

B_C BIRDING

Newsletter of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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photo by Ralph Hocken ©



British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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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

Annual Membership Dues:

Canadian General Membership	\$30
Canadian Junior Membership	\$20
U.S. & International Membership	\$35

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

Please send newsletter submissions to

Guy L. Monty (Editor, BC Birding)
P.O. Box 303, NanOOSE Bay, BC V9J 9P 9
250-821-8888 / guylmonty@gmail.com

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

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Advertising rates are available upon request.

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<http://www.bcfo.ca>

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Northern Hawk Owl Winters on Vancouver Island



This Northern Hawk Owl was photographed near Nanaimo by Ralph Hocken on January 30, 2009. The owl was first sighted on January 24, and was seen almost daily until March 13, 2009 which delighted birders and photographers alike. Not only is this an extremely rare species for Vancouver Island, but this bird had no fear of humans and would often go about its daily routines in plain view of dozens of thrilled observers.

One of the more interesting behaviors observed during this Hawk Owl's stay south of Nanaimo, was that the bird frequently cached prey inside cavities of trees, and the broken tops of snags. In the cover photo, the owl has just cached a Townsend's Vole inside the snag on which it is perched. While prey-caching in Northern owls has been long known, direct observations of the owls actually caching prey is relatively rare.

Cover photo and above photo by Ralph Hocken ©

Editor's Notes

Greetings from the new editors of BC Birding! You are welcome to refer to Donna and me as the "Late Editors" of BC Birding if you like, as we have probably managed to set a new record for producing the latest March issue in the history of this society. I won't go into the details as to why this issue is so late, but we do ask your forgiveness, and promise to turn out the next issues in the same month that is depicted on the cover.

As this is the first issue of the "post Phil era", please join us in facing Langley and hollering a very loud "THANK YOU" in Phil Henderson's general direction. Phil's excellent work on the newsletter showcased a talent that maybe even he wasn't aware of. Having worked with Phil on field projects in wild places like Holberg and Toba Inlet in the past, I was more aware of his skills in winning nocturnal speed-walking contests with Cougars, and outwitting highballing loggers while conducting nest searches. Who would have guessed that he would also become such an excellent newsletter editor? We all owe Phil an enormous debt of gratitude for the great job he did in producing this newsletter over the past 6 years, and Donna and I realize that we have big shoes to fill in our new position here. Thanks Phil, and we hope you are enjoying some newly found free time!

As to free time, there seems to be little of it these days. Beyond our typical work weeks, there are numerous volunteer projects to take part in. Chief amongst these is the BC Breeding Bird Atlas, which I hope all of you are setting aside some time to take part in. While it's still early May, there is plenty of nesting behavior to record already in SW BC, and just this morning, my grandson and I were out in the woods here in Nanoose watching Hutton's Vireos haul ants to hungry nestlings high up in a Douglas Fir, while a nest full of juvenile delinquent Common Ravens, only three trees to the north of the Vireo nest, quarreled over the scraps of road kill that the

parents hauled in about every 2 minutes. It only took a minute to record the UTM coordinates of these two nests to add the information to the ever growing database of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Of course while you are out there Atlasing, you might get lucky, and add a species to your own personal local and provincial life lists. With this in mind, I'm sure many of you will be happy to see that the long dormant "Listers Corner" column makes a welcome return in this issue. Also included will be a form for submitting your 2008 lists, the results of which we hope to publish in the September issue.

Another feature that we hope to revive in the coming months, are the site guide features which were once such a popular part of BC Birding. Please give some thought to sharing directions to your own favorite local birding patch, and a few hints as to when it's best to bird there. BC is an enormous province, and there are countless great birding spots waiting to be discovered, and hopefully shared with our fellow birders. Another thing which we hope to "share" in BC Birding, are your opinions. In this issue you will find a letter submitted by several members of the BCFO regarding the always thorny issue of bird records in this province. We would like to see more letters from members printed, if they feel strongly about certain issues relating to birds, birding in BC, or the BCFO itself. Hopefully, by presenting a wide range of views, we can also find some common ground on some of these issues.

Guy and Donna Monty, Editors,
BC Birding

Letters to the Editor

Meaningful access to B.C.'s Bird Data Base still a Bone of Contention

Recently a delegation of interested parties had the opportunity of meeting with the Honourable Barry Penner, our Provincial Minister of the Environment

to discuss the problems with public access to BC's bird database. Those who have read the articles in recent issues of BC Nature will be familiar with the

challenges of access to the BC Nest Record Scheme, one component of the bird data base. Over the past fifty years, thousands of volunteer participants, built, in partnership with government agencies, an incredible natural history data base that was largely funded by public money.

Without meaningful and timely access to these materials, technical reports on endangered species (by COSEWIC and the BC Conservation Data Centre), environmental assessments and natural history research, remain incomplete.

At the meeting, Minister Penner was asked to initiate an inventory of all materials currently in government possession, pertaining to this data base. The Minister was also asked that government not support organizations where outstanding issues of public access are problematic. The final request of the Minister was that the Ministry of the Environment and the Royal B.C.

Museum, in consultation with NGO's, determine how the B.C. Nest Record Scheme might best be managed.

Bird Studies Canada, which has just initiated the BC Breeding Bird Atlas project, is one credible organization with broad stakeholder support and would appear to be a suitable repository. Naturalists should consider entrusting their observations to BSC until data access issues elsewhere, are resolved. Observers are reminded to always keep a 'personal' copy of all their observations to prevent loss.

Delegation participants:

Bill Merilees, Nanaimo Field Naturalists
Jeremy McCall, BC Nature
Andy Stewart
Bruce Whittington

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#### **To the editor**

A lot of birders were lucky enough to get a look at the "Grindrod Great Gray Owl" over the last week. Chris Charlesworth, Trevor Fodor, Ryan Tomlinson, Mike Force, Joyce Henderson, the Buhlers, and others were there on Sunday night. Ev and Barb Miyasaki made the trek and saw it with others on Monday night. It must have a good chronometer as it was coming in to perch and hunt at precisely 19:30 hrs on both those nights. ;>)

Others on the BCINTBIRD site, such as Russell Cannings, had spread the word, with great directions I might add, so we were all given the opportunity to see a Great Gray almost in our own back yard.

