

BC BIRDING

Newsletter of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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American White Pelicans at Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area



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Marc-Andre Beucher

Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area

by **Carla Haegele, CVWMA**

Established in 1968, the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (CVWMA) is a 6,880 hectare (17,000 acre) wetland habitat that is an extremely important reservoir of biological diversity. The site is noted for 286 bird, 57 mammal, 17 fish, 6 reptile and 6 amphibian species. It is a designated wetland of international significance (Ramsar site) and recognized internationally as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and nationally as an Important Reptile and Amphibian Area (IMPARA).

The Wildlife Centre, located 11 kilometres west of Creston on Hwy 3, is open May-Oct with programs running May-Aug. Naturalists are on site to answer questions, provide trail maps and information and offer one-hour long guided canoe and walking tours. Check out the programs and events, educational displays and hands-on science lab.

Easy, 24/7 access to over 32 kilometres of dyke trails allows you a chance to view an amazing diversity of wildlife. Enjoy the area as you hike, bike, bird watch, view wildlife, canoe, kayak and fish. Climb the two viewing

please see CVWMA, page 6

BCFO Officers and Directors

PRESIDENT

Jim Ginns
1970 Sutherland Road, Penticton, BC V2A 8T8
250-492-9610 / ginnsj@shaw.ca

PAST PRESIDENT

Sandra Kinsey
9860 Alpine Drive, Prince George, BC V2N 5W7
250-963-8381 (phone/fax) / sjkinsey@direct.ca

VICE PRESIDENT

Kevin Bell
1302 Sunnyside Drive, North Vancouver, BC V7R 1B1
604-980-9085

TREASURER

Andrew Stewart
3932 Telegraph Bay Road, Victoria, BC V8N 4H7
250-477-1328 / andy.stewart@shaw.ca

RECORDING SECRETARY

Laure Neish
186 Dewdney Cr., Penticton, BC V2A 7Z6
250-490-3635 / natureniche@shaw.ca

DIRECTORS

Wayne Diakow

9840 Waller Court, Richmond, BC V7E 5S9
604-275-2753 / wdiakow@shaw.ca

Jude Grass

17375 27A Avenue
Surrey, BC V3S 0E9
604-538-8774 / judegrass@shaw.ca

Tony Greenfield

P.O. Box 319, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0
604-885-5539 / greenfieldtony@hotmail.com

Les Gyug

3130 Ensign Way, Westbank, BC V4T 1T9
250-769-5907 / Les_gyug@shaw.ca

John Voos

3721 Nicola St., Abbotsford, BC V2T 4Z9
604-850-3757 / mvarts@shaw.ca

MEMBERSHIP

Rita Wege
2684 Davidson Road, Castlegar, BC V1N 4P9
250-359-7234 / rwege@telus.net

ARCHIVIST

Kevin Bell
1302 Sunnyside Drive, North Vancouver, BC V7R 1B1
604-980-9085

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Phil Henderson
P.O. Box 615, Fort Langley, BC V1M 2R9
604-888-1571 / strix@uniserve.com

JOURNAL EDITOR

John B. Sprague
474 Old Scott Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2L7
250-537-0760 / sssprague@shaw.ca

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Ted Goshulak
9578 - 212 B St., Langley, BC V1M 1N4
604-888-0408 / tgosh@twu.ca

LIAISON, CHANGHWA WILD BIRD SOCIETY

Jo Ann MacKenzie
15341-21 Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 6A8
604-538-1676 / j.a.mackenzie@telus.net

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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

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

Membership Dues:

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

Memberships are for the calendar year.

Newsletter Submissions

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

Please send newsletter submissions to

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

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

Advertising

Advertising rates are available upon request.

BCFO Website

<http://www.bcfo.ca>



President's Report

by *Jim Ginns*

The snow is receding up the hillsides, Sagebrush Buttercups have been in bloom since February 17 in our neighborhood, and the birds are doing things. The flocks that were visiting our feeders are breaking into pairs. Species that have been rare or nonexistent during the winter are back, especially Cassin's Finches and Red Crossbills. The pair of White-breasted Nuthatches that left early in the winter are back (I presume they are the same pair). On February 9 they were inspecting the nest where a brood was successfully raised in 2007. And they have been seen on that cottonwood several times since. All good signs that Spring is advancing.

Over the past decade or so the phrase "base line data" has appeared more and more frequently. Unfortunately it is often in the context of "We lack base line data on..." Base line data is a starting point against which subsequent observations can be compared. For example, if in 2000 I counted 36 active Cliff Swallow nests on a highway bridge, that is base line data for that bridge and that Cliff Swallow community. Knowing the date of the observation and the number of (in this case, nests) allows other counts to be compared. What's the point? An article in the Winter 2008 issue of BirdWatch Canada magazine uses eastern Canadian observations from 1968 through 2006 to document the population trends for 18 species of «Aerial Insectivores» (birds that feed while in flight). These data (also called facts or census counts, etc.) showed some species have significantly decreased; e.g., Barn Swallow populations declined 3.3% each year. Knowing which species are decreasing allows planning to determine why and what can be done to revive the

population. Here in British Columbia accumulation of base line data for a Breeding Bird Atlas is just beginning. I know some of you have already signed-up to census areas and I hope more of you will join-in. It is great fun being out in the woods when the sun is rising and the mosquitoes are having a last go at you before retiring to shady nooks. Your AGM will feature speakers on the Atlas project and the extension will, in part, give participants experience in censusing.

Another type of base line data exists in the BC Nest Records Scheme. The annual contributions to this program strengthen the value of the database, estimated to contain 210,000 records. For years I have filled-out cards as have a number of BCFO members; in 2006 thirty three (33) of us contributed 2125 cards. Soon after joining the BCFO directors in 2004 I heard that accessing nest record data was not easy, in fact some said it was impossible. I kept my distance because it looked like, to put it politely, a "can of worms." I presumed that my few nest cards were being preserved by a public organization. In late 2007 I received an email that surprisingly intimated that the recent (?1997 on) nest record data was the property of a private consulting service. So why am I contributing data if the data is inaccessible?

Jeremy McCall's interesting synopsis of the Nest Records Scheme through 2004 is in the Winter 2007 issue of BC Nature. All should read it, especially those who contribute to the Scheme. The magazine is on line at <http://www.bcnature.ca/pages/magazine/magazine.html> (page 19). I recently wrote Jeremy to bring him up-to-date on BCFO's interest in seeing the ownership/access problems resolved.

The directors met on February 16 and dealt with a number of items. Plans for the AGM were reviewed. Les has arranged an interesting line-up of speakers. Wayne has the local arrangements under control and he and Tony were finalizing the extension. The program is included in this newsletter and a registration form is included as a separate sheet.

In response to the BC Breeding Bird Atlas project's request for financial support, BCFO contributed \$1000 for the preparation of the Procedures Manual.

In our continuing efforts to reduce expenses, options were discussed to reduce the costs of both mailing the newsletter and of conference calls.

Expect several issues of your journal *British Columbia Birds* to appear in the mail in the next few months. Editor John Sprague, Martin McNicholl and Andy Stewart have successfully canvassed authors to submit their manuscripts to the journal. John, his editorial board, Martin, and Andy are to be congratulated and thanked for all their efforts!



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 Breeding Bird Atlas

www.birdatlas.bc.ca

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.

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

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/>

Editor's Notes and Notions

by *Phil Henderson*

The Fort Langley Merlin continues his raucous serenade in flight and from posts atop the tallest neighbourhood Douglas-firs. He's been at it all winter during which time he has gradually shifted from his breeding territory of last year to his new digs. There are plenty of small birds to eat in the Fort thanks to the retention of historical arboreal remnants and new plantings. Such cannot be said of the new developments in the lower mainland and elsewhere that decimate all that is green to reap maximum profit: green hinders greenbacks. A local development on the Fraser River floodplain, which squandered a magnificent, though profit-sucking opportunity to restore native plant and animal communities is lurching forward on piles of dredged river sand with splendid, and rumoured-to-be shifting and splitting new houses: another shiny ecological wasteland. The Merlins are scattering.

