

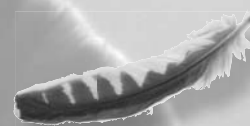


BC BIRDING

Newsletter of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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British Columbia Field Ornithologists Position on the Fundamental Conflict between Economic Growth and Biodiversity Conservation

At the Annual General Meeting in Lillooet on 26 May 2007, the BCFO membership adopted a position on the fundamental conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation. The vote passed with none of the BCFO members voting against the position although there were four abstentions.

The timing of this vote was well considered. On 21 May 2007, Birdlife International announced that the status of the planet's birds has deteriorated steadily since 1988 with 22% now at increased risk of extinction. Today, a total of 1,221 bird species are considered threatened with extinction and an additional 812 species are considered Near Threatened, an increase of 28 species from last year¹.

Dr Stuart Butchart, BirdLife's Global Species Programme Coordinator said of this year's Birdlife International Red List update: "There are two sides to this story: whilst conservation efforts have been successful in recovering some species, there are more and more species slipping towards extinction. The challenge becomes greater each year."

please see BCFO Position, page 6

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

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

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

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

Membership Dues

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

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

Membership Dues:

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

Memberships are for the calendar year.

Newsletter Submissions

Send material for publication in any format to the editor. Submissions may include bird finding information for our "Site Guide" series and any articles about birding experiences, preferably but not necessarily in British Columbia. A brief biographical sketch (5--100 words) should accompany the article if the editor does not have a recent version or you wish to change it.

Please send newsletter submissions to

Phil Henderson (Editor, BC Birding)
Box 615, Fort Langley, BC V1M 2R9
604-888-1571 / strix@uniserve.com

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

Advertising

Advertising rates are available upon request.

BCFO Website

<http://www.bcfo.ca>

cover photo, Dusky Grouse, by Dick Cannings



President's Report

In my March report I bemoaned the quiet birding scene in the South Okanagan. Now I can regale you with tales of the birds seen on the BCFO's Big Bar Ranch extension that ran from May 27 to 30. My highlights started along the roadsides from Lillooet to the ranch where we kept flushing small flocks of small birds. Juncos? NO!! They were Chipping Sparrows! And the next day we continued to see them in numbers. No one recalled ever seeing so many, no one tallied them and all of us hesitated to estimate the numbers but 5,000 seems a reasonable number.

Our first night at the ranch just after dark one got that feeling of wildness as a Wilson's Snipe winnowed over the marsh below our cabin but no owls hooted. Next morning the grass and roofs were white with frost. Just as we started a before-breakfast (6 am) walk Sandhill Cranes called and two flew over us at tree-top height. We learned they were the resident pair and we could see them most any time. But hearing their calls for the first time on the high plateau was exhilarating. The day got better as we watched from only 30 m away a Long-billed Curlew walking slowly through the grassland; probably leading us away from its sitting mate. Fifteen minutes later we flushed four Sharp-tailed Grouse. Close-up looks at Surf Scoters and White-winged Scoters on Green Lake were a treat. And surprisingly there was a heavy frost on morning two at the ranch but the toques and heavy sweaters were put away by mid-morning. A colony of about 40 pair of Cliff Swallows was noisily building or rehabilitating nests in several old barns and sheds at the junction of Meadow Lake and Dog Creek roads. The group saw or heard nearly 120 species but there were some surprising misses, such as no owls, Western Bluebirds,

Pintails or Violet-green Swallows were seen or heard on the high plateau. Nevertheless, it seemed to me that a good time was had by all! Kudos to Tony who did a masterful job of organizing and coordinating the trip!

In May, Kevin Bell represented BCFO at discussions over a proposed trail in the Maplewood Conservation Area that would effect vital bird habitat. Having a BCFO representative at sessions that include city and regional staff gives weight to arguments that consideration must be given to birds and etc. and lets everyone know that BCFO is interested and has expertise to offer.

Over the past few months BCFO (via our rep Tony Greenfield) has been working closely with Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies and Nature Vancouver to finish THE BIRDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA pocket checklist. Copies for each member are included with this newsletter.

The Lillooet AGM was packed with events and there was never a dull moment. Friday evening's reception ended with several of us hearing and seeing our first nighthawk of the season. After several years of planning and discussion it was my pleasure to present the first BCFO Ornithological Award at the banquet. Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan was the recipient and BCFO's plaque was accepted on his behalf by his colleague and good

friend Neil Dawe.

During the business meeting there was a discussion over a proposal that BCFO adopt a position that there is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation. Neil Dawe provided background to the proposal. And a detailed commentary had appeared in *BC Birding* vol. 17, no. 1. The majority of members present voted to support the proposal.

More comprehensive reports for most of the above items will be in this or the next newsletter.

And THANK YOU to all those of the Lillooet Naturalist Society who, led by Vivian Birch-Jones, Ian Routley and Ken Wright, donated a lot of time and effort to ensure that our meeting was a success! And Wayne Diakow, the AGM organizer, seemed to be everywhere at once making sure all ran smoothly and everyone got a serving of that bitter, whipped soopolallie dessert. Sincere thanks, Wayne!

Jim Ginns, President



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

Audubon'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/>

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.

BCFO NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE

Nigel Mathews

Pemberton, BC

Helena Bastedo

Hope, BC

Kathy Iselmoe

Prince George, BC

Joyce Fraser

Kelowna, BC

Arnold Skei

Sechelt, BC

Rick Hilton

Courtenay, BC

Nascher Naria

Lillooet, BC

Jeff O'Kelly

Lillooet, BC



Editor's Notes and Notions

In the interest of getting this newsletter out before the next edition, I will be brief. I am pleased that the BCFO adopted an official position on the fundamental conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation as outlined in Neil Dawe's summary beginning on the front page. If you would like to send any comments regarding this, for publication in the next newsletter, please do so.

Ken Wright, Ian Routley and Wayne Weber compiled the Lillooet bird list. Ian Routley contributed the exceptional curlew photograph. Ken is working on a report of the Lillooet AGM and I look forward to that for the September issue. I also look forward to Martin McNicholl's article on a preeminent British Columbia zoologist who was presented with a BCFO award during the AGM.

Jo Ann MacKenzie sent some photographs of outings and presentations during the AGM. Jim Ginns has compiled the list of species observed during the Extension trip after the AGM.

John Sprague urges us to spell correctly (spell Canadian) the units of the metric system. He provides examples and offers tips. Thanks to John for sending along further information on Spotted Owls.