*Cheers and good birding.*  
**Andy Buhler**

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### **Welcome to new BCFO members**

**Douglas J. Canning**  
(Olympia, WA)  
**Chris R. Shepherd**  
(Selangor, Malaysia)  
**Ana Simeon**  
(Victoria)  
**Virginia Taylor**  
(Mill Bay)  
**Rupert Wong**  
(Courtenay)

### **BC BIRDING wants to hear from You**

**Send sightings, articles,  
photos, and field notes  
to**

**BC BIRDING**  
**Editor**  
**Guy L. Monty**  
**[guylmonty@gmail.com](mailto:guylmonty@gmail.com)**



## INTERNET SOURCES

### BCFO

<http://www.bcfo.ca>

### BC Breeding Bird Atlas

<http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca/english/index.jsp>

### Biodiversity BC

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

### Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies

<http://www.wildlifebc.org>

### Birding in British Columbia (General Information)

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

### BIRDNET (Ornithological Council)

<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/>

### Bird Source (Audubon & Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

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

### eBird Canada

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

### Bird Studies Canada / Long Point Bird Observatory

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

### Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

[http://www/\[wrc/isgs/gpv/birds/](http://www/[wrc/isgs/gpv/birds/)

### Point Reyes Bird Observatory

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

### Rocky Point Bird Observatory

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

### AOU Check-list of North American Birds, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition

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

### Bird Wing Image Database

<http://www.pugetsound.edu/x5662.xml>

### Michael Shephard's Bird Information Site

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

### Mike Yip's Vancouver Island Bird Photos Site

<http://vancouverislandbirds.com/>

### SORA: Searchable Ornithological Research Archive

<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/>

### ABA Rare Bird Blog

<http://birding.typepad.com/peeps/>

### BC Interior Bird Chat Group

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/bcintbird/>

### Sunshine Coast Bird Chat Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sunshinecoastbirding/>

### Vancouver and Lower Mainland Bird Chat Group

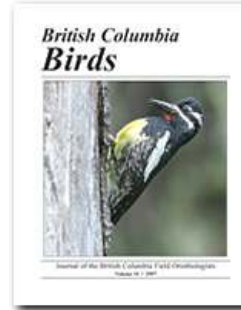
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcvanbirds/>

### Vancouver Island Bird Chat Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BCVIBIRDS/>

### West Kootenay Bird Chat Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wkbirds/>



## BRITISH COLUMBIA BIRDS NEEDS SUBMISSIONS

... of original manuscripts on wild birds in British Columbia. This is the

journal of record for reporting rarities or range expansions, the general status of species, avian ecology and behaviour. We publish new observations on birds, or even a single bird. Suitable topics include distribution, abundance, extralimital occurrence or range expansion, reviews of status, banding, identification, plumage variation, moult, behaviour, feeding, breeding, habitat, ecological relationships, reviews, or history and biography of ornithology. Information for authors is available on the BCFO website at:

[www.bcfo.ca/journal-author-invitation.php](http://www.bcfo.ca/journal-author-invitation.php)

## 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.

## 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 is listed in the bimonthly Ornithological Newsletter and, for readers with inter-net access, on BIRDNET at [www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/ornith/birdmeet.html](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/ornith/birdmeet.html).

**June 12-14 2009**      **MANNING PARK BIRD BLITZ**, Manning Park, B.C. Contact: B.C. Nature Heritage Centre, 1620 Mount Seymour Rd., North Vancouver, B.C.; phone (604) 985-3057; e-mail: [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca). or check Spring 2009 issue of BC NATURE newsletter.

**June 14-19 2009**      **AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION REGIONAL CONFERENCE**, Minot, N.D. Contact [no address indicated]; phone American Birding Association (conferences) 1-800-850-2473, local 230; e-mail: [abacc@aba.org](mailto:abacc@aba.org); website: <http://www.aba.org/mtgs/upcoming.html>

**June 22-26 2009**      **46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING, ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY**, Pirenopolis, Brazil. Contact: Regina Macedo [address & phone number not yet announced]; e-mail: [rhfmacedo@unb.br](mailto:rhfmacedo@unb.br); website: <http://www.animalbehavior.org/Brazil09/>

**June 26-28 2009**      **19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL B.C.F.O. CONFERENCE**, Clearwater, B.C. Contact: Wayne Diakow, 9840 Waller Court, Richmond, B.C. V7E 5S9; phone (604) 275-2753; e-mail: [wdiakow@shaw.ca](mailto:wdiakow@shaw.ca)

**July 21-24 2009**      **URBAN WILDLIFE ECOLOGY & MANAGEMENT: AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON URBAN WILDLIFE & THE ENVIRONMENT**, Amherst, Massachusetts. Contact details not yet announced. Internet information: [http://www.people.umass.edu/sdestef/urban\\_conference.html](http://www.people.umass.edu/sdestef/urban_conference.html)

**July 26-August 2, 2009 August 2-10, 2009**      **NATURE VANCOUVER 2009 SUMMER CAMP**, Cinnabar Basin, B.C. contact: Elly & Brok [no address indicated], phone (604) 438-1871 OR Kitty Castle [no address indicated], phone (604) 980-9464; [http://naturevancouver.ca/2009\\_camp](http://naturevancouver.ca/2009_camp)

**August 12-15 2009**      **127<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Robert L. Curry, Dept. of Biol., 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova Univ., Villanova, PA 19085-1699; phone (610) 519-6455; e-mail: [curry@villanova.edu](mailto:curry@villanova.edu); website: <http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2009/>

**August 20-23 2009**      **28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS**, Edmonton, AB Contact: Erin Bayne, Dept. Biol. Sci., Univ. Alberta, CW 405, Biol. Sciences Centre, Edmonton, AB T6G 2E9; phone (780) 492-4165; e-mail: [baynee@ualberta.ca](mailto:baynee@ualberta.ca) OR Susan Hannon, Dept. Biol. Sci., Univ. Alberta, CW 405, Biol. Sci. Centre, Edmonton, AB T6G 2E9; phone (780) 492-7544; e-mail: [sue.hannon@ualberta.ca](mailto:sue.hannon@ualberta.ca)

**September 10-13 2009**      **B.C. NATURE FALL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE**, Pender Harbour, Website: <http://www.bcnature.ca/pdfs/AGM2009pages.pdf>