You will notice one small change in the location of the credits for those who have written the articles of this newsletter: the authors are now identified after the title rather than at the end of the article. This more readily identifies the author and will hopefully help to prevent the accidental omission of the author's name, as was the case last edition when I failed to acknowledge Ted Goshulak as the author of his birds of Kenya article.

In addition to the regular contributions and the inclusion of Don Cecile's roundup of bird sightings for Fall, 2007. Laird Law has contributed an interesting report that summarizes his hawk-watching efforts at the Stoner site near Prince George. This edition, importantly, contains all the pertinent information regarding the much anticipated AGM in Creston. Wayne Diakow provided the information for the main event and Tony Greenfield provided information for the extension trip which is geared towards an exciting multi-year ornithological survey which starts this year.

Sticklers for literalism might begrudge the inclusion of articles concerning

international birdwatching in *BC Birding*. They have a point. But, today the world is small and birders benefit from exposure to birds around the world. The way I see it, there are three main options for *BC Birding*. It can concern itself with the following:

1. Information on birds and bird events within the borders of our fair province.
2. #1 and birds that occur within BC but whose life histories include resources in other countries. This may include discussions of birds that breed in BC but winter in the neotropics; i.e., discussions of these birds in the setting of another country. This provides interesting and important information about the birds that occur in BC.
3. #1 and 2 and other birds from around the world.

While I believe the primary focus of *BC Birding* should be the birds that occur in British Columbia and places in which they occur here (#1), information on species that occur in BC while they are in other lands and environs — areas through which they migrate and areas in which they spend the winter — (#2) must be considered if we are truly interested in the species. I also think readers benefit from learning about bird that do not occur in BC, their ecology and the cultural aspects of their existence in these foreign lands. Since many BCFO members travel to other countries and spend time birdwatching there, it follows that they also enjoy articles of birdwatching in other countries.

So, as you may have guessed I choose #3. However, I propose that #1 and #2 comprise the sole content of three issues per year and #3 (remember, it comprises #1 and 2) comprises one issue per year. We therefore focus on BC birds while providing aficionados of foreign birds something to savour. I'm thinking the December (Christmas) issue might be the choice for #3, especially if I can get it out on time for quiet holiday reading. Does this sound reasonable?

Happy spring birding.



BACK ISSUES OF BCFO NEWSLETTERS AND JOURNALS AVAILABLE

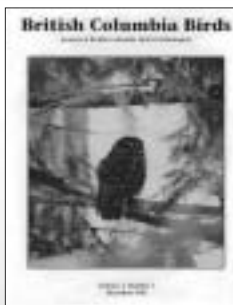
If you are missing past issues of BC Birding or British Columbia Birds you can purchase most volumes by contacting the people listed below. Back issues of the journal British Columbia Birds can be acquired for \$5.00/ea or the BC Birding newsletter for \$2.00/ea (prices include postage) from the following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

For journals contact:

Neil K. Dawe
438 Temple Street
Parksville, BC
V9P 1A3
nkdawe@shaw.ca

For newsletters contact:

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



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

Journal Articles On-line All feature articles and notes published in Volumes 1 – 13 of British Columbia Birds are available from our website www.bcfo.ca Articles can be down-loaded individually as PDF files using Adobe Reader, version 5 or greater.

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 up to a \$1000 limit and within the financial strength of the organization will be considered, with any larger requests requiring approval at the AGM.
6. Applicants should obtain a copy of the grant policy and the application guidelines from a member of the executive before any submission.

NEW BCFO MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE

Julie Grant
Surrey, BC

Jacob Bapty
Victoria, BC

Julie Kovach
Surrey, BC

**Lee & Susan
Schaeffer**
Ladner, BC

James Davies
Sooke, BC



“Whatever you do, don’t upset him. It could bring us bad luck.”

From The Spectator, London; Courtesy CanWest News Service.

CVWMA cont. from page 1

towers located along the trails for breathtaking views of the valley.

As stewards, we manage the CVWMA for conservation and natural species diversity through active habitat and wildlife management, research, education and public support.

The CVWMA is a not-for-profit organization with charitable status and we rely on donations and grants received from individuals, corporations and organizations.

For more information please call us at (250) 402-6908 (Centre) or (250) 402-6900 (Admin). Visit our website at www.crestonwildlife.ca

Help Wanted

BCFO is searching for someone to maintain membership records. The job entails keeping membership records up-to-date, preparing and printing mailing labels for both the newsletter and journal, and writing a brief report for the AGM. The present membership coordinator Rita Wege will be glad to answer any questions. Give her a call at 250-359-7234 or contact Jim Ginns (ginnsj@shaw.ca or 250 492-9610).

Proposal to Change Membership Dues

by **Jim Ginns**

The BCFO By-laws state "The annual Membership dues shall be determined by the Directors."

The directors have discussed, in relation to the 2008 budget, the annual dues at the last couple of their meetings. At their February 16 meeting they agreed that the dues be increased by \$5.

The Membership dues for 2009 will be \$30.

The costs of "doing business" continue to increase. Perhaps the main increases have been in postage for the newsletter and journal.

However, before implementing any increase the directors would like to hear from you! This item will be on the agenda at the AGM. If you prefer, send us an email or letter.

As far as I can tell the last dues increase was in 1991.

BC Birds on the Move

by **Jim Ginns**

BCFO's journal *British Columbia Birds* is moving ahead fast! In 2008 Editor Dr. John Sprague intends to publish three volumes. This will bring the journal back on the one volume each year schedule. John recently wrote (and I have summarized his remarks) from his office on Salt Spring Island that Volume 16 is on the point of going to the printers.

Volume 17 is to be a special publication about the first 5 years of waterbird surveys by Peter Davidson and co-authors. That is different from the detailed, 76-page technical report put out by Canadian Wildlife Service.

Neil Dawe, Production Editor, and John are looking at mailing 16 and 17 in one envelope to save a bit on postage; postage is often more expensive than the printing.

With four papers and notes on hand and two other papers nearing completion, John plans to send Volume 18 off for production in the first half of the year.

Nominations

by **Jim Ginns**

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.

Book for Review

by **John Sprague**

A book reviewer is needed for a literary work.

The publisher has sent us for review, *The life of the skies* by Jonathan Rosen, subtitled "Birding at the end of nature". It is said to be "a mixture of memoir, nature writing, history, and philosophy ... an illuminating look at the complex relationship humans have with their flying counterparts and a history of America viewed on the wing."

Anybody interested in writing a review for the journal, please contact John Sprague. You get to keep the book.








CRESTON

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 18th Annual Conference will be held at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area Interpretation Centre (commonly called the Wildlife Interpretation Centre) in beautiful Creston, B.C. on the weekend of May 23-25, 2008.

Our Banquet on Saturday evening will be held at Stephane's Restaurant in Creston.

OTHER EVENTS

-  Registration & Reception with cash bar and appetizers on Friday evening at the Wildlife Management Area Interpretation Centre 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
-  Birding field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings
-  Annual general meeting and technical presentations on Saturday afternoon at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area Interpretation Centre.
-  Banquet from 6:00 -10:00 p.m. on Saturday evening at Stephane's Restaurant in Creston.
-  Sunday wrap-up

TRANSPORTATION & ACCOMODATION



Transportation to the conference and accommodation are up to the individual(s) to arrange. Camping is available at many spots including Pair-A-Dice RV Campground (250-428-2347) and Scottie's RV Campground (250-428-4256).

Check this link for lots of Motels <http://www.crestonvalley.com/accomodations.html>

Creston Valley Motel 250-428-9823, City Centre Motel 250-428-2257, Valley View Motel 250-428-2336.

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.) for coffee & muffins (at Mugwumps on Hwy. 3 between Creston and the Wildlife Interpretation Centre).