Dick Cannings takes us on a bicycle birdathon in the Okanagan.

Martin McNicholl provides information on upcoming meetings and news in the ornithological world.

Don Cecile wraps up the bird sightings for the winter of 2006.

And I wrap up this edition . . . finally.
Happy summer birding.

Phil Henderson, Editor



From The Spectator, London; Courtesy CanWest News Service.



British Columbia Field Ornithologists Position cont. from front page

Economic growth, a perennial goal of governments, is known to reduce bird habitat when it's converted or lost as throughput to the economy; it likely explains why the challenge becomes greater each year.

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. Thus, it is an increase in throughput, or flow of natural resources, to the economy, where it is converted to manufactured capital and consumer goods.

Thus, as the economy expands it removes resources, displaces healthy ecosystems, and degrades extant ecosystems with waste. And, because of the tremendous breadth of the niche that humans occupy, our economy grows at the competitive exclusion of wildlife in the aggregate, including birds. It's this growth that tends to swamp any gains made through conservation or policy efforts.

Our position statement is precedent setting in that the BCFO is one of the first conservation organizations in British Columbia to focus attention on the causes of avian biodiversity declines rather than simply focusing on the symptoms, as is the case with most environmental and conservation organizations today. Unless the causes of the problem are addressed, avian biodiversity declines are likely to continue.

Similar positions on economic growth have been sanctioned by a number of professional scientific organizations in North America including:

The Society for Conservation Biology,
The United States Society for Ecological Economics,
The Wildlife Society, and
The Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy.

The following BCFO position explains not only the fundamental conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation, but identifies an alternative: the steady state economy. Our position statement is now up on the BCFO web site at www.bcfo.ca.

British Columbia Field Ornithologists Position on 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 takes the position that:

1. There is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and 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 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.

(Footnotes)

¹ Birdlife International. 2007. 1,221 and counting: More birds than ever face extinction.

http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/05/2007_red_list_update.html
(Accessed 2 June 2007)

The following are comments received regarding BCFO's adoption of an official position on the fundamental conflict between economic growth and biodiversity conservation. The BCFO welcomes additional comments for publication in this newsletter. Please send comments to the Editor, *BC Birding* (Phil Henderson).

"I agree with the BCFO sentiments and I applaud you – we humans have really screwed some things up and there is a fundamental disconnect going on here between what humans value as "economic progress" and what humans value as "maintaining home".

- Andrew A. Bryant Ph.D., RPBio

"An admirable endeavor...the BCFO is in good company helping make the case for a steady state economy."

- Bill Henderson, Gibsons.

"Congrats to ... the Field Ornithologists for your courageous stance. It's a very welcome respite from all the sustainability talk we have to endure from all levels of government and, more recently, VANOC."

- Bob Brett, R.P. Bio., Whistler.

"I totally agree with and support the position of the B.C. Field Ornithologists as outlined in this [press release]. I hope that you will also support the political work that Citizens for Responsible Community Planning (Kelowna) is doing to bring about your stated objectives."

- John Zeger, Chairman

"The BCFO news release was picked up by EC's communications folks and included in today's clips."

- Ken Brock, EC, Vancouver



Spelling of the metric system

It is good to see metric measurements in a Canadian document. It would be even better if we always saw Canadian spelling of the units: metre, kilometre, litre, millilitre, etc. Unfortunately we often see documents that have copied the incorrect U.S. spellings (meter, etc.). A major influence is the standard computer programs, designed in the U.S., so that we constantly see U.S. spelling. We should always set our word processing programs to “Canadian English” instead of the U.S. default (or if that is not available, then “UK English”).

The magnitude, symbols, names and spelling of measurement units have been defined by international agreement (the International System of Units, or SI). They are further designated by the International Standards Organization (ISO, 1976; 1998). The Canadian spellings were specified years ago by the Metric Commission, the Canadian Standards Association (1979, 1980), the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and by the federal government’s writing and editing guide (Canada, Secretary of State, 1985).

Correct spellings are used in the Canadian press. The style manual of the Globe and Mail deals specifically with this. The manual states bluntly that “A meter is a measuring instrument (a gas meter, a thermometer). A metre is a unit of length.” For example, a micrometer is a tool for measuring small thicknesses, but a micrometre is one one-thousandth of a millimetre. The distinction is useful and the words are even pronounced differently.

Spellings ending with “..re” are specified by ISO and are used throughout the world including Canada. The U.S.A. is virtually alone in switching the endings to “...er”. Canadians should stick with our standard spelling and should not imitate the U.S.

John B. Sprague

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- ISO [International Organization for Standardization], 1998. SI guide. ISO, Geneva, 32 p. [ISBN 92067-102796]



Upcoming Meetings & Events

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

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.

- July 26-29 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.
- August 8-11 2007 AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION 125TH STATED MEETING, Univ. of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Contact: Craig W. Benkman, Dept. Zool. & Physiol., Univ. Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071; phone (307) 766-2978; e-mail: cbenkman@uwyo.edu. Inter-net details: <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@hawkmtn.org.
- September 14-17 2007 WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Aberdeen, Washington. Contact details not yet announced. Inter-net details: www.wos.org.
- September 27-29 2007 THE 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) 533-6000 extension 77593; e-mail: nocerajj@biology.queensu.ca.
- October 4-7 2007 PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP SPECIAL CONFERENCE, Lukang, Taiwan. Contact details not yet announced. Inter-net details: www.pacificseabirds2007.com.
- October 11-14 2007 B.C. NATURE (FEDERATION OF B.C. NATURALISTS) FALL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE, Harrison Hot Springs. Contact details not yet announced.
- October 11-14 2007 WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, Petaluma and Point Reyes National Seashore, CA. Contact details not yet announced.
- October 30-3 November 2007 31ST ANNUAL MEETING, WATERBIRD SOCIETY, Barcelona, Spain. Contact: Xavier Ruiz, Dept. de Biologia Animal, Universitat de Barcelona, Avda. Diagonal 645, 08028, Barcelona, Spain; no phone number indicated; e-mail: fruiz@ub.edu.
- October 31-4 WORLD OWL CONFERENCE, Groningen, The Netherlands. Contact details not yet announced. Inter-net details: <http://www.worldowlconference.com>.
- February 13-16 2008 4TH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN FLIGHT CONFERENCE, McAllen, Texas. Contact: Terry Rich, 5815 Peachtree St., Boise, ID 83703-3125; phone (208) 378-5347; e-mail terry_rich@fws.gov.



