS: all included

FULLY ESCORTED: Leader - Dr. Rand Rudland

CONTACT: Whiskeyjack Nature Tours

P.O. Box 319, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0

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Website: [www.whiskeyjacknaturetours.com](http://www.whiskeyjacknaturetours.com)

(All photos by R. Rudland, Panama 2005)





# BIRDING IN TAIWAN

Collared Bush Robin, Formosan Whistling-Thrush, Steere's *Liocichla*, Taiwan Barwing, White-eared Sibia, Taiwan Yuhina, Yellow Tit, Flamecrest, Formosan Magpie, White-whiskered Laughingthrush, and the elegant Swinhoe's and Mikado Pheasants are 12 of Taiwan's 15 generally recognized endemics. There are also many endemic sub-species such as *Black-browed Barbet* and [Taiwan] *Hwamei*. Other birds include *Malayan Night-Heron*, *Pheasant-tailed Jacana* and *Collared Finchbill*. *Fairy Pitta* is present only during the breeding season. In May, we visit Lanyu Island with 6 bird specialties of its own, including an endemic sub-species of *Ryukyu Scops-Owl*. In November, we see the globally threatened *Black-faced Spoonbill* which winters in the Tsengwen Estuary.

Want to see one of the rarest birds in the world? *Chinese Crested (Matsu) Tern*, *Sterna bergsteini* nests in very small numbers in the tern reserve in the Matsu Archipelago.

## NEXT TRIPS:

**2007: May 7~20:** Endemics, Fairy Pitta, Lanyu Island

**July 18~20:** Chinese Crested (Matsu) Tern ; **July 21~25:** Extension for endemics

**November 5~18:** Endemics, Black-faced Spoonbill

**Price:** 14 days: From Vancouver : CAD\$5100 (sharing); CAD\$5600 (single)

13 days: From Taipei, Taiwan : CAD\$4000 (sharing); CAD\$4500 (single)

July, 8 days: Contact us for details and price

**Early Booking Discount:** Register at least 60 days before tour start date; get 5% off tour price.

**Group Size:** 1-10, with 2 leaders, Simon Liao and Jo Ann MacKenzie

## Good birds, Good food, Good friends!

### The Taiwan specialists

## CONTACT:

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INTERNATIONAL TAIWAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

<http://www.birdingintaiwan.org>