**September 18-21**      **WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Longview, WA. Contact details not yet published; Website: <http://www.wos.org/conferences.htm>

**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](mailto:dimlylit100@hotmail.com); Website: <http://www,rrfconerencescotland2009.org/>

**October 4-10 2009**      **AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**, Xalapa, Mexico. Contact the American Birding Association (conferences) at 1-800-850-2473 (local 230), or send an e-mail to [abacc@aba.org](mailto:abacc@aba.org) Website: <http://www.aba.org/mtgs/upcoming.html>

### EVENTS IN 2010 & 2012

**April 15-19, 2010**      **HAWK MIGRATION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE**, Duluth, MN.

**August 22-28 2010**      **25<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**, Campos do Jordao, Brazil. Contact: Prof. Dr. Cristina Yumi Miyaki [no address or phone number announced]. e-mail: [ioc2010@ib.usp.br](mailto:ioc2010@ib.usp.br)

**August 14-18 2012**      **5<sup>TH</sup> NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE**, Vancouver, BC. No details yet.

# Wing-tagged Turkey Vultures in Western Canada



*A 71 day old Turkey Vulture with wing tags. Alberta, Canada.*

R. Wayne Nelson, 4218 – 63 Street, Camrose, AB T4V 2W2 Canada. [wanelson@telus.net](mailto:wanelson@telus.net), (780) 672-4363.

Canadian ornithologists and birders for many years may have opportunities to see Turkey Vultures bearing patagial wing-tags of at least four color combinations.

**Please report all sightings of wing-tagged Turkey Vultures.** Include the date, location, color of the tag and its code (letters, numbers), the wing (right or left) to which the tag is attached, and the circumstances of the sighting (bird was alone, in a flock, flying or perched, feeding or roosting, etc.).

## **East-central Alberta -- Yellow tag with black letters**

**Contact:** Rick Morse, 8 Gaylord Place, St. Albert, AB T8N 0S8 Canada. [ricmorse@shaw.ca](mailto:ricmorse@shaw.ca) 1-(780)-405-7389.

Beginning in 2008, vultures were tagged at their nests in abandoned farm buildings, east of Edmonton to the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. This vulture study was begun in 2003 to investigate the productivity and distribution of these birds, by Wayne Nelson, Floyd Kunnas, and Dave Moore of the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division. Nelson, now retired from AFWD, and Rick Morse, a Master Banding Permit holder, began a long-term wing-tagging project in August 2008, tagged 20 nestlings, and two were seen in northern Venezuela in January 2009 (but their ID letters have not yet been read as of submission date, 13Feb09).

## **Saskatchewan – Green tag with white letter and numbers**

**Contact:** C. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0J8 Canada. [stuart.houston@usask.ca](mailto:stuart.houston@usask.ca) 1-(306)-244-0742 before 9 p.m. CST.



From 2003 to the present, over 300 vultures in central and southern Saskatchewan at nests in abandoned farm buildings have received green wing-tags, in a long-term project conducted by Stuart Houston and his team of Brent Terry, Marten Stoffel, and Michael Blom. Their wing-tagged vultures have been seen in Venezuela, back home in Saskatchewan and at places in-between, and found as a road-kill and recorded on a hunter's trail cam in central Alberta. Soon some of these birds will become breeders and will contribute to the study's other exciting goals. (Some red-green color-blind people may see these tags as a *dark* blue, but definitely *not* a light blue.)

**Venezuela 'wintering' North American vultures – red tag with white numbers,  
ALSO pale blue tag with black numbers.**

**Contact:** Keith Bildstein, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Acopian Center for Conservation Learning, 410 Summer Valley Road, Orwigsburg, PA 17961 U.S.A. [Bildstein@hawkmtn.org](mailto:Bildstein@hawkmtn.org) 1-(570)-943-3411 ext. 108.

To try to look at the migration of North American vultures from the southern end, in our winters of 2006-07 and 2008-09, over 300 vultures were tagged in NW Venezuela, with red tags at the Maracaibo zoo, and with pale blue tags at Barquisemeto, in a cooperative project between Venezuela researchers and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary researchers. These birds might be seen anywhere E of the Rockies in the U.S.A. and southern Canada.

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## **TURKEY VULTURES: A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE FOR AGING NESTLINGS**



Descriptions and 80+ color photos of known-age nestlings, "... are intended to allow users ... to estimate the age of nestling Turkey Vultures, from their own photographs, to within +/- two days, without handling the young birds." Part of an ongoing study at the northern edge of the breeding range. R. W. Nelson, D. Moore, F. Kunas, and R. Morse. 2009. Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Species at Risk Report No. 124. Edmonton, AB. 44 pp.

<http://srd.alberta.ca/fishwildlife/speciesatrisk/projectreports.aspx>

## **B.C. BIRDING NEWS BRIEFS**

*Compiled by Martin K. McNicholl*

### **Rudolf Drent**

During the 2008 annual general meeting of the Biodiversity Centre on 29 November, R. Wayne Campbell announced that Rudolf H. Drent had died on 3 September 2008. Drent was best known in ornithological circles for significant research on Herring Gulls, but he also studied several other colonial waterbird species. His contributions to B.C. ornithology included management of the B.C./Pacific Nest Records Scheme from 1959-1960, his seabird studies and his supervision of several graduate students while an Assistant Professor at U.B.C. from 1968-1973, including former B.C.F.O. President Ian Robertson (see Campbell, R. W. et al. 1990. *The birds of British Columbia*. Vol. 1:22 & 42).

### **Butler Honoured**

Robert W. Butler, formerly of the Canadian Wildlife Service and currently coordinating the B.C. Breeding Bird Atlas project, recently became an International Fellow of the Explorers Club, a prestigious international organization (Anonymous. 2008. *Wandering Tattler* 32(4):8).

### **Federation Fall Awards**

Bird projects among several, more general, nature-oriented activities specifically featured two naturalists through the Federation of B.C. Naturalists awards during its fall 2008 meeting. Bluebird trail work and help with the local Christmas Bird Count were the most bird-oriented of numerous more general contributions that earned Joan Kelly of Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists a Nature Education Award; and Hans Laue's printed and web-version bird checklists were among the contributions to the fledgling Nanoose Naturalists that earned him a Club Service Award. Based on P. Westheuser. 2008. *B.C. Nature* 46(4):9-10.