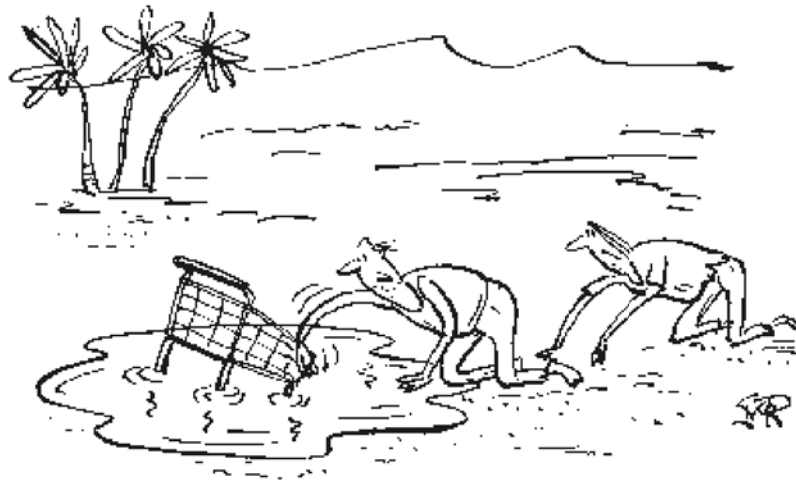
early August 2008 126th STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING & SOCIETY OF CANADIAN Exact dates and contact information not yet announced.

September 22-28 2008 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Missoula, Montana. Contact: Kate Davis, Raptors of the Rockies, Box 250, Florence, MT 59833; phone (406) 829-6436; e-mail: raptors@montana.com.

November 10-14 2008 THIRD NORTH AMERICAN SEA DUCK CONFERENCE, Quebec, Que. Contact: Michel Robert [address not yet given]; phone (418) 649-8071; e-mail: michel.robert@ec-gc.ca.

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.

Thanks to Jo Ann MacKenzie for contributing to this issue of this compilation.



"It's just a mirage."

From The Spectator, London; Courtesy CanWest News Service.



B.C. Birding News Briefs

Compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

New Grouse Codes –Following the two (2005 and 2006) most recent supplements of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list, the Institute for Bird Populations has published new four and six letter codes for their surveys in North and "Middle" America, codes that generally coincide with those adopted by Canadian and U.S. banding agencies. Those that apply to B.C. are DUGR for Dusky Grouse and SOGR for Sooty Grouse (P. Pyle and D. F. DeSante. 2006. *North Amer. Bird Bander* 31:194-196). Although such codes often differ among jurisdictions, the same codes have been adopted in B.C.'s latest checklist, distributed at the B.C.F.O. annual meeting in May 2007 in Lillooet and distributed with this newsletter.

Hamaguchi Awarded –The Wild Bird Trust of B.C. bestowed its 2006 "Making British Columbia a safer place for birds" award on Robert Hamaguchi of Kamloops for his efforts to move a Bald Eagle nest into a safer location (Anonymous. 2007. *Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia Wingspan* winter/spring 2007 wingbeats p. 1).

Eagle Conservation Alliance –During a meeting of 32 eagle specialists from ten countries of four continents in Spain during October 2006, the participants decided to form "a consortium of like- minded eagle specialists" to pool expertise, funding and resources "to conserve eagles worldwide." The IUCN-World Conservation Union lists 32 of the World's 74 currently recognized eagle species as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered (M. McGrady. 2007. *Wingspan* 16(1):11-12 and Anonymous. 2007. *Ornithological Newsletter* 177:2).

Harry R. Carter –Dr. Harry R. Carter, who conducted several early surveys of seabirds in B.C., participated in Victoria Christmas bird counts, led several pelagic trips and was father to seabird biologist Harry Carter, died in Victoria on 20 August 2006. –Anonymous. 2007. *Wildlife Afield* 3:229-230.



LILLOOET

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Photos by Jo Ann and Hue MacKenzie

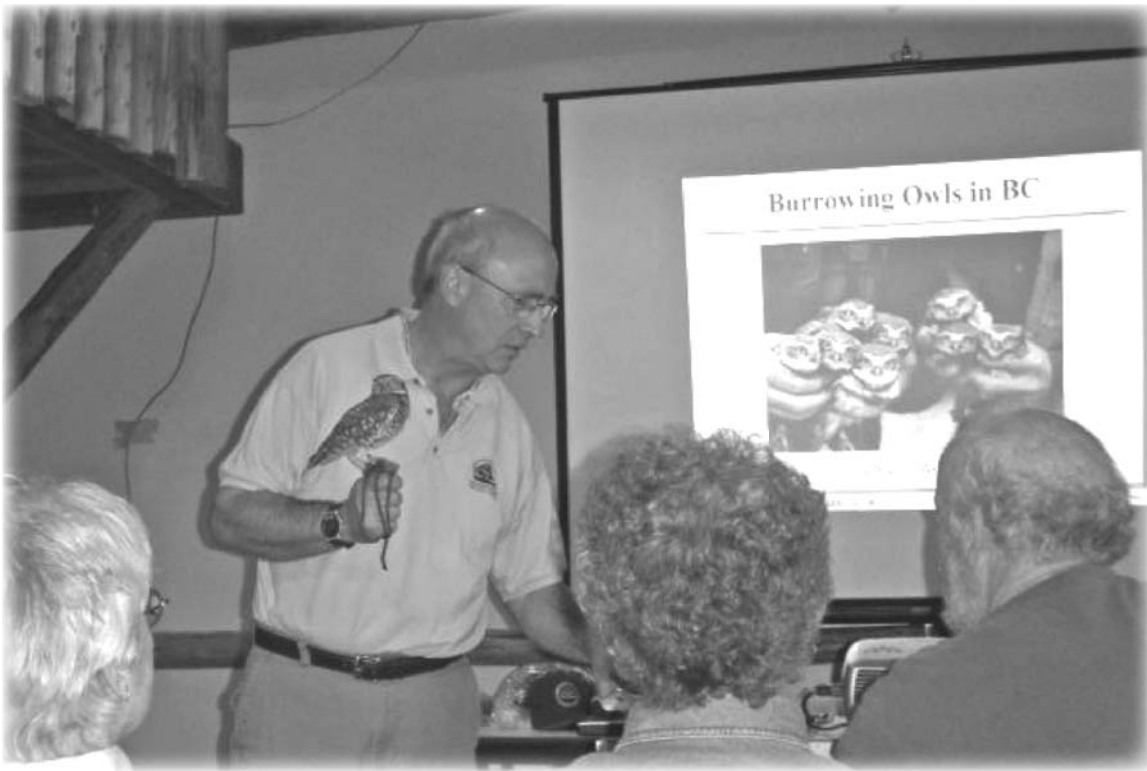


Jo Ann presents a book to Jim Ginns, BCFO President, May 26, 2007



BCFO field trip group





Mike Mackintosh and Beaker the Burrowing Owl: 'Burrowing Owl Reintroduction'