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 with this issue of *BC Birding*

AGM FIELD TRIPS IN AND AROUND CRESTON

CORN CREEK

A very pleasant and sweet smelling walk through patches of cottonwood, grassy meadows and wetland edges rich with riparian birds and waterfowl. Possible species include American Bittern, Wood Duck, Great Horned Owl, Least Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, American Redstart and Lazuli Bunting.

LEACH LAKE UNIT

Drive out along flat top dykes into a rich and seldom driven wetland unit. Please Note: Vehicles should have good clearance. Possible species include Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican, American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Forster's Tern, Long-eared Owl, Black and Vaux's Swift, Least Flycatcher, Sage Thrasher, American Redstart.

DUCK LAKE UNIT

A large active and rich shallow water lake with cattail edges, cottonwood borders and wet meadow. Possible species include Horned Grebe, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Short-eared Owl, Forster's Tern, Sage Thrasher, Lark Sparrow and some shorebirds.

RECLAMATION ROAD & BENCH LANDS

A driving route that will tour farm lands, meadows, timber, wet edges and the beautiful Kootenay River with big vistas and great thermals. Possible species include Sandhill Crane, Long-billed Curlew, Bobolink, Western & Eastern Kingbirds, hawks and falcons and interesting sparrows.

There are large numbers of Wild Turkeys in the Creston area which, if interested, people can be given instructions to find.

EXTENSION TO BCFO AGM, 25-28th MAY 2008 INTRODUCTION TO BC BREEDING BIRD ATLASSING

The most important bird project in BC during the period 2008-2012 will be the BC Breeding Bird Atlas. Our banquet speaker at the AGM will be the project leader Dr. Rob Butler who will explain this groundbreaking project that will guide the future of ornithology and conservation in BC for decades to come.

To introduce you to the world of atlassing, and as an extension to the AGM, BCFO will organize an Introduction to BC Atlassing immediately after the AGM. Essentially this will simply mean birding in the wider Creston area for 3 days following the AGM.

The cost of the Extension, \$200, will cover accommodation for three nights (shared room basis) in Creston plus transportation.

It is hoped that you will leave the Extension with a familiarity with the Atlas concept and be inspired to commit to personal involvement in the coming years.



18TH ANNUAL BCFO CONFERENCE @ CRESTON, BC

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, May 23, 2008

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Registration and Social Hour** at Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area Centre

SATURDAY, May 24, 2008

6:00 a.m. **Field Trips** – depart Mugwumps Country Store on Highway 3 between Creston and the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area. Return by 11:30.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch** for those who have ordered at Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area Centre

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Technical Session** at Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area Centre

Speaker A Marc-André Beaucher – Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area

Speaker B Janice Arndt – Ospreys of Kootenay Lake

2:00 – 2:30 **Break**

2:30 – 3:45 **Technical Session** at Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area Centre

Speaker C Peter Davidson – Williamson's Sapsucker in the East Kootenays

Speaker D Chris Steeger – Wildlife tree users

3:45 – 5:30 p.m. **Annual General Meeting** at Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area Centre

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. **Social Hour** at Stephane's Restaurant in Creston (Cash Bar)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. **Banquet** at Stephane's Restaurant in Creston

Guest Speaker Dr. Rob Butler—B.C. Breeding Bird Atlas

SUNDAY, May 25, 2007

6:00 a.m. **Field Trips** – depart Mugwumps Country Store, return by 11:30

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Catered Lunch** for those who have ordered and **Adjournment**

British Columbia Field Ornithologists MINUTES of the 17th Annual General Meeting

May 26, 2007, Lillooet Friendship Centre by *Laure Neish*

1. Call to Order

President Jim Ginns called the AGM of BCFO to order at 4:15 p.m. with directors present being Andy, Laure, Les, Jude, Wayne and Tony. Regrets from John and Kevin arrived later in the meeting. Forty seven members signed the attendance sheet.

Motion: by Dick Cannings to approve the agenda, seconded by Marilyn Buhler. CARRIED

2. Minutes of the 2006 AGM

Laure Neish, recording secretary, read the minutes of the 2006 AGM held in Kelowna, BC

Motion: by Jo Ann MacKenzie to approve the minutes as read, seconded by Dannie Carsen

CARRIED

3. Presentation by Neil Dawe on the Conflict between Economic Growth and Avian Biodiversity Conservation. (also published in the BC Birding Newsletter Vol. 17 No. 1) The presentation was a preamble to his proposal that BCFO adopt a position statement on the 9 resolutions in the presentation.

Some of the discussion points raised were:

- are we voting on principle alone or is there a need for BCFO to put the statements into action?
- we need to hear more input from a dissenting point of view before voting, what are some alternatives to this proposal?
- does supporting these resolutions offer BCFO a means of helping the conservation effort?
If we accept these resolutions what, if anything, will change?
- government needs to be aware that clubs have a political voice, one more united voice, in fact, against their current economic philosophy.
- avian biodiversity conservation is only a small segment of a trend happening to all of the natural world

Motion: by John Sprague To modify and adopt the proposed position statement by removing the word «avian» to read «Economic Growth and Biodiversity Conservation : A Fundamental Conflict». Seconded by Dick Cannings CARRIED

4. Treasurer's Report

Andy Stewart presented the highlights of his financial report and made available copies of the year end Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for 2006. Total revenue collected in 2006 was \$16,956 and expenditures

were \$16,641 leaving a small surplus of \$315. No revenue was generated from the Kelowna AGM Extension trip.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report by Andy Stewart, seconded by Dannie Carsen CARRIED

5. Journal Report

Editor John Sprague presented his good news report on progress made during the past year on *British Columbia Birds*. The production schedule is almost back on track with Volume 14 published in the fall of 2006. Vols. 15 and 16 should be printed by late summer 2007. He thanked Andy Stewart for transferring the journal to the BCFO website and Andy and Martin McNicholl for soliciting potential authors. He encouraged more members to submit notes for publication, even ½ page notes and he made a request for the Directors to find two more people to serve on the Editorial Board to lighten the load of the current board.

Discussion: Wayne Weber and Tony Greenfeld suggested that guidelines for Journal contributors be published either on the website and/or quarterly in the newsletter.

6. Newsletter Report

Jim Ginns read Phil Henderson's interesting nest metaphor report of *B.C. Birding* newsletter. At the risk of missing his point, I (as secretary) will attempt to summarize by saying: nest construction is an imperfect endeavor with unpredictable challenges and gaps becoming apparent during and after construction. It takes a community (in this case BCFO) to build and maintain this "nest". The newsletter and its partner "nest", the Journal, are integral to the survival and identity of BCFO. Phil sends his regrets at not being able to attend the meeting and wished to thank Ted Goshulak and Rita Wege as key members of the production team and to all contributing members and support in general he has received from BCFO.

7. Archives Report

A "Hue"ge vote of thanks was offered to Hue MacKenzie for his care and commitment to the role of archivist for the past eight years. Jim Ginns recounted his own positive experience working with Hue and how his well organized archives allowed for speedy retrieval of search items. Hue announced he is stepping down and offers some advice to future archivists and the Directors. More attention could be focused on keeping correspondence records to understand the exchange of ideas which lead to board decisions and policy guidelines. Relevant letters and emails should be kept in future archives.

8. Membership Report

Jim Ginns read the report prepared by Rita Wege, membership secretary. To date, membership stands at



248 with 9 institutional memberships. This is a decrease of 6 members from last year and 28 members did not renew after receiving the March newsletter. Membership numbers usually peak following the AGM.

9. Library Report

Due to family commitments, Krista deGroot, wishes to pass on her duties as librarian. The entire collection requires less than 1 m of shelf space and duties include updating the catalogue on Excel spreadsheet, sending requests to members, tracking their return and posting occasional notices in the newsletter to remind members of availability of materials

10. President's Report

Jim Ginns read his first report as president. He summarized the activities and accomplishments of BCFO during the past year and paid tribute to several people for their particular contributions. Thanks went to Tony Greenfeld as BCFO representative on a multi-organization committee which published the long overdue BC Bird pocket checklist. Thanks also to Wayne Diakow for his excellent job as AGM organizer - 3rd year in a row - and to Ian Routley as Lillooet organizer. He welcomed Jude Grass, who came aboard as new director mid-year and discussed the Journal strategy meeting held last fall. He recognized the Field Ornithologists Award Committee which will present its first award at the banquet. He concluded by reminding us that BCFO is an expression of our personal interest in field ornithology as well as a means of promoting observation and the study of birds to others.