### **SFU Research Awarded**

Heather Major of Simon Fraser University was one of three students who received Mewalt-King Student Research Awards during the Cooper Ornithological Society's 78<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Portland, Oregon in August 2008. Her research is on "Recovery of nocturnal burrow-nesting seabirds after the eradication of introduced predators." – based on Anonymous. 2008. *Ornithol. Newsletter* 187:1-2.

### **Marianne Ainley**

Dr. Marianne ("Marika") Gosztonyi Ainley, whose Ph.D. thesis was on the history of Canadian ornithology, died in Victoria on 26 Sept. 2008 (Anonymous. 2008. *Ornithol. Newsletter* 187:7). Although best known among birders in Quebec, where she taught in Women's Studies at Concordia University for several years, Marianne spent several years as a department head at the University of Northern B.C. in Prince George before retiring to Victoria. Among historians of ornithology, she was best known for a biographical book on William Rowan and several major contributions to an unpublished book on the history of the American Ornithologists' Union.

### **Knots in Trouble**

Discussions by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in 2007 led them to recommend that the race *Calidris canutus rufa* be classified as Endangered after showing a 70% decline in three generations, the subspecies *C. c. roselaari* that migrates through coastal B.C. be classified as Threatened after a 47% decline in three generations and that the subspecies *C. c. islandica* be classified as of Special Concern after a 17% decline over three generations (Anonymous. 2007. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 112:1 and G. Morrison and N. Davidson. 2007. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 112:6).

## M. Timothy Myres

An e-mail of 28 February 2009 brought the sad news that Miles Timothy Myers had died recently, presumably at his family home on Jersey, Channel Islands. Tim (16 May 1931- 20 January 2009) studied *Bucephala* ducks and eiders at U.B.C. and founded the B.C. Nest Records Scheme while there in 1955. He returned to England and in 1959 participated with David Lack in pioneering studies on using radar to study bird movements. He moved in 1963 to Calgary, where he was a professor at the Calgary campus of the University of Alberta (later University of Calgary) until retiring to Jersey. While in Calgary, in addition to teaching courses and supervising several graduate students he was very active in the Calgary Bird Club/Calgary Field Naturalists' Society, was a founder and first President of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists (now Nature Alberta), participated in the founding of the Alberta Ornithological Records Committee, Canadian Nature Federation (now Nature Canada) and Pacific Seabird Group and chaired the Canadian section of the International Council for Bird Preservation (now Birdlife International). He also served on the editorial board of *Western Birds* for several years. He was also one of my personal influences, sending helpful comments during my terms of editing the *Natural History of Manitoba Newsletter* (1966-1971) and *Alberta Naturalist* (1976-1977 and 1979-1981) and prevailing upon me to take over the Chairmanship of ICBP-Canada when C. Eric Tull's retirement as Chair threatened to terminate its continuance. —based on personal memory, e-mail of 28 February 2009 from D. V. Weseloh, D. V. Weseloh. 1971. pp. 71-74 in M. K. McNicholl (Ed.). *Alberta Nat. Spec. Issue No. 1* and R. W. Campbell et al. 1971. *The birds of British Columbia. Vol. 1*, pp. 21-22. decline over three generations (Anonymous. 2007. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 112:1 and G. Morrison and N. Davidson. 2007. *Wader Study Group Bull.* 112:6).

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## A Nature Kiosk In Memory of Dr. John Brighton (January 18, 1941 - March 1, 2009)



*Dr. John Brighton (January 18, 1941—March 1, 2009)  
Was a BCFO member, a very active birder on Vancouver Island, and a much loved family physician in the Parksville-Qualicum area of Vancouver Island.*

With the support of the birding community, the Nature Trust of BC would like to dedicate a nature kiosk in memory of Dr. Brighton on a treasured property at the Englishman River Estuary where John spent many hours enjoying his feathered friends.

If you would like to donate to this special project, please send your cheque payable to **The Nature Trust of BC with a note indicating it is for the Dr. John Brighton Kiosk**

Mail to:  
The Nature Trust of BC  
#260 1000 Roosevelt Crescent  
North Vancouver, BC V7P 3R4  
Or call 1-866-288-7878 for credit card donations  
(Visa and Master Card)

*"I have never met another birder who was more dedicated to birding, and yet so casual in his approach. John could be fiercely competitive during a big day, but was absolutely flippant about lists and listing in general. Beyond anything though, John was kind to all animals and most people, cared deeply about protecting the environment, was always generous in regards to helping other birders, and was as good a friend as any of us could ever wish for. He was a great doctor too, when you could get him to stop talking about birds."*

*Guy L. Monty*

# DAVID STIRLING: RECIPIENT OF THE BCFO AWARD FOR ORNITHOLOGY

by Wayne C. Weber



*David Stirling is presented with the BCFO Award for Ornithology for his outstanding contributions to bird research, conservation & education. Left to right Wayne Weber, Martin McNicholl, David Stirling and Mike McGrenere.. (Photograph by Bryan Gates)*

BC Field Ornithologists take great pleasure in presenting our second Award for Ornithology to David Stirling of Victoria. This award is made to an individual who has made significant contributions in any or all of three areas: research or publications on birds and bird biology in B.C., conservation of birds or bird habitat, and public education about birds in B.C. David has made major contributions in all three areas. The award was announced, and the citation below was read, at the BCFO Annual General Meeting in Creston on May 24, 2008. However, David was unable to attend that meeting, and Mike McGrenere accepted it on his behalf. We finally presented a plaque commemorating the award to David at a meeting of the Victoria Natural History Society on November 26, 2008, with Wayne Weber, Martin McNicholl, and Mike McGrenere representing BC Field Ornithologists.

David was born in Athabasca, Alberta, and developed an early interest in natural history while growing up on a frontier homestead. He attended the Royal Military College in Sandhurst, England, graduating as a First Lieutenant, and served with the Canadian Army for five years. While in the military, he traveled to many countries and became interested in overseas birding.