Jared Hobbs: 'Ecology of the Northern Spotted Owl'





Burn area with flowering Arrowleaf Balsamroot



BCFO AGM / LILLOOET BIRD LIST 2007

	26-May				27-May		
	Curlew Field-Tom Cole Road	Fountain Valley	Texas Creek Road	Seton Riv.- Cayoosh Creek	Curlew Field-Tom Cole Road	Fountain Valley	Texas Creek Road
Canada Goose		X	X	X		X	X
Wood Duck			X				
Gadwall						X	
American Wigeon		X	X			X	
Mallard		X	X	X		X	X
Blue-winged Teal			X				X
Cinnamon Teal			X				X
Northern Shoveler			X				X
Northern Pintail							X
Green-winged Teal		X	X			X	X
Redhead			X				
Ring-necked Duck			X			X	X
Lesser Scaup		X				X	
Harlequin Duck				X			
Barrow's Goldeneye		X	X	X		X	X
Common Merganser	X			X			
Ruddy Duck		X	X			X	X
Chukar	X				X	X	
Ruffed Grouse		X				X	X
Dusky Grouse	X				X		
Common Loon		X		X		X	
Pied-billed Grebe							X
Horned Grebe		X				X	
Osprey				X			
Bald Eagle				X		X	
Northern Harrier		X				X	
Cooper's Hawk	X	X	X				X
Red-tailed Hawk	X	X		X		X	
Golden Eagle		X					
American Kestrel	X	X	X		X	X	X
Merlin						X	X
Virginia Rail			X			X	X
Sora		X	X			X	X
American Coot			X				X
Killdeer		X	X			X	X
Spotted Sandpiper		X		X		X	X
Long-billed Curlew	X				X		
Wilson's Snipe		X	X			X	X
Eurasian Collared Dove					X		
Mourning Dove			X				
Barred Owl		X					
Common Nighthawk							
Vaux's Swift		X		X		X	X



	26-May				27-May		
	Curlew Field-Tom Cole Road	Fountain Valley	Texas Creek Road	Seton Riv.- Cayoosh Creek	Curlew Field-Tom Cole Road	Fountain Valley	Texas Creek Road
Calliope Hummingbird					X	X	X
Rufous Hummingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Belted Kingfisher				X			
Lewis's Woodpecker							
Red-naped Sapsucker	X	X	X			X	X
Red-breasted Sapsucker		X				X	
Downy Woodpecker				X		X	
Hairy Woodpecker		X	X	X	X		
Northern Flicker		X	X	X		X	X
Pileated Woodpecker		X				X	X
Western Wood-Pewee		X			X		X
Hammond's Flycatcher		X	X	X			X
Dusky Flycatcher	X	X		X	X	X	
Say's Phoebe		X				X	
Western Kingbird	X	X	X		X	X	
Eastern Kingbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cassin's Vireo		X		X		X	X
Warbling Vireo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-eyed Vireo		X					
Steller's Jay		X				X	
Clark's Nutcracker	X	X	X		X		
Black-billed Magpie	X		X		X		X
American Crow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Raven	X	X	X		X	X	X
Tree Swallow	X	X	X			X	X
Violet-green Swallow		X				X	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		X	X	X		X	X
Bank Swallow			X				X
Barn Swallow		X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee		X	X	X		X	X
Mountain Chickadee	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	X	X	X			X	X
White-breasted Nuthatch		X			X		
Pygmy Nuthatch							
Marsh Wren						X	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		X				X	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		X				X	
Townsend's Solitaire	X	X			X		
Veery		X	X			X	
Swainson's Thrush		X	X	X			X
Hermit Thrush					X		
American Robin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Varied Thrush							X



	26-May				27-May		
	Curlew Field-Tom Cole Road	Fountain Valley	Texas Creek Road	Seton Riv.- Cayoosh Creek	Curlew Field-Tom Cole Road	Fountain Valley	Texas Creek Road
Mountain Bluebird	X	X		X	X	X	
Gray Catbird		X	X	X		X	X
European Starling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cedar Waxwing		X		X		X	X
Orange-crowned Warbler		X				X	X
Nashville Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yellow Warbler		X	X	X		X	X
Yellow-rumped Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-throated Gray Warbler				X			X
Townsend's Warbler		X	X			X	
MacGillivray's Warbler		X	X		X	X	X
Common Yellowthroat		X	X			X	X
Wilson's Warbler		X	X			X	X
Yellow-breasted Chat			X				X
Western Tanager	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spotted Towhee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clay-coloured Sparrow	X				X		
Vesper Sparrow	X	X	X		X		X
Savannah Sparrow			X		X	X	
Song Sparrow		X	X	X		X	X
Lincoln's Sparrow	X	X					X
White-crowned Sparrow		X		X			
Golden-crowned Sparrow							X
Dark-eyed Junco	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-headed Grosbeak				X			
Lazuli Bunting	X	X	X		X	X	X
Red-winged Blackbird		X	X			X	X
Western Meadowlark	X	X	X		X	X	X
Yellow-headed Blackbird			X			X	X
Brewer's Blackbird	X	X	X		X	X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird		X	X	X		X	X
Bullock's Oriole		X			X	X	X
Cassin's Finch					X		X
House Finch		X					
Pine Siskin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Evening Grosbeak	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House Sparrow	X						
Total Species: 124	39	83	67	46	42	78	73

Bold, *Italic* species missed on field trips, but seen during conference:

LEWO - missed on field trips; seen at Mayazaki House

PYNU - missed on field trips; seen on Pine Ridge Road (east)

list compiled by

Ken Wright, Ian Routley and Wayne Weber





Ian Routley

Long-billed Curlew at Curlew Field



BCFO South Cariboo Extension: May 26-29, 2007

After a wonderful AGM in Lillooet, leader Tony Greenfield and 12 participants set off for further ornithological explorations of the southern Cariboo, an area of the province that deserves to be better known by both birders and the general public. We departed from Lillooet on the Pavilion Road, a gravel road that leads down a steep, switchbacked hill to the small community of Kelly Lake. Just beyond Kelly Lake we stopped to admire a big, fat, Yellow-bellied Marmot in a field, and it was here that we first ran into the swarms of Chipping Sparrows that were moving through the area that day. The numbers of birds was staggering, with the weedy roadside alive with feeding flocks of the sparrows. The following day a Canadian Wildlife Service employee offered that the sparrows were part of the Yukon contingent of the species that were just heading north, as the local chippies were already nesting. This seems like a plausible explanation for the mass movement. Certainly I have never seen this number of Chipping Sparrows before.