11. AGM in 2008

No decision has been made yet on the location or date for next year's AGM. We have a short list of 3 possible sites but need more information on facilities, etc. at each site. Creston, Prince Rupert and Chilliwack were some of the locations discussed. Late May seems to be a good time for a meeting. Ann Murray suggested that BCFO promote car pooling to meetings and post a notice in the newsletter prior to the next AGM.

12. Election of Directors

Jo Ann MacKenzie presented the slate of candidates for next term. Terms for 3 directors have expired, however they are willing to put their name forward for re-election. No nominations were received from the floor so Tony Greenfeld, Andy Stewart and Kevin Bell were declared elected by acclamation.

13. Other Business

a) Dick Cannings presented an overview on BC's first Breeding Bird Atlas. It is a snapshot of bird species distribution and numbers taken every 5 years and has been undertaken by other provinces for many years. Its value is not only in assessing conservation status but also to provide a data set for comparison over time. He presented BCFO members with an opportunity to volunteer as summer data collectors for the atlas or as one of 40 regional coordinators needed to complete the project.

b) question from the floor on the status of the Rare Bird Records Committee. Jim Ginns responded that no one has come forward to chair the committee and it remains inactive

14. Adjournment

Motion: Marilyn Buhler moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m, Jude Grass seconded



Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area

CVWMA photo



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.

- April 2, 2008 BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Delta, B.C. Contact: [no person indicated] British Columbia Waterfowl Society, 5191 Robertson Rd., Delta, B.C.; phone (604) 946-6980.
- April 17-20 2008 21ST BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE TRUMPETER SWAN SOCIETY, Whitehorse, Yukon. Contact [no mailing addresses announced]: John Cornerly, phone (303) 933-9861; e-mail: johncornely@msn.com OR Madeleine Linck, phone (783) 694-7851; e-mail: ttss@threeriversparkdistrict.org.
- April 17-20 2008 2008 ANNUAL MEETING, WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY & ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, Mobile, Alabama. Contact: Frank Moore, Dept. of Biol. Sciences, Univ. of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Dr., Box 5018, Hattiesburg, MS 39406; phone (601) 266-4748; e-mail: Frank.Moore@usm.edu.
- May 2-4 2008 GRAYS HARBOR SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL, Hoquiam, Washington. Contact [no person named]: Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival, Box 470, Montesano, WA 98563; phone (800) 303-8498; website: www.shorebirdfestival.com.
- May 7-13 2008 WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES BIRD FESTIVAL, Invermere, B.C. Contact [no person named]: Pinelogs Cultural Centre, Box 2633, Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0; phone (888) 342-9464; website: <http://www.adventurevalley.com/wings/registration.htm>.
- May 12-15 2008 CONFERENCE ON SPENT LEAD AMMUNITION: IMPLICATIONS FOR WILDLIFE AND HUMANS, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. Contact [no individual named]: The Peregrine Fund, 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, ID; phone (208) 362-3716; e-mail: tpf@peregrinefund.org.
- May 16-19 2008 MEADOWLARK FESTIVAL, Penticton, B.C. Contact [no individual or mailing address indicated]; phone toll-free 1 (866) 699-699-9453; e-mail: meadowlarkfestival@osca; website: www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca.
- May 23-25 2008 B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING, Creston, B.C. Contact details elsewhere in this issue.
- May 29-June 1 2008 B.C. NATURE SPRING 2008 CONFERENCE, Penticton, B.C. Contact: Joyce Høglund, 108-1006 King St., Penticton, B.C. V2A 4S6; phone Glenda Ross (250) 493-7500; e-mail glendaross@shaw.ca.
- June 6-8 2008 WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Walla Walla, Washington. Contact details not yet announced; website: <http://www.wos.org/WOSConf.htm>.
- June 12-15 2008 NATURE CANADA ANNUAL MEETING, Montreal, Quebec. Contact details not yet published.
- June 23-29 2008 AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION, Salt Lake City, Utah. Contact: Brenda Gibb, American Birding Association, 200-4945 North 30th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80919; phone (800) 850-2473, extension 230; website: <http://www.americanbirding.org/mtgs/2008snowbird/info.html>.
- July 27-August 3 & 3-10 August 2008 NATURE VANCOUVER SUMMER CAMP 2008, Smithers, B.C. Contact: Elly Brok, Camp Registrar, 5315 Wales St., Vancouver, B.C. V5R 3M7; e-mail: ebrok@uniserve.com.
- August 4-8 2008 126th STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 78TH ANNUAL MEETING & SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS 28TH ANNUAL MEETING, Portland, Oregon. Contact : [no individual named] PDX 2008, Suite 680, 5400 Bosque Blvd., Waco, TX 76710-4446.



- August 30-
September 6 2008 AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION REGIONAL CONFERENCE, Vancouver and Victoria, B.C.
Contact: Brenda Gibb, American Birding Association, 200-4945 North 30th Street, Colorado Springs,
CO 80919; phone (800) 850-2473, extension 230; website: <http://www.americanbirding.org/mtgs/2008/snowbird/info.html>.
- September 22-28 2008 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Missoula, Montana. Contact:
Kate Davis, Raptors of the Rockies, Box 250, Florence, MT 9833; 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 published]; 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 published], e-mail:
dimlylit100@hotmail.com.

Thanks to Peter Blokker and Jim Ginns for contributing to this issue of this compilation.

B.C. Birding News Briefs

Compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

Megaceryle –Neither my in-computer nor my on paper proof-reading of my *B.C. Birding* 17(4):16, 2007 version of this column revealed my glaring “typo” for the restored genus *Megaceryle* for Belted and Ringed kingfishers.

Birdwatching Naturalists Receive Awards–None of the four naturalists awarded for their volunteer efforts on behalf of nature by B.C. Nature at their fall 2007 meeting work exclusively or primarily with birds, but birds feature prominently in the efforts of all four. Education and habitat conservation highlighted the efforts of Rhys Krannitz and Anthea Farr of Langley, and Will Lemmon and Val Tinney of the Arrowsmith Naturalists, with participation in the Brant Festival, Christmas bird counts, conservation of a Great Blue Heronry and nest box building among the more avian oriented aspects of their efforts. –based on J. Best. 2007. *B.C. Nature* 45(4):9.

Dan Rempel–In early November 2007, the Langley Field Naturalists lost long-time member Dan Rempel, a former volunteer warden of the Fraser River Islands Ecological Reserve, participant in long-term raptor surveys and participant in various other bird-related projects. –based partly on e-mail of Anthea Farr to Jude Grass of 4 Nov./07 and A. Farr. 2007. *Langley Field Nat. Newsletter* Dec. 2007:7.

Inaugural Award to Francis Cook –Canada’s leading herpetologist, Dr. Francis Cook, received the inaugural Gold Leaf Award of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada on 25 September 2007. Although few of his own publications include observations or data on birds, he has contributed substantially to ornithology across Canada through his long-term editing of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* –based on R. E. Bedford. 2008. *Trail & Landscape* 42:3-4.

New Squamish Checklist –A new (2007) checklist of Squamish Estuary birds by Chris Dale and Karl Ricker was distributed at the 2007 Ladner Christmas bird count. This second edition lists 239 species, one hybrid and one additional form and keys them to season, habitat and whether or not the species is known to breed in the area. A map and some introductory text are also included.