David joined the British Columbia public service in 1959 and spent most of his career with the Parks Branch, where he was involved with nature interpretation programs, including the hiring and training of seasonal park naturalists. He kept detailed records of birds in the parks that he visited during his work, and encouraged others to do the same. One of his major contributions was the publication of bird checklists for many of the parks which had naturalists on staff, including Manning, Miracle Beach, Mitlenatch Island, Shuswap Lake (now called Scotch Creek), and Mount Robson Provincial Parks. Some of these checklists, such as the one for Manning Park, went through several editions. Many of the park naturalists hired and/or mentored by David went on to become noted ornithologists themselves, including Wayne Campbell, Douglas Dow (of the University of Brisbane in Australia), Rob Butler, and Dick Cannings, just to name a few.

David has lived most of his life in Victoria, and has made innumerable contributions to the Victoria Natural History Society. He has led scores of birding field trips, served on the society's Board for several years, and organized and compiled the Victoria Christmas Bird Count for about 10 years. He is one of very few Honorary Life Members of the Victoria Natural History Society, an honour which was bestowed on him in 1995. He has also been active in several other natural history and conservation organizations including the Federation of BC Naturalists and the Canadian Nature Federation, and he was one of the earliest members of BC Field Ornithologists.

A contribution of particular note was David's tenure as a Director of the American Birding Association, where he served for several years and ably represented B.C. and Canadian birders. In addition, when the ABA held its annual convention in Vancouver in 1984, David did a great job of organizing all the field trips—a huge task considering that more than 400 people attended.

For many years, David wrote numerous articles for both scientific and popular journals and magazines, including the Canadian Field-Naturalist, the Murrelet,

the Blue Jay, British Columbia Birds, BC Birding, the Victoria Naturalist, Birding, Western Living, Westworld, Nature Canada, and the BC Naturalist. The “Bibliography of BC Ornithology” Volumes 1 and 2, lists 53 articles authored or co-authored by David, and it doesn’t include many of the articles in popular magazines. David also was co-editor and one of the authors of the “Naturalist’s Guide to the Victoria Region”, published in 1986, and has contributed to several other books.

After his retirement from the B.C. public service, David served as an international birding tour leader for several tour agencies. He has visited dozens of countries in the course of these tours, and has continued to lead a few tours until quite recently.

A significant accomplishment was his co-founding, with Wayne Campbell of the Photoduplicate File for BC Vertebrate Records in 1971. This large collection of photographs, which continues to grow under the auspices of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies, was intended mainly to document the occurrence of rare birds and other vertebrates in B.C., and has served admirably in its stated purpose. David also reviewed and commented on all of the species accounts for the four-volume series, “The Birds of British Columbia” (published from 1990 to 2001),

although he was not one of the co-authors of the series.

David has also had a strong interest in bird conservation, as evidenced by a report on rare and endangered bird species in BC that he wrote for the Federation of BC Naturalists in 1973, and a chapter on the Becher Bay headlands that he wrote for a global directory of raptor migration sites that was published in 2000 by BirdLife International and the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Another significant contribution was that he was the first provincial coordinator of the Breeding Bird Survey, a continent-wide program to measure changes in breeding bird populations, which began in B.C. in 1968 and now includes more than 80 survey routes in B.C. every year.

Considering his lifelong dedication to documenting the birdlife of various parts of BC, promoting bird conservation, and especially to public education and to fostering appreciation of birds, birding, and natural history, British Columbia Field Ornithologists take pride in naming David Stirling as the second recipient of our Award for Ornithology.

Wayne C. Weber  
Chairperson, BCFO Awards Committee

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## **BCFO IN TAIWAN, 2009**

*by Jo Ann MacKenzie*

The BCFO birding tour to Taiwan took place March 19–April 1. Highlights were many Gray-faced Buzzards over Bagua Mountain, stunning views of Taiwan Partridge, Swinhoe’s Pheasant, Formosan Magpie, White-whiskered Laughingthrush, White-eared Sibia, Taiwan Barwing, Taiwan Yuhina, Black-faced Spoonbill, Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher, and Yellow-throated (Elegant) Bunting, which is rare in Taiwan.

We also took part in the Opening Ceremonies of the Bagua Mountain Bird Fair, which is organized by the Changhua Wild Bird Society, BCFO’s partner organization in Changhua, Taiwan. We were there by invitation of Liao Tsu-ciang, President of the CHWBS. We were warmly received and invited back next year.

For details about this year’s trip and bird list, see: <http://www.birdingintaiwan.org/tripreportmar20-apr1,2009.htm> and <http://www.birdingintaiwan.org/annotatedspeciesmar20-apr12009.htm>.

*For more information about this trip, and 2010, please contact Jo Ann at: [j.a.mackenzie@telus.net](mailto:j.a.mackenzie@telus.net) or 604-538-1676.*



## 19th Annual BCFO Conference Clearwater, B.C.



The 19th Annual Conference will be held at the Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge in picturesque Clearwater, B.C. on the weekend of June 26-28, 2009.

To eliminate confusion and streamline organizational activities there will be just one flat rate for the Conference.

This one price will include:

- Meet and Greet on Friday night which will include cheese, meat and veggie platters and non-alcoholic beverages. Bar will be open from 6:00 till 10:00 and all drinks and wine are \$4.00 per drink.
- Breakfasts both days which will include bagels & cream cheese, assorted muffins, toast, jams, jellies, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, water and juices.
- Lunches both days which include soup, sub sandwiches, pasta salad, coleslaw, fruit platter, desserts, tea, coffee and juices.
- Banquet, to be held at the Ski Hill Lodge in Clearwater. This will include Pork Loin roast, stuffed chicken breasts, barbeque steaks, salads, wild rice, potatoes, steamed veggies and desserts.

### Registration

Attendance is limited to BCFO members and spouses/family members. You may join BCFO at the same time as you register for the Conference. Please refer to our MEMBERSHIP FEES for details.

The Conference fees are **\$120.00** per person.

### Registration Form and Liability Waiver (see newsletter insert)

Please complete both forms and mail to:

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

### Transportation & Accommodation

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

Camping is available at many spots including Birch Island Campground 250-674-3991, Clearwater/Wells Gray KOA 250-674-3909 or the North Thompson River Provincial Park Campground 250-674-2194.

### Clearwater Accommodations

Early reservations advisable as Clearwater's two largest hotels have nothing anything available unless cancellations occur about a month before the conference. Please see websites for accommodation information

<http://www.clearwaterbcchamber.com/Touristinformation.htm>

<http://www.wellsgraycountry.ca/visitorinformation/accomodations/index.html>

\*Note that some listings may be too distant.