We reached our Extension headquarters at the Big Bar Guest Ranch at 5PM. The ranch is a horsey kind of place with good accommodations in either communal lodges or log cabins, and meals served in a bright dining room. After our first supper our group wandered around the ranch property on a sunny evening and noted a wide variety of songbirds.

The next morning, after coffee at 6.30, we again explored the ranch, with the highlight being a pair of Sandhill Cranes flying down the lake bugling loudly. After breakfast our first outing took us along the Poison Lake Road which leads through typical Cariboo rangeland to a Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Area. We stopped for our picnic lunch in a grassy meadow

with magnificent views to the west of the snowy Shulaps and Camelsfoot Ranges on the west side of the Fraser River, north of Lillooet. First, a Long-billed Curlew attracted our attention, and then with a little searching we flushed 3 Sharp-tailed Grouse. In the afternoon we traveled the Meadow Lake Road which has a variety of lakes and alkaline ponds. One of our target birds was American Avocet, which has been reported here in the past, but they eluded us on this day. We did find a Least Flycatcher in the aspen at one of our stops. On the way home we had good looks at a majestic gangly moose.

Atop a mountain above the ranch the Jesmond Fire Lookout offered a tantalizing destination for an after dinner excursion. The road climbs steeply to the cabin at the 2270m (7000 foot) elevation. We arrived at the cabin at about 7.30 PM, much to the amazement of the fire watch lady. The 360 degree views from the top were again magnificent with snowy mountain ranges in all directions. Clark's Nutcrackers, Townsend's Solitaires and Yellow-rumped Warblers all indicated that we were at considerable elevation.

The following day we headed east on Meadow Lake Road again and crossed Hwy 97 at 70 Mile House, en route to the expansive Green Lake, east of the highway. After an uneventful lunch stop beside the mirror-like lake, our next few stops produced a wide variety of waterbirds, including loons, grebes, ducks and gulls, including a couple of Common Terns.

After supper there was an optional excursion down the road to the Big Bar ferry. The road drops steeply from the Cariboo plateau down through the benchlands of the Fraser River and there is a radical change in ecosystem from wooded parkland to the desert

of the canyon floor. As we descended into the canyon the temperature rose rapidly and we began to see Okanagan-type birds such as Western Kingbird, Bullock's Oriole, Lewis's Woodpecker, Chukar and we heard Veery. At the ferry ramp we spoke with a helpful, off-duty ferryman who pointed out a California Bighorn Sheep flock high on a canyon bench and he regaled us with stories of their behaviour. On our return home we stopped a couple of times to listen for Common Poorwills but it was a little too early.

The next morning we retraced our steps down to the Big Bar ferry and crossed the mighty river on the reaction ferry. The road then climbs steeply out of the canyon and proceeds southwards on the west bank of the Fraser. The West Pavilion Road is a tortuous gravel road that follows the contour lines and affords spectacular views of the river and its canyon flowing between the adjacent irrigated benchlands. We added a few additional bird species including Cooper's Hawk and White-throated Swift.

About noon we rolled down the steep switchbacked road into Lillooet and concluded the Extension. The bird list was 118 species. BCFO Extension tours have a reputation for being fun, but this was an exceptional trip, with a great group of people, fine weather, good accommodations and lots of birds in a beautiful, fascinating and under appreciated part of our amazing province.

In concluding I would like to thank Ian Routley and Ken Wright of the Lillooet Naturalists Club for suggesting this area as a potential area for the Extension. Especial thanks to Ian for taking the time to go over the specifics of the itinerary. Thanks guys!

Tony Greenfield, BCFO Tour Coordinator & Extension Leader



Extension Trip Species List

Day	Location	Leader
1	May 27, Lillooet to Big Bar Ranch via Pavilion to Jesmond	Tony Greenfield
2	May 28, walk S from ranch, then to Poison L and Sharp-tailed Grouse rehab area, then 1180 road to Meadow Lake Road, after dinner up 4-wheel drive road to Mt Jesmond forest fire lookout.	Participants Shirley Coffin Jim Ginns Joyce Henderson Mike Hoebel Kathy Iselmoe Gwen Nichol
3	May 29, walk along W side of lake just N of ranch, then Meadow Lake Road to Hwy 97, N to 70 Mile House and E to Green Lake, after dinner down Big Bar Ferry Road to ferry	Netty & Dieter Overhoff Iris Peters Marian Porter Arnold Skei Ron Walker
4	May 30, Big Bar Ferry Road and W Pavilion Road to Lillooet.	