Gaston Receives Speirs Award –Tony Gaston of the Canadian Wildlife Service was awarded the 2007 Doris Huestis Speirs Award for outstanding ornithological research in Canada. Tony is best known for his research on alcids and other waterbirds on Haida Gwaii and Arctic parts of Canada, although he has also published on birds in India. –based on 5 October 2007 letter to Society of Canadian Ornithology members from President Susan Hannon.

Bert Brink –The Vancouver Natural History Society/Nature Vancouver is mourning the loss of its Honorary President, Vernon Cuthbert (Bert) Brink on 29 Nov./07. Although a botanist, Bert’s interests encompassed natural history generally, and he published several notes on birds and on ornithologists. He was also one of the giants and pioneers of habitat conservation in B.C. –based partly on Anonymous. 2007. *Vancouver Nat.* 9(4):1.



Raptors of Prince George: Stoner Hawk Watch Site

by *Laird Law*

The Stoner Raptor Watch site is 35 kilometres (kms) south of Prince George, British Columbia, just east of Highway 97, at km 2.5 of the Stone Creek Forest Service Road. The elevation of the standwatch site is 725 metres (m); latitude 53 36' North, longitude 122 38' West. The site is on the eastern ridgeline of the Fraser River valley.

In June 1992, the Stone Creek forest fire burnt off a large area, allowing long distance views in most directions. As an additional benefit, the main B.C. Hydro transmission line corridor from Hudson Hope to Vancouver crosses the middle of the burn.

To the west of the site is the Fraser River 3 kms away (down at 550 m elevation) and Mount Baldy Hughes can be seen 20.5 kms away (1100 m elevation) on the upland on the other side of the valley. Three kilometres to the north across Stone Creek is a ridge with a microwave tower. The view is limited to the east, but the land gradually slopes upward to the east for 20 kilometres to George Mountain (1680 m elevation). To the south is the opening for the transmission lines with an adjacent regenerating cutblock and the Fraser River valley.

Sandra Kinsey and I found the Stoner site on April 8, 1999. We were driving home from a day of birding southwest of Hixon. We had stopped along Highway 97 to bird a flooded field and noticed a number of raptors soaring above the hydro transmissions lines east of the highway. We drove up to where the power lines crossed the side road to get closer to the raptors and found a nice viewing area. Between 1300 and 1515 we counted 58 Bald

Eagles, 3 Northern Harriers, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Red-tailed Hawk and 1 Rough-legged Hawk for a total of 64 raptors. Some were perched. Most were soaring and then gliding northward.

Seeing so many Bald Eagles and other raptors in such a short time piqued our interest and got us wondering if this could be a good hawk-watching site for migrating raptors in the Prince George area.

Accordingly, the following year, 2000, we spent 9.25 hours over three days between April 4 and April 8 and recorded 95 raptors. Bald Eagles (46), Red-tailed Hawks (19) and Rough-legged Hawks (12) were the most common species. It looked like it wasn't just a one-day wonder in 1999! We also visited the site again on April 26 and saw 3 raptors. The raptors did seem to be using this area on their spring migration! Now what about the fall migration?

On August 31, 2000, we spent a couple of hours to see if any raptors would be migrating over the same site and we recorded five raptors heading south.

Having confirmed that a number of raptors are passing over Stoner in the spring and again in the fall, we decided it would be worthwhile to spend time documenting the raptor migration at Stoner. By using the Prince George Bird Checklist (PGNCCC 2002) as a reference for when raptor numbers increase it was decided that mid-March would be a good time to start the spring surveys. This would catch the main movement of migrating raptors.

I spent approximately 100 hours per year between March 14 and April 30

for five of the years between 2001 and 2006 (Spring 2005 was missed as we were birding in Bhutan), for a total of 489 observation hours. A total of 2639 raptors of 11 species were tallied over the five years (see Table 1). Two hundred forty seven (247) were counted as "local" birds, i.e. flying south or seen on more than one day. This left 2392 confirmed migrants for an average of 4.9 birds per hour. The most common migrants were Bald Eagle (1059), Red-tailed Hawk (399), Golden Eagle (255), and Sharp-shinned Hawk (245).

The main migration window for the various raptor species can be determined from the data collected over the five years. Bald Eagle peaked between March 20 and April 17; Red-tailed Hawk peaked between March 25 to April 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk and Northern Harrier between April 10 to 26; Osprey April 26 to 30 and probably continues into May. American Kestrel numbers are low (31 for the five years) but the first ones show up April 7. Golden Eagles are in low numbers throughout the period.

The raptors also seemed to migrate at different times of the day (see Figure 1). The highest numbers of Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk and American Kestrel were between 1000 and 1300, Golden Eagle 1000 and 1600; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1100 and 1300; Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey and Northern Harrier between 1100 and 1400; and Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Goshawk 1300 to 1400.

An extrapolation of possible raptor numbers passing over Stoner each spring could be calculated with the data already obtained. With an effort



Table 1. Total number of birds seen by Species and Year						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2006	Total
Osprey	11	6	0	0	2	19
Bald Eagle	189	244	196	205	225	1059
Northern Harrier	34	28	33	20	39	154
Sharp-shinned Hawk	91	86	31	29	8	245
Cooper's Hawk	6	3	5	2	3	19
Northern Goshawk	1	3	4	6	5	19
Red-tailed Hawk	92	102	49	64	92	399
Rough-legged Hawk	18	48	22	13	8	109
Golden Eagle	36	62	81	45	31	255
American Kestrel	3	8	10	9	1	31
Merlin	11	3	0	4	3	21
Unknown eagle	5	1	0	1	0	7
Unknown accipiter	3	1	4	1	1	10
Unknown buteo	7	2	1	1	0	11
Unknown raptor	15	14	2	1	2	34
Total	522	611	438	401	420	2392

of 7 hours of observation per day, and a passage rate of 4.9 birds per hour, the maximum possible number of raptor migrants between March 14 and April 30 could be as high as 1646 raptors. If observations were extended into the

shoulder seasons of earlier in March and later into May the actual numbers would be higher with the greater effort.

A lesser effort was made to document the fall migration. Between September 20 and November 14 of 2001 and 2002,

I spent 61 hours at Stoner. A total of 166 raptors of 10 species were seen heading south for an average of 2.7 birds per hour. The five most common species were Red-tailed Hawk (60), Bald Eagle (42), Rough-legged Hawk (16), Sharp-shinned Hawk (13) and Golden Eagle (13).

Raptors are not the only birds migrating past Stoner during spring and fall. We recorded 64 other bird species during our standwatches at Stoner. In the spring, Canada Goose was the most common species with 2306 individuals; Common Redpolls were the next most common but recorded on only three out of five years with 1707 seen in 2004, 100 in 2002 and 92 in 2003; then American Robin (1107) and American Crow (543).

A tight migration window shows up in spring for the American Crows. Most migrate north during a 13-day period from March 19 to 31 with 74 % of them seen on just eight days during that period (see Figure 2). They also