# 19th Annual BCFO Conference

## Clearwater, BC

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### Conference Schedule

#### FRIDAY, June 26, 2009

**6:00 - 9:00 pm**     **Registration & Social Hour @ Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge**

**8:00 pm**             Trevor Goward "Introduction to Wells Gray"

#### SATURDAY, June 27, 2009

**5:30 am**             Breakfast & Field Trips from Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge, return by 11:45

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**   Catered Lunch @ Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge

**1:00 - 2:00 pm**     Technical Session @ Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge:

Speaker - Bill Harrower: "Northern Goshawks"

Speaker - Pete Davidson: "Update on BC Breeding Bird Atlas:  
Achievements And Challenges in Year Two of Five"

**2:00 - 2:30 pm**     **Break**

**2:30 - 3:30 pm**     Technical Session @ Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge:

Speaker - Walt Klenner: "Cavity Nesters in Managed Forests"

**3:45 - 5:30 pm**     Annual General Meeting @ Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge

**6:00 - 7:00 pm**     Social Hour @ Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge, (Cash Bar)

**7:00 - 10:00 pm**   Banquet @ Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge  
Banquet Speaker - Rick Howie "Birds of a Minescape: Avian Response  
to Reclamation Initiatives in the Highland Valley"

#### SUNDAY, June 28, 2009

**5:30 am**             Breakfast & Field Trips from Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge, return by 11:45

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**   Catered Lunch @ Clearwater Ski Hill Lodge and wrap up

## Field Trips In and Around Clearwater, BC

### Ida Dekelver's Property



It is about a 10 minute drive from the BCFO venue, elevation ~ 400 m (1300 ft), to Ida Dekelver's property, elevation ~ 670 m (2200 ft). Rubber boots may be desirable as the 32 hectares (80 acres) has considerable boggy, marshy land and a clearing, which has been unused for many years resulting in a shrubby grassland. A Cedar-Hemlock zone with willows and other wetland vegetation covering the banks of Candle Creek. Some drier forested areas occur as well. Ida has gathered local artifacts to display in an old museum on the property.

Possible bird sightings include: Sparrows - Lincoln's, Chipping, & Song; Hummingbirds - Rufous & Calliope; Woodpeckers - Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Downy, Hairy, Pileated, & Three-toed; Thrushes - Swainson's, & Varied; Flycatchers - Least & Dusky; Warblers - American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, MacGillivray's, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned & Wilson's; Kinglets - Golden-crowned & Ruby-crowned; Vireos - Cassin's, Red-eyed & Warbling; Jays - Gray & Steller's; along with Cedar Waxwings, Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Dark-eyed Juncos, Pine Siskins, Winter Wrens, Ruffed Grouse and maybe a Red-tailed Hawk, Wilson's Snipe or American Dipper. Brown Creepers have been spotted not far from Ida's property so chances are she has some as well.

### Dutch Lake

If you plan on camping and bringing a canoe, you could launch from a campground into a little gem of water, Dutch Lake, in the center of the community. With an island to canoe around, this small lake has a beautiful vista of Raft Mountain. Otherwise you can walk around much of the shoreline of the lake itself.



You can expect to see a Common Loon and likely a Common Merganser. Other possibilities are Spotted Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Mallard, and perhaps an Osprey or Bald Eagle will venture along. Of course there should be warblers, sparrows, etc. that frequent the vegetation along a lake shore.

If you want to stretch your legs, you have the option of walking the cross-country ski trails through mixed forest at the north end of the lake to seek Dark-eyed Juncos, chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers (Downy, Hairy, Pileated, Three-toed, Red-naped Sapsucker, & Northern Flicker), kinglets, vireos, jays, sparrows, and some warblers. Then perhaps loop back along the Clearwater River Trail.



### Blackpool Marshes: Ron & Tina Colborne's Property

About a 15 minute drive from the BCFO venue to the marsh just off the highway south of Clearwater with an elevation of about 400 m (1300 ft). The habitat includes extensive cattail marshes along Lost Creek bordered by rocky cliffs and open fields. The trail, actually an old gated road to walk, ascends into mixed forest and clearcuts to an elevation of 670 m (2200 ft).

Possible bird sightings near the marshland include Sora, Red-winged, Yellow-headed, and Brewer's Blackbird, Marsh Wren, warblers (Common Yellowthroat, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Wilson's & Nashville), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Violet-green Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Warbling Vireo, Varied Thrush, Steller's Jay, Western Tanager, Red-tailed Hawk, Western Meadowlark, Long-billed Curlew, and a variety of waterfowl. There are further possibilities in the mixed forest above the marsh.



## Trophy Meadow Hike

A 13 km (~ 1000 m elevation gain) drive from the Clearwater Valley Road near Spahats Falls winds through Cedar-Hemlock reaching the parking lot at approximately 1700 m (~ 40 minutes from the BCFO venue). Depending on the amount of time spent viewing birds, it might roughly be a 4 hour (6 km) return trip with fairly easy grades to an old cabin with about a 200 m elevation gain. (Those wanting to get higher in the alpine for a better chance to see ptarmigan may need to walk faster or skip some of the species lower down.)

After a ten minute hike through part of an old replanted clear-cut, a good trail through Engelmann Spruce - Subalpine Fir may reveal Hermit & Varied Thrush, Gray & Steller's Jays, Mountain & Boreal Chickadees, Red Crossbill, Pine & Evening Grosbeaks, Dusky & Spruce Grouse, Dark-eyed Juncos, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Winter Wrens. About an hour from the trailhead the Trophy Meadows appear, perhaps covered in Glacier Lilies at the end of June. The meadows may sport Chipping, Lincoln's, Savannah, Fox, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Above the meadows in the alpine, perhaps American Pipits, Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, and White-tailed Ptarmigan may be spotted.