Species	Day	Species	Day	Species	Day
Canada Goose	1, 2, 3	Greater Yellowlegs	3	Marsh Wren	2, 3
Gadwall	2, 3	Spotted Sandpiper	1, 2, 3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1, 2, 3
American Wigeon	1, 2, 3	Long-billed Curlew	2	Mountain Bluebird	1, 2, 3
Mallard	1, 2, 3	Wilson's Snipe	2, 3	Townsend's Solitaire	2
Blue-winged Teal	1, 2	Wilson's Phalarope	2, 3	Veery	3
Cinnamon Teal	1, 2, 3	Bonaparte's Gull	3	Swainson's Thrush	1, 2, 3
Northern Shoveler	2	Herring Gull	3	Hermit Thrush	4
Green-winged Teal	1, 2, 3	Common Tern	3	American Robin	1, 2, 3, 4
Canvasback	2	Mourning Dove	3, 4	European Starling	1, 2, 3, 4
Redhead	3	White-throated Swift	4	Cedar Waxwing	3
Ring-necked Duck	1, 2, 3	Calliope Hummingbird	1, 2	Orange-crowned Warbler	1, 2, 3
Lesser Scaup	1, 2, 3	Rufous Hummingbird	1, 2, 3	Yellow Warbler	1, 2, 3
Surf Scoter	3	Lewis' Woodpecker	3, 4	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1, 2, 3
White-winged Scoter	3	Red-naped Sapsucker	1, 2	Townsend's Warbler	2
Bufflehead	1, 2, 3	Hairy Woodpecker	1	Northern Waterthrush	2
Common Goldeneye	3	Northern Flicker	1, 2, 3	Common Yellowthroat	1, 2, 3
Barrow's Goldeneye	2, 3	Pileated Woodpecker	2, 3	Wilson's Warbler	1, 3
Hooded Merganser	1, 2	Olive-sided Flycatcher	3	Western Tanager	1, 4
Ruddy Duck	1, 2, 3	Western Wood-Pee wee	1, 2, 3	Spotted Towhee	3, 4
Chukar	3	Willow Flycatcher	3	Chipping Sparrow	1, 2, 3, 4
Ruffed Grouse	2	Least Flycatcher	2	Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Dusky Grouse	2	Hammond's Flycatcher	2	Vesper Sparrow	1, 2, 3
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2	Dusky Flycatcher	1, 2, 3	Savannah Sparrow	1, 2, 3
Common Loon	1, 3	Western Kingbird	3, 4	Song Sparrow	1, 2, 3
Pied-billed Grebe	3	Warbling Vireo	1, 2, 3	Lincoln's Sparrow	3
Red-necked Grebe	3	Black-billed Magpie	11	White-crowned Sparrow	2
Horned Grebe	2	Clark's Nutcracker	2, 4	Dark-eyed Junco	1, 2, 3
Eared Grebe	2, 3	American Crow	1, 2, 3, 4	Lazuli Bunting	3, 4
Western Grebe	3	Common Raven	1, 2, 3	Red-winged Blackbird	1, 2, 3
Great Blue Heron	3	Horned Lark	2	Western Meadowlark	1, 2, 3
Bald Eagle	3	Tree Swallow	1, 2, 3	Yellow-headed Blackbird	1, 2, 3
Cooper's Hawk	4	Violet-green Swallow	1	Brewer's Blackbird	1, 3, 4
Red-tailed Hawk	1, 2, 3, 4	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	1, 2, 3
Golden Eagle	2	Bank Swallow	3	Bullock's Oriole	3, 4
American Kestrel	1, 2, 3, 4	Cliff Swallow	1, 2, 3	Cassin's Finch	3
Merlin	2	Barn Swallow	1, 2, 3	House Finch	1, 2
Sora	1	Black-capped Chickadee	1, 2, 3	Pine Siskin	1, 2, 3
American Coot	1, 2, 3	Mountain Chickadee	3	Evening Grosbeak	3, 4
Sandhill Crane	2, 3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	House Sparrow	1
Killdeer	1, 2, 3				
				Total 118	Total 118

list compiled by Jim Ginns



The Truth about Spotted Owls

A recent document, summarized and cited below, challenges the assertion published in the March issue of *BC Birding* by the former Minister of the Environment (August 2006), the Honourable Rona Ambrose, that “the Northern Spotted Owl does not currently face imminent threats to its survival or recovery”. We are uncertain how the current Minister of the Environment, the Honourable John Baird, feels about the Northern Spotted Owl.

“I would like to inform you that, after careful consideration of the relevant documents put before me, I have formed the opinion that the Northern Spotted Owl does not currently face imminent threats to its survival or recovery.”
Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment, August 16, 2006.

SOUTHWEST BC – Protecting more old-growth forest habitat will do little to increase BC’s spotted owl population within the next decade. But if current management approaches continue, habitat will decline and there may not be enough left for a recovering owl population in future.

Scientists say that changes to forest management need to occur now in order for enough suitable habitat to become available for the owls in fifty years time. While the types of forests used by spotted owls varies across their BC range, forests must be below 1100 m elevation with trees at least 100 years old and over 24 m tall.

More immediate to avoiding extirpating spotted owls from BC is increasing survival rates of both adults and young. Projections of owl populations in the province show numbers declining to less than 25 birds within 50 years, down from the 33 nesting pairs estimated in 2002. This assumes that owl survival is better than it has been in the last 15 years.

Once there are fewer than 70 birds around, the population is so small that random and unforeseen environmental events can shatter its chances of surviving. This, along with insufficient data on ages and breeding status of the owls presently out there, produces a large amount of uncertainty around forecasting owl population trends.

The owl population and forest management predictions were developed with an integrated collection of models for timber supply, owl habitat and owl population dynamics that mapped the results. The modelling indicates little hope exists that BC’s spotted owls will recover in number on their own.

G.D. Sutherland, D.T. O’Brien, S.A. Fall, F.L. Waterhouse, A.S. Harestad and J.B. Buchanan. 2007. A Framework to Support Landscape Analyses of Habitat Supply and Effects on Populations of Forest-dwelling Species: A Case Study Based on the Northern Spotted Owl. Technical Report 038. BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Research Branch. Victoria, BC.

This document is available at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Tr/Tr038.pdf>.



Bicycle Birdathon 2007

I was awoken by a banging on my bedroom door. It was dark, obviously the middle of the night, and I couldn't think who it might be. My son and his team of birdathoners had left the house at 11 p.m. to be at their start point by midnight, while I was going to start my bicycle Birdathon at the more civilized hour of 4 a.m. The door opened and there was Eva Durance, one of the members of my Birdathon team. She had been ringing the doorbell for 15 minutes and had finally decided to drag me out of bed—I noticed I was clutching my alarm clock in my hand, so had obviously fallen back to sleep after it had gone off at 3 a.m. Luckily I'd chosen a team member who knew the layout of my house! I threw on my clothes and grabbed my gear; Mark Gardiner, the third member of the team, had already strapped my bike onto his car. We were off into the early light of dawn, headed into the hills north of Naramata. We reached Chute Lake, our starting point, at 4:18, right on schedule.