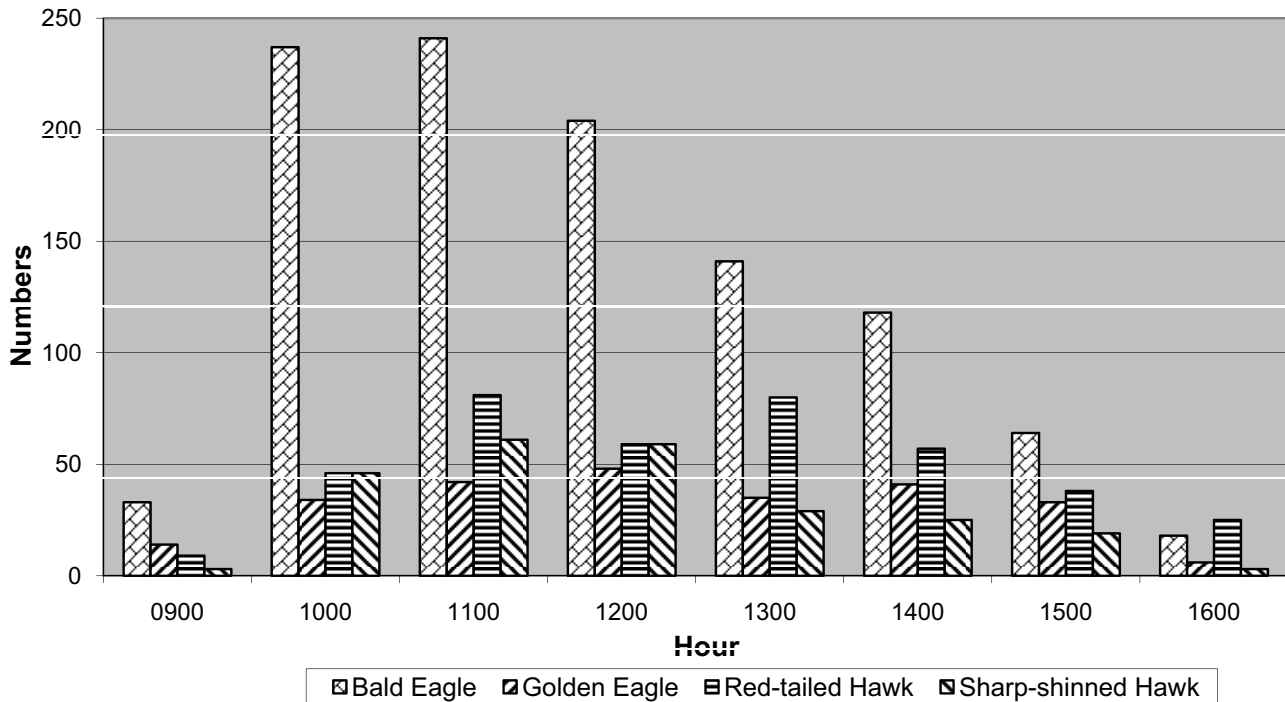


Figure 1. Raptor Movement by Hour for Selected Species

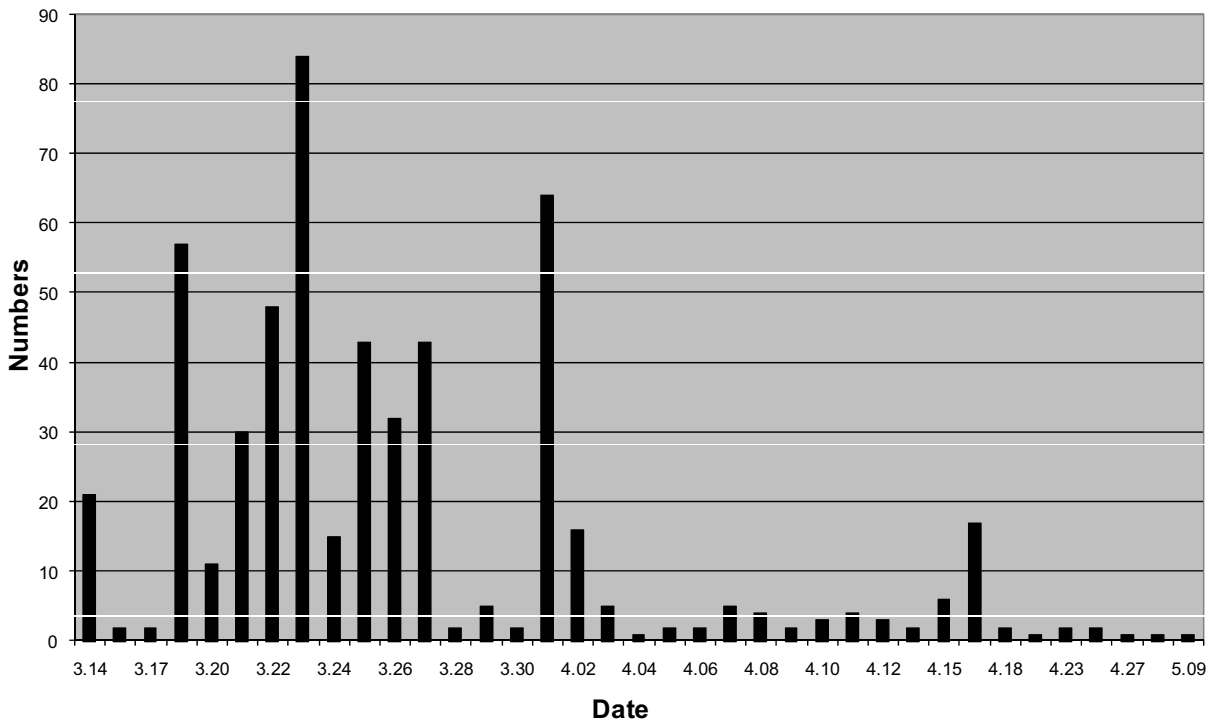


Figure 2. Spring American Crow Migration, 2001-2006

pass Stoner in the fall as shown by 113 crows heading south on October 28, 2002. The crows seemed to follow the Fraser River.

Unexpected species and events are also recorded on the standwatches. Two Long-billed Curlews have been recorded (April 16, 2001 and April 21, 2006).

On the morning of April 27, 2001, a Sharp-tailed Grouse flew low over the site going east. Had it been at a lek west of the Fraser River and was in the process of expanding the species' range? The Prince George Naturalists' Club does not have any records of Sharp-tailed Grouse east of the Fraser River in the Prince George area.

On October 5, 2001, two Chestnut-backed Chickadees flew south through the site. This is a little out of range for them as the closest known location is east of the Bowron River about 90

kilometres east of Stoner in the cedar hemlock forest.

One year in late March I watched the first Red-breasted Sapsucker of the year fly in from the south. It started out as a speck. As it flew closer to me, I was able to identify it. Once on the site, it dove down into the forest about 500 m northwest and below me. A few minutes later I heard it drum as if to let others know it was back in its territory.

This article shows that raptors do migrate over Stoner, a relatively low elevation site. To get a better understanding of the true numbers and timing of the raptors migrating past Stoner, observations of at least eight hours every day would be required from the first of March to mid-May.

I wish to thank the many visitors and assistants at Stoner Hawk Watch

from 2001 to 2006, in alphabetical order: Helen Antoniazzi, Barry Booth, Mark Clark, Ivan Cartwright, Dan Dunlop, Martina Frey, Todd Heakes, Sandra Hepburn, Bonnie Hooge, Sandra Kinsey, Nancy Krueger, Elsie Lafreniere, David Lambie, Loraine Lavallee, Steve Lawrence, Carolyn McGhee, Jack McGhee, Kirk Safford, Doris Stymest and the Prince George Naturalists Club.

For information on hawk migration you can start by visiting the websites of the Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation from southwestern Alberta www.eaglewatch.ca, and Hawk Migration Association of North America <http://www.hmana.org/>.

References Cited

PGNCCC (Prince George Naturalists Club Checklist Committee). 2002. Checklist of North-Central B.C. Birds. Prince George Naturalists Club, Prince George, B.C.



British Columbia Bird Sightings: Fall 2007

by *Donald G. Cecile*

7995 Wilson-Jackson Rd., Vernon, British Columbia V1B 3N5 / (dcecile@telus.net)

August was hot and dry for the first half of the month but became more showery and seasonably cooler for all but the southern interior during the second half. Other than a warm and dry spell during the second week, September was cooler and damper. The first Pacific storm of the season made landfall on the 29th of the month bringing winds over 100 km/h to the outer coast. October was stormy on the coast while interior sections exhibited a mixed bag. First valley snow was reported early along the northern border but melted as the month wore on. November remained stormy on the coast through the first half with storm frequency declining thereafter. Interior valley snows began accumulating early in November as Arctic air began building up ready to make its first coastal push after the end of the period.