**For further information, contact Wayne Diakow: [wdiakow@shaw.ca](mailto:wdiakow@shaw.ca)**

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### BCFO Annual General Meeting Extension Opportunities BC Breeding Bird Atlas Surveys

#### Contact:

Jude Grass

17375 27A Avenue, Surrey, BC V3S 0E9  
604-538-8774 / [judegrass@shaw.ca](mailto:judegrass@shaw.ca)

The BC Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinators have agreed to to facilitate a number of days of atlasing prior to and following our AGM in Clearwater. The dates are:

**25-26 June (2 days prior to the conference), and  
29 June - 1 July (3 days following the conference)**

It would be good to get a feel for the number of BCFO members planning to come who are comfortable doing point counts, (or want to learn how to do them) as we want to maximize this opportunity to complete the minimum # of point counts (15) in as many squares as possible. There will be other atlasing of squares at the same time, if you don't wish to do Point Counts.

At this stage, we can say that the Atlas will be able to reimburse receipted fuel costs associated with the atlas extensions. We will be car pooling the various teams in order to save \$\$.

If you are interested in participating on any or all of the dates please let Jude Grass know so that we can plan, in advance, areas that we can cover.

Please include your name, phone number, email and the dates you are available.

The atlasing will be a great chance to see some new areas and birds and I look forward to seeing you there.

## 2009 Brant Wildlife Festival Big Day Birding Competition

The 19th annual Brant Wildlife Festival Big Day Birding Competition had 46 participants on 12 teams. Birders came from as far away as Victoria, Vancouver, Duncan, Port Alberni, and the Comox Valley to participate. One birder even traveled from Francois Lake in northern British Columbia to bird with friends.

Probably due to the very late Spring this year, all teams reported lower than average totals, and some birds usually

reported, were missed. However, many good birds were tallied, and the overall total of 134 species is impressive, and is not the lowest total we have ever had. This year also marks the first time a "Green Team" got more species than even those that drove. We are happy to note, that this year there were three teams which entered the "Green Category". All of the "green teams were right up there with the other teams in terms of the number of species observed.

### Big Day Prizes Awarded

#### Team Spirit Award:

**Pteam Ptarmigan;** (Peter Roethermel, Gord Johnson, Sandy McRuer, Carmanagh Carson-Lynn, Kieran Johnson, Justin Lynch) for braving the wind and snow atop Mount Arrowsmith.

#### Best Story:

**Rhys Harrison's** tale about Canadian Racing Pigeons.

#### Big Miss:

**The Double-scoped Scaups;** (Neil Dawe, Renate Sutherland, Suzanne Beauchesne, John Cooper, Alan Burger) who missed House Sparrow.

#### Most species, "Open category"

**The Nanoose Naturalistas;** (Rhys Harrison, Joe Crichton, Tony Ransom, David Helem) with 91 species recorded.

#### Most species, "Green Category"

**The Numties** (Guy Monty, Bernard Schroeder, Peter Boon, Rich Mooney, Neil Hughes) with 93 species.

#### Bird of the Day; American Three-toed Woodpecker,

**Sandy McRuer from Pteam Ptarmigan**

found on Mt. Arrowsmith

### Species recorded during the Brant Festival Big Day Birding Competition;

|                        |                          |                                |                        |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Brant                  | Red-necked Grebe         | Glaucous-winged Gull           | Marsh Wren             |
| Canada Goose           | Western Grebe            | Glaucous Gull                  | American Dipper        |
| Mute Swan              | Brandt's Cormorant       | Pigeon Guillemot               | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Trumpeter Swan         | Double-crested Cormorant | Marbled Murrelet               | Ruby-crowned Kinglet   |
| Wood Duck              | Pelagic Cormorant        | Band-tailed Pigeon             | Townsend's Solitaire   |
| Gadwall                | Great Blue Heron         | Rock Pigeon                    | Hermit Thrush          |
| Eurasian Wigeon        | Turkey Vulture           | Mourning Dove                  | American robin         |
| American Wigeon        | Osprey                   | Western Screech-Owl            | Varied Thrush          |
| Mallard                | Bald Eagle               | Great Horned Owl               | European Starling      |
| Northern Shoveler      | Golden Eagle             | Northern Pygmy-Owl             | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| Northern Pintail       | Northern Harrier         | Barred Owl                     | Yellow-rumped Warbler  |
| Green-winged Teal      | Sharp-shinned Hawk       | Short-eared Owl                | Common Yellowthroat    |
| Ring-necked Duck       | Cooper's Hawk            | Northern Saw-whet Owl          | Spotted Towhee         |
| Greater Scaup          | Northern Goshawk         | Anna's Hummingbird             | Chipping Sparrow       |
| Lesser Scaup           | Red-tailed Hawk          | Rufous Hummingbird             | Savannah Sparrow       |
| Harlequin Duck         | American Kestrel         | Belted Kingfisher              | Fox Sparrow            |
| Surf Scoter            | Merlin                   | Red-breasted Sapsucker         | Song Sparrow           |
| White-winged Scoter    | Peregrine Falcon         | Downy Woodpecker               | White-crowned Sparrow  |
| Black Scoter           | Virginia Rail            | Hairy Woodpecker               | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Long-tailed Duck       | American Coot            | American Three-toed Woodpecker | Dark-eyed Junco        |
| Bufflehead             | Black-bellied Plover     | Northern Flicker               | Red-winged Blackbird   |
| Common Goldeneye       | Killdeer                 | Pileated Woodpecker            | Brewer's Blackbird     |
| Barrow's Goldeneye     | Black Oystercatcher      | Gray Jay                       | Pine Grosbeak          |
| Hooded Merganser       | Greater Yellowlegs       | Steller's Jay                  | Purple Finch           |
| Red-breasted Merganser | Spotted Sandpiper        | Northwestern Crow              | House Finch            |
| Common Merganser       | Black Turnstone          | Common Raven                   | Red Crossbill          |
| Ring-necked Pheasant   | Dunlin                   | Tree Swallow                   | Pine Siskin            |
| Ruffed Grouse          | Wilson's Snipe           | Violet-green Swallow           | American Goldfinch     |
| Blue Grouse            | Bonaparte's Gull         | Chestnut-backed Chickadee      | Evening Grosbeak       |
| California Quail       | Mew Gull                 | Bushtit                        | House Sparrow          |
| Red-throated Loon      | California Gull          | Red-breasted Nuthatch          |                        |
| Pacific Loon           | Herring Gull             | Brown Creeper                  |                        |
| Common Loon            | Thayer's Gull            | Bewick's Wren                  |                        |
| Pied-billed Grebe      | Iceland Gull             | Winter Wren                    |                        |
| Horned Grebe           | Western Gull             |                                |                        |





**Pacific Black Brant**  
*Branta bernicla nigricans*  
 Photo by Guy Monty

The 2010 Brant Wildlife  
 Festival  
**Big Day Birding  
 Competition**  
 will be held on  
 Saturday, April 10,  
 2010

## Breeding Bird Atlas takes flight

*by Rob Butler and Christopher Di Corrado*

BC Field Ornithologists was an early partner in guiding the launch of the Breeding Bird Atlas project. Your support helped over 800 contributors provide the project with more than 50,000 records from around the province. Thanks to all of you who contributed so much time and effort to do what you enjoy most – birding with a purpose.