It was a perfect morning, clear and dead calm. A layer of mist lay on the lake as we cycled to the north end, where a pair of loons swam silently over to investigate us. We started adding species quickly as the sky brightened—Varied Thrush, Lincoln's Sparrow, Ruffed Grouse, Wilson's Snipe, Northern Waterthrush, and a cacophany of drumming Red-naped Sapsuckers. A Northern Pygmy-Owl answered my whistles as we turned around to begin our descent down the Kettle Valley Railroad trail, a popular cycling route between Kelowna and Penticton. Our plan was to take the trail downhill (an important consideration when cycling in British Columbia) to Penticton. The trail makes two 180-degree turns and goes through two short tunnels as it snakes down the hill for 30 kilometres to

Naramata. We left Chute Lake at 5:20 a.m. with 28 species and steadily tallied more as we rattled down the gravel railbed—Winter Wren, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Townsend's Warbler, Townsend's Solitaire, MacGillivray's Warbler, Steller's and Gray Jays. Mark heard a Dusky Grouse hoot but my ears couldn't pick up the low note. At Robinson Creek we decided to shave a few kilometres off the route by taking the rough and steep trail that connected the upper part of the track with the central track, avoiding the first tunnel. My (rather inexpensive) bike started to come apart on that section, and I hoped it would hold together until we got back to Naramata where we could tighten things up.

We reached the Little Tunnel at 7:30 a.m., where the Rock and Canyon Wrens sang on cue and White-throated Swifts rocketed overhead. We could scope Okanagan Lake from this height, picking out a small flock of Western Grebes about 2 kilometres away. At 8:20 we were back at my house to pick up all the gear I'd forgotten in my hasty departure while Mark repaired my bike. Eva spotted a Black-chinned Hummingbird at the feeder, and Mark and I had Vaux's Swift overhead. We popped into Creek Park below my house long enough to get the first Pacific-slope Flycatcher of the year, then started south along Naramata Road to Penticton.

One of the benefits of bicycle birding is that you see fly-overs much more readily than while driving a car; we had a Great Blue Heron go overhead just as we reached Penticton, the only one of the day. The Red-necked Grebe was on its nest at the Yacht Club, a male Hooded Merganser floated off the walking pier, and a small group of very late Greater Scaup dove around a group of wet-suited triathletes-in-training. Despite the holiday weekend,

the Okanagan Lake beach was empty save for a few Ring-billed Gulls and a female Common Merganser with 11 downy ducklings.

We cycled down the west dyke of the Okanagan River channel to Skaha Lake, adding a Yellow-breasted Chat and several ducks to the list, then continued down the west shore of Skaha. By now it was noon and a good southerly breeze sprang up in our faces, slowing the pace a bit as well as the birding. We reached Okanagan Falls by 1 p.m., where I dropped in on the local grocery store to buy some ibuprofen for my aching neck as well as some new food and drink supplies. We spent some time watching the local dipper nest at the river outlet, but failed to hear or see any sign of the adult birds. A few Barrow's Goldeneyes bobbing in the riffles were the only new species there.

Further down the river we got to the big marsh at the north end of Vaseux Lake, the only real marsh on our route so our one chance for rails and a few other species. We quickly tallied Marsh Wren, then I heard a bittern call several times—a real bonus for the Okanagan these days. A Sora eventually called as well, but we never did hear a Virginia Rail. We left the marsh at 2:50 p.m. and headed up into the pine forest, passing a pair of Western Bluebirds on the way. Reaching the Green Lake Road, we turned south onto what local cyclists call "The Wall", a very steep set of switchbacks that climb to Hawthorn Mountain Vineyards. I stalled out on the corners, and was happy to meet a couple of sets of birding friends stopped on the pullouts so that I could catch my breath. Mark and I saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk fly overhead, while Eva was waiting patiently at the top with news of a Golden Eagle that had unfortunately disappeared over the ridge.



Green Lake held a minor surprise—two Buffleheads and two Horned Grebes—both late migrants that weren't there the day before. We reached the Willowbrook junction at 4:25 p.m. and realized we were way ahead of schedule. Normally I plan my Birdathons down to the minute, but hadn't had the time to do that with this new route. We had 5 hours of birding left and only 14 kilometres to go. We debated whether to turn south towards Oliver in hopes of adding Lark Sparrow, but decided to simply head north to White Lake, where we could spend plenty of time walking the sage looking for a few difficult species. Also, some very black clouds were gathering over the western peaks, promising rain and wind in the near future. Just as we started off again, Mark called out "Hawk overhead!" and we looked up to see a beautiful light phase Swainson's Hawk sailing southward. This species is regular at the northern and southern ends of the Okanagan Valley, but only seen as a rare migrant in between.

The last hill up to White Lake produced a pair of Lark Sparrows, always a beautiful bird to see. We stashed our bikes behind some big sagebrush above the lake and walked up the hill to search for Grasshopper Sparrow. This is a very rare species in British Columbia, but this was one of the regular sites. I soon flushed a sparrow without white outer tail feathers and excitedly looked at it through the binoculars—Savannah Sparrow. A much commoner species, but then we had missed it at Vaseux Lake so I was still happy to see it. We flushed more likely birds, but they all dove into the grass before we could identify them. Spreading out, we combed the hillside for sparrows, then finally I heard the high lisping trill of a Grasshopper Sparrow. Only Mark got a good look at it, but we contentedly

turned back towards the road, hoping to put up Gray Partridge, and scanning the grasslands for Short-eared Owls. Finding neither, we cycled up the road to the area where Brewer's Sparrows nest and quickly heard several giving their long, canary-like songs. We went for another walk there, hoping for a long-shot Clay-colored Sparrow or even a Sage Thrasher, but heard only more Brewer's and the ever-present Vesper Sparrows and meadowlarks. After a period of wonderful calm, the wind had shifted to the north, so we pressed on towards Three Gates Farm, where my wife had dropped off our vehicle. We searched the roadside aspens, looking for Downy Woodpeckers and Cedar Waxwings, but again came up empty. A White-breasted Nuthatch called from the ponderosas, another one for the list—we wouldn't have to disturb the nesting birds at Three Gates.

We pulled into the driveway at 7:10 p.m., with 103 kilometres on the odometer and still an hour ahead of schedule, but I looked forward to relaxing on the porch there, watching for a possible Anna's Hummingbird and resting my weary legs. Chris Charlesworth, Ryan Tomlinson and Michael Force, another Birdathon team, were whistling in vain at the

entrance for a pygmy-owl they'd missed earlier in the day. Doreen Olson, our friend who lives at Three Gates, welcomed us with coffee and pie, while the young Great Horned Owls called from the nest above her lawn and a young Northern Saw-whet Owl peeked out of a box along the driveway. We'd hoped for Western Screech-Owl there as well, but Doreen wasn't sure where they were nesting on her large property. We'd have to wait for dark, when we could get Common Poorwill and maybe even Flammulated Owl as well. But the rain came before nightfall, and with the gusty wind we were convinced rather quickly that it would make more sense to simply go home and climb into bed. As we got in the car at 8:45, the pygmy-owl began to call to bid us good night. We counted up the species on the way home—138—a very respectable total indeed.