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

Geese through Hawks

Surf Scoters are regular but scarce fall migrants through the s. interior, however, this season they were found in unprecedented numbers. The first noted was in Kelowna 22 Sep (RuC) but by 6 Oct, there were 143 in the Penticton area (RuC) with an additional 5 in Salmon Arm (DGC) which likely produced a record high count for the interior. A flock of 50 were still present in Penticton 9 Oct (RJC). Much more scarce are White-winged Scoters with the sole report of a single that flew over Vaseux L. 9 Oct (DB). A Long-tailed Duck was a rare find in the Kootenays at Wasa L. 27 Oct (DN). Coastal records of Clark's Grebe have been on the rise in recent years. It is difficult to know if this is associated with an increase in numbers or more observer effort and awareness, hence their status is poorly known. Coastal sightings included two at Port Renfrew 16–18 Aug (†RoT et al.); a single off Iona Jetty 9 Sep (MT); a single off Sooke 16 Sep (†RTo, LH) and 3 were off Sooke 24 Sep (†RTo, LH).

Buller's Shearwaters are regular fall visitors offshore and appear to have been more numerous this fall based on reports from a vessel in Queen Charlotte Sound where 40 were seen 15 Sep (BW) and possibly a record high count of 235 on 20 Sep (BW). Casual in the region although recorded annually for the past 4 years, single Manx Shearwaters were seen off Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew 22 Jul (†RTo) and 11 Aug (†RTo). Brown Pelicans were well reported along the south coast but in much lower numbers than last fall. By far the most significant sighting was that of a single bird found for the first time in the Okanagan at Killiney Beach 5 Sep (ph T&K McF) and furnished the second interior record for the province. Egrets did not furnish much of a northward

push with single Great Egrets at: Boundary Bay 3 Sep (IP); Serpentine Fen 6 Sep (RS) and South Surrey 28 Oct–10 Nov (BM et al.) and single Cattle Egrets near Crofton, Vancouver I. 12–14 Oct (*fide* DM) and Elizabeth L., Cranbrook, 30 Oct (AG). Very rare in the s. interior, a Black-crowned Night Heron was along the slough near the Vaseux Banding Station 15–16 Aug (RuC) seen again near the station 7 Sep (DB). A late Turkey Vulture was seen in flight over Penticton 24 Oct (RJC). An Osprey was very late at Esquimalt Lagoon 22 Nov (m.obs) and at an even colder location one was near Naramata 25 Nov (JT). Casual in the province and not recorded in the last three years, a White-tailed Kite was seen near East Sooke Park, 17 Sep (†RTo, LH). Broad-winged Hawks continue to be found in increasing numbers during migration as well as some indications that they have expanded their range east and south of their Peace R. area stronghold. Sightings at a well-known migration corridor in the Sooke area of s. Vancouver I. far surpass the expected numbers of regionally-raised Broad-winged Hawks. This season there were in excess of 60 sightings from s. Vancouver I. with a single day count of 20 on 17 Sep (RTo, LH) which nearly doubled the previous provincial high count. Single Swainson's Hawks were also seen on s. Vancouver I. with the first on 1 Sep in Langford (DA) and the last was a dark morph on 29 Sep in Sooke (MM, RTo). Casual in the province, Ferruginous Hawks were reported from the mountains west of Slokan where one or two were seen 5 Sep (†EB) and a single from Castlegar 10 Oct (MMc).

Shorebirds through Hummingbirds

Plovers of all description were noted to be well down in numbers this fall from a key interior shorebirding locale, Salmon Arm (DGC), thus it seems that much more



remarkable that a juv. Pacific Golden-Plover was found at the mouth of Mission Creek, Kelowna 27 Sep (ph CC) which furnished the 5th Okanagan record. The only fall interior record this year of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper came from Shelley STP near Prince George 10 Sep (JJ et al.) for a second local record. The first Ruff of the season was at Admiral's Lagoon, Parksville 20–23 Aug (MY, ph RH et al.) followed by a juv male and a juv female at Boundary Bay 31 Aug – 10 Sep (IP, MT) and an adult in moult 8 Oct in Boundary Bay (RF, AF). Casual in the interior, a juv Red Phalarope furnished a 2nd local record for Salmon Arm 21–22 Aug (ph DGC, et al.).

The only interior reports of Parasitic Jaeger was a juv seen from the Vaseux Banding Station 1 Oct (DB) and a single on Nulki L. (JB et. al.). Long-tailed Jaegers are rarely seen from the inside coast with a single sighted from the Duke Point-Tsawwassen ferry 8 Sep (MTo). Little Gulls are casual in the province and a single bird delighted observers off Stanley Park 11–13 Oct (m.obs.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be an annual occurrence in the Okanagan over the past 5 years. These individuals have recently been confirmed as wandering Okanagan Lake between Vernon and Penticton. This year, an adult (likely a returning bird) was discovered at Powers Creek, Westbank 1 Nov (JF et al.) then in Vernon on 4 Nov (DGC) and four hours later was back in Westbank. It continued to wander up and down the lake to end of period (m.obs). Slaty-backed Gulls, although regular, are still quite rare and not always reported; one adult was in Abbotsford 13–14 Nov (PC et al.). Interior Sabine's Gulls included a single adult 28 Aug in Salmon Arm (CC); a single adult 23 Sep in Salmon Arm (DGC); 5 on Nulki L. and 2 on Tachick L. in Vanderhoof 29 Sep (JB et al.) and an adult on Okanagan L. near Peachland 2 Oct (CC). A basic adult Ross's Gull furnished the second confirmed provincial record when found on Tachick L. sw of Vanderhoof 10–11 Nov (†JG, †NH et al.). The first record was during a similar time period 41 years ago from the southern tip of Vancouver Island which at that time furnished the first record in temperate North America. The region's 7th confirmed record of Ivory Gull was of an adult on Matsqui Flats near Abbotsford (ph CK, ph LJ et. al.).

Not only are Arctic Terns rare fall migrants in the interior, but a single juv was exceptionally late 10–13 Nov on Tachick L. (ph JG, NH, CA et. al.), this individual may have furnished the first Nov record for the region and it was indeed with the Ross's Gull but remained a few days longer. Very rare in summer and autumn, an adult Thick-billed Murre was seen from Gordon's beach near Sooke 8 Sep (RTo, ph LH). The region's 9th Xantus's Murrelet

was seen from Gordon's Beach, Sooke 8 Sep (†RTo, LH), all records are from the Aug–Oct window. Horned Puffins were recorded on at least 4 occasions, more than usual but may pertain to the same individual. Single immatures were seen: off Botanical Beach 25 Aug (†DG et. al.); 2, 21 & 29 Sep from Gordon's Beach (RTo et.al.). Eurasian Collared-Doves away from their breeding colony in Cawston, included a single in Summerland 1 Aug (BMA); and at least 4 in the Delta area with the last reported near River Rd 1 Sep (JAM) and a single along the Sunshine Coast 7 Sep (M&L Burgess). Casual in the province in modern times, an imm. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in Cawston 17–20 Oct (R&J Mennell, ph PC, ph RJC). This bird was seen by many and well photographed thanks to the gracious hosts. White-throated Swifts are accidental on the coast, one such adult was in Sooke 9 Sep (†RTo), interestingly, the last one seen on Vancouver I. was in the same time period 11 Sep, 2004. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are casual in the province with most records from the Peace R. area where they occasionally breed. One came to a feeder in New Hazelton 6–8 Aug (RS, MS, ph KT). Anna's Hummingbirds are rarely found away from the south coast yet one had winged its way as far north as Williams Lake 3–6 Oct (*vide* PR).