Dick Cannings



British Columbia Bird Sightings: Winter 2006

Winter 2006-2007 will be remembered as one of the stormiest on record as Pacific systems battered the Region until mid-January, after which the storm frequency decreased. During the lulls of Pacific energy, Arctic air made sure it wasn't forgotten and blanketed the Region a few times. Mountain snowpacks were near or above historical levels over many areas by the end of the period and valley snowpacks in the northern three-quarters of the interior were also substantial.

†: field notes submitted; ph.: photographed.

Geese through Gulls

Very rare in winter along the outer coast, Greater White-fronted Geese lingered near Tofino: 3 on 4 Dec (AD); 2 on 12 & 17 Dec (AD). Rare but regular along the coast in winter and early spring, 2 Eurasian Teal were in Duncan 26 Dec (DM). A very late Ring-necked Duck was on the Fraser R., Prince George 15 Dec (DMG et. al.) for a first local winter record. Casual in the province, a male Tufted Duck garnered much attention after it was located on King's Pond, Saanich 1 Feb – (GA et. al. ph MY). While scanning the water off Gordon's Beach Sooke, and observer found an out of place adult Clark's Grebe 26 Dec (RTo). Following a rash of late fall sightings, a juv. Brown Pelican was seen in flight past Clover Point, Victoria 20 Dec (JG) relocated on the 27th as a second bird flew in to join it! (RS) and a single remained to 29 Dec (JF). Rarely found in the interior during winter, an imm. Double-crested Cormorant was along the South Thompson R. at the mouth of Chase Creek, 26 Dec (JBr) for a first local Dec record. Black-crowned Night Herons are very few in number but known as residents at Reifel, thus it was very surprising to find one on the Duncan CBC 1 Jan (RoT, BN). Turkey Vultures have cleared out of the s. interior by Oct but one late individual was seen in flight over Penticton 18 Dec (BH) but sadly missed on the local CBC. Least Sandpipers are scarce in winter and found along tidal flats of the lower Mainland, but for the first time ever, 4 were found on the west coast of the island in Tofino Harbour (DL).

The Lesser Black-backed Gull first located in Vernon this past fall wandered south to Penticton 1-10 Dec (LN et. al.), back in Vernon 11 Dec (DGC) and then remained in the Penticton area to 4 Jan (RC). It was joined by a basic II bird 6-10 Dec in Penticton (ph LN, DB). All previous 14 records in the province have been of single birds and of those, 8 are from the interior.

On the heels of a strong Pacific storm, a Black-legged Kittiwake, rarely encountered in winter, was seen off Point Roberts 6 Jan (GP).

Doves through Finches

A pair of Eurasian Collared-Doves in Delta 1-10 Dec (GP et. al.) were reported by locals as having been present since Aug. This species appears to be gaining a foothold in the south Okanagan with regular reports of them in Osoyoos and now Oliver where a dozen birds appeared in early Jan (fide BMK). Steller's Jay movement was still noticeable in early December when 50 birds were reported moving south in Saanich 10 Dec. (CF). Barn Owl found dead at Tofino 2 Dec (GB) provided the first west coast record. Owls were relatively scarce. The first arriving Rufous Hummingbird appeared in Sooke 13 Feb (fide RTo). Although Say's Phoebe's are early migrants, they are very rare in Jan. One was located along the Osoyoos lakeshore during the Oliver-Osoyoos CBC (L&CB, T&MS). A late Barn Swallow was seen flying over the ice at Reifel 9 Dec (CG), 2 were seen in Victoria 11 Jan (CSa et al). In Williams Lake 4 Chestnut-backed Chickadees were seen on 10 Dec. A rare resident of the c. interior, two White-breasted Nuthatches wintered at Cottonwood Island Park, Prince George while a third was found nearby 25 Jan (CCo). Very rare on the coast, a rather cooperative Rock Wren was at Island View Beach, Saanich 1-28 Jan (ph. TZ). The interior's first record of Bewick's Wren was established during the Kelowna CBC 16 Dec and remained to 4 Jan (†DGC et. al.) at the Summerhill Winery. A Northern Mockingbird spent the winter in Summerland: first found 1 – 5 Dec (EH) then reappeared 29 Dec having survived -20C, reappeared 11 Jan (CONC) and relocated 27 Feb to end of period. Rarely encountered in winter in the c. interior, a White-throated Sparrow was at a Prince George feeder 17 Dec (NK et. al.), as well as its congener, a White-crowned Sparrow (PS, BS). Casual in the province and accidental in winter, a Dickcissel was in Port Alberni 31 Dec – 4 Jan associating with House Sparrows at a feeder (KC, ph GLM) and returned to the feeder following a snowstorm 10 Jan (KC). Of sixteen regional records, this constitutes the second documented winter record. A Bullock's Oriole furnished a first winter record for the Parksville-Qualicum checklist area, first



found 26 Nov and remained to 10 Dec then reappeared 10 Jan following a coastal snowstorm (C&DB, ph. GLM). There is but a handful of winter records for the region. Redpolls were not found in large numbers this winter thus it was surprising that a Hoary Redpoll was discovered on the west coast 27 Dec (RTo) in Sooke. A single American Goldfinch was a rare winter visitor to the outer coast in Tofino 17 Dec (AD) and Prince George had their first confirmed winter record with 3 present 17 Dec (PS, BS).

Compiled by Donald G. Cecile

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Authors in this Issue

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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.

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.

John Sprague

John B. Sprague is a retired aquatic biologist living on Salt Spring Island. Before breakfast, he scopes the bay for waterbirds.



“Down a bit, left a bit, ooh, that’s it ...right there.”

From The Spectator, London; Courtesy CanWest News Service.



BIRDS OF PANAMA

8-20th 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.



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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(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 bernsteini* nests in very small numbers in the tern reserve in the Matsu Archipelago.

NEXT TRIPS:

2007: July 18~20: Chinese Crested (Matsu) Tern ; **July 21~25:** Extension for endemics

November 5~18: Endemics, Black-faced Spoonbill

2008: May 5~18: Endemics, Fairy Pitta, Lanyu Island

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

Private tours can be arranged.

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