Woodpeckers through Finches

Once a nesting species on s. Vancouver I. the Lewis's Woodpecker is now a very rare find there, one imm. was in Sooke 8 Aug (†RTo). Accidental on the coast, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in Sooke 6 Aug (ph RTo) as was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Jordan River 26 Sep (ph RTo). A single Dusky Flycatcher was very late in Kelowna 5 Oct (RyT) for a first Oct record for the Okanagan. A very late Pacific-slope Flycatcher was at Englishman River Estuary, Parksville 18 Nov (ND et al.). Casual in the province, an Ash-throated Flycatcher was at Cecil Green Park 19 Sep (m.obs) and another was spotted by a backyard birder in Victoria 26 Oct and confirmed (CSa, MG et al.). There were very few Tropical Kingbirds this fall with singles: at Martindale Flats, Victoria 4–8 Nov (*vide* DM, ph CSa) and on Hornby Island 30 Nov (*vide* CB). Blue-headed Vireos and Philadelphia Vireos are breeding birds in the Peace River area and are very rarely recorded elsewhere in the province, Blue-headed Vireos were 2 in Jordan R. 23 Sep (†RTo, LH) and another single there 25 Sep (†RTo) while Philadelphia Vireos involved singles in Chilliwack 22 Sep (†ph GG) and at Jordan River 2 Sep (†RTo). A record-late date for Purple Martin was established as a family-group of 5 were seen in flight along the Sunshine Coast 27 Sep (AS). White-breasted Nuthatches were prevalent in the c. interior this autumn arrivals in early



Sep and increasing through mid-Nov (*fide* CA). The region's 8th and 9th records of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher both came from southern Vancouver Island: a female-type in Shirley 25 Sep (†RTo) and a female-type at Esquimalt Lagoon 28 Oct (CSa). Northern Mockingbirds can occur just about anytime anywhere in the southern half of the province, they are not always reported. One was in Jordan River 5 Aug (ph RTo, LH), one on the Sunshine Coast 23–24 Nov (CN et al.), another was in Summerland 25, 27 Nov (EH) found in the same yard as Dec 2006, and one was on Pender Island 22–29 Nov (AB, GMK, PC). Tennessee Warblers are rare away from the c. interior and Peace R. area, but a few were discovered southbound in Tsawwassen 6 Aug (GP); Maplewood 23 Aug (RL), a holdover from summer, one near Kamloops 24 Aug (CC), and one at Vaseux 19 Sep (RJC et al.). Very rare in the Cariboo, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was at the recently established Tatlayoko banding station near Tatla L. 4 Aug (SO). Rare along the south coast, a Magnolia Warbler was located in Port Moody 28 Aug (JR). A few other 'eastern' warblers wandered to the coast with Black-throated Green Warbler at Jordan River 24 Sep (†RTo) and single Blackpoll Warblers in Chilliwack 4 Sep (†ph GG); and an imm. at Whiffin Spit, Sooke 15 Sep (†RTo). An American Redstart was also a rare find in Victoria 19 Aug (DA). The region's 7th and 8th records of Hooded Warbler, following last summer's sighting from Hudson's Hope, involved an imm. female at Jordan River 17 Sep (†RTo, LH) and an adult male in Campbell River 4–6 Nov (??).

Accidental in the region, a basic Scarlet Tanager was found at Jordan River 20 Sep (†RTo). Very late, and with very few c. interior records, a Spotted Towhee visited a Prince George feeder 1 Nov to end of period (ph HM et. al.). Clay-colored Sparrows, very rare along the coast included singles at: Kennedy Lake PP near Ucluelet 11 Sep (MT); Sooke 17 Sep (RTo) and Jordan River 19 Sep (RTo). A Vesper Sparrow was surprisingly late in Nakusp 29–30 Nov (ph GSD). Casual on Vancouver Island, a Lark Sparrow was as far west as it could get at Carmanah Point Lightstation 24 Aug (ph JE). This was not a big year for Harris's Sparrows, one was at Iona 21 Oct (KL) and another at a feeder in Williams Lake 29 Nov (DG). Very rare along the coast, single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks included an ad male in Victoria 19 Aug (m.obs) and an imm male in Sooke 26 Aug (RTo). A holdover from spring, a male Indigo Bunting remained at Colony Farm, Coquitlam 9 Aug (CCL). Furnishing the region's 3rd record, a male Painted Bunting visited a feeder at Johnsons Landing, West Kootenays 14–16 Aug (ph GS), a similar time period from the first regional record back in 1995. An imm. Rustic Bunting was a remarkable find along

Whiffin Spit 22 Oct (†RTo). Bobolinks are very rare along the coast and these individuals were surprisingly late with singles: at Boundary Bay 11–13 Oct (ph Jim M et. al.) and another in the bulb fields of Central Saanich, 28–30 Nov (BD ph MY et al.). Very rare on Vancouver Island, 3 White-winged Crossbills were at East Sooke Regional Park 9 Sep (DA).

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face):

David Allinson (Victoria), **Cathy Antoniazzi** (c. interior), Colin Bartle, Allan Bennett, Ed Beynon, **Jack Bowling** (weather summary), Doug Brown, Min & Len Burgess, Peter Candido, **Richard J. Cannings** (s. Okanagan), Russell Cannings, Colin Clasen, Pat Crossley, Bill Dancer, **Gary S. Davidson** (Kootenays), Neil Dawe, **Adrian Dorst** (Tofino-Ucluelet), Jerry Etzkorn, Andrew Foxall, Roger Foxall, Joyce Fraser, Gord Gadsden, Jeremy Gatten, David Good, Mitchell Grant, **Tony Greenfield** (Sunshine Coast), Denise Gubersky, Louis Haviland, Nathan Hentze, Eugene Hogue, Jukka Jantunen, Len Jellicoe, Marlene Johnston, Chris Kinman, Kevin Louth, Rob Lyske, Jo Ann MacKenzie, Blaine Martinac, Derrick Marven, Joyce Maxwell, Terry & Kent McFarlane, Gerald McKeating, Michael McMann, Heather Meier, Bill Mellard, Robert & Jane Mennell, Mitch Meredith, Gwen Nichol, Dean Nicholson, Cathy Nolan, Steve Ogle, **Mark Phinney** (Peace River), Guy Pickavance, Dirk Pidcock, Ilya Povalyaev, **Phil Ranson** (Cariboo), John Reynolds, Greg Ross, Maureen Sargent, Chris Saunders, Arnold Skei, Ray Sturney, Richard Swanston, Mike Tabak, Ryan Tomlinson, Mike Toochin, **Rick Toochin** (Juan de Fuca), Kim Tromblay, Bruce Whittington, Mike Yip, Kathy Young.

Authors in this Issue

Carla Haegele

Carla is the Stewardship and Communications Coordinator of the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area. She is Editor of the CVWMA publication, *Wetlander*.

Laird Law

Laird is a naturalist and birder living in Prince George, B.C. He is a traveller who worked as a heavy-duty mechanic but now works part time conducting bird surveys. His favorite area for work and birding is northeastern B.C. He also enjoys travelling and birding in overseas locations.





Collared Bush Robin, Formosan Whistling-Thrush, Steere's Liocichla, Taiwan Barwing, White-eared Sibia, Taiwan Yuhina, Yellow Tit, Flamecrest, Formosan Magpie, White-whiskered Laughingthrush, Swinhoe's and Mikado Pheasants are 12 of Taiwan's 15 generally recognized endemics. (Some authors recognize up to 29.) There are over 60 endemic sub-species such as *Black-browed [Taiwan] 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, visit Lanyu Island with 6 bird specialties of its own, including an endemic subspecies of *Ryukyu Scops-Owl*. The globally threatened *Black-faced Spoonbill* winters in the Tsengwen Estuary.

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

NEXT TRIPS:

2008: July 19–20: Matsu; Chinese Crested Tern; July 21–26: Extension; endemics
Nov. 4–16: Endemics, Black-faced Spoonbill

2009: May 5–18: Endemics, Fairy Pitta, Lanyu Island
July 18–19: Matsu; Chinese Crested Tern; July 20–25: Extension; endemics
Nov. 10–22: Endemics, Black-faced Spoonbill

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CONTACT:

Jo Ann MacKenzie 15341 – 21 Avenue, Surrey, BC, V4A 6A8, Canada
Tel: 604-538-1676 Email: j.a.mackenzie@telus.net
Simon Liao Email: birdingintaiwan@yahoo.com.tw, in Taiwan



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