You can go on line at [www.birdatlas.bc.ca](http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca) to see the records displayed on a map of the province. Each species is displayed on a map showing the possible, probable and confirmed sightings as well as where the species was not seen. If you are registered, you will be receiving a newsletter soon. We are applying for some support to defray expenses for birders willing to visit remote squares in the province this year.

With spring already upon us, many birders are eagerly anticipating entering sightings in 2009. There are many unexplored places to go birding.

For those of you that are new to the atlas or have not registered yet, you can register on line at [www.birdatlas.bc.ca](http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca) and then begin to enter data. All the instructions are on the web site or you can call a regional coordinator to help you get started. You can also call the Atlas office on the toll free number and we can guide you through the process. Call 1-888-592-8527. We extend our appreciation to all of BCFO members who contributed data in 2008 and to the BCFO Board of Directors who eagerly and financially supported the project from the outset. Special thanks go to the regional coordinators who enlisted birders, held workshops, directed the effort, and encouraged so many people to join the fun.

*Rob Butler is the Atlas Coordinator and  
 Christopher Di Corrado is the Atlas Assistant  
 Coordinator. BCFO is one of the partners in the  
 BC Breeding Bird Atlas Project.*

[www.birdatlas.bc.ca](http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca)

## NMT - No Motorized Transport Big Year



The NMT (No Motorized Transport) Big Year is a great way to do a big year, get more exercise, and most importantly, it's a way to reduce your carbon footprint.

### The rules are few and simple:

1. No cars, buses, motorbikes, motorboats or airplanes. Your own two feet, a bike, a rowboat, canoe or kayak, are all ok.
2. You can count any bird you see while you walk, row or ride from your home base.
3. The second you use motorized transport you are done counting until you have re-established yourself back at your home base, and on foot.

So, when you leave home base, you can count every species you see along the way, but if you took a bus back, you couldn't count anything from the time you got on the bus, to when you got back to your home base.

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## Bird-Listers' Corner-- 2007 Lists

First of all, we would like to offer our sincere apologies for the extreme delay in the publication of this column. It was submitted too late for the March issue last year, but should have appeared in the June issue. When it was submitted, it somehow failed to reach the Newsletter Editor, and not realizing this, I was expecting it to appear in the September issue, and then the December issue.... at any rate, here is the long-delayed report, and we hope it will still be of interest despite the lateness. The Report Form for the listing totals as of December 31, 2008 is included with this issue, and we expect to publish the 2008 report in either the June or September issue of BC BIRDING.

A total of 49 BCFO members, almost the same as in 2006, sent in one or more list totals for 2007. We got reports from several members who have not reported previously (at least, not in recent years), including Janice Arndt, Lee Harding, Bill Heybroek, and Nigel Mathews. However, we failed to get reports from some of our regular contributors. We continue to publish one-year-old listing totals (marked \* in the table below), and even two-year-old totals (marked \*\*), but we have dropped any totals older than two years. This means that we have dropped all totals from 6 people who were in last year's report. And unless we receive reports this year from another 8 or so birders who failed to report for the last two years in a row, we will have to omit their totals in the next summary. So please remember to send in your totals; we would really like this column to be as comprehensive and inclusive as possible!

We have included B.C. lists for 87 birders who exceeded the threshold of 250 species in B.C. As in the past, for the sake of completeness, we include totals from some birders who are not BCFO members in this (and only this) category. In addition to lists submitted to BCFO, we have included B.C. totals published in the "ABA List Report" and "Canadian Listers' Corner".

Among those birders with high B.C. lists, few were able to add more than 4 or 5 species, and Mike Toochn's significant lead does not seem to be in jeopardy. However, three birders managed to increase their B.C. lists by 10 species or more: Thor Manson by 24 species (over two years), and Len Jellicoe and Kevin Neill by 14 species each.

In the all-important category of world lists, a new leader has emerged: Nigel Mathews of Pemberton, although he is only slightly ahead of Jo Ann and Hue MacKenzie and Keith Riding. (All of them have seen more than 4300 species!). Nigel informed us that he doesn't keep any other area lists; no wonder, it must take time enough to keep

track of his world list! We note that 10 of our members reported increases of 100 or more species in their world lists since the previous report. The biggest gains were posted by Barbara Begg (522 species), Eric Tull (402), Mike Toochin (392), Sharon Toochin (372), Ken Taylor (265), Roger Foxall (241), and Val George (240). Congratulations to all!

Roger Foxall extended his lead over Mike Toochin in the ABA Area ranking to 7 species (768 vs. 761); we now have 7 members with over 700 species, with Hue MacKenzie only a smidgen behind at 698. The biggest gains here were tallied by Chris Charlesworth (74 species), Sandra Eadie (48 species), John Voos (36 species), Thor Manson (34 species), and Ken Klimko (25 species). It should be noted that some of these gains were made over more than one year: three years for Chris, and two for Thor and Ken.

The Canada listing totals, like the B.C. totals, were fairly static; the biggest gainers were Mike Mulligan of Calgary, with 22 species, and Peter Blokker and Ken Klimko, with 11 species each. In the adjacent states and provinces, there were few notable changes, with Eric Tull continuing to lead the pack in Alberta, Dick Cannings in the Yukon, and yours truly in Washington State.

Among the local and regional lists, the most popular ones continue to be the Okanagan Valley (31 lists submitted), the Vancouver area (22 lists), and Vancouver Island (16 lists). The biggest gainers in these lists were Eva Durance, with an increase of 24 species in the Okanagan (over three years), and Brian Stech, who added 18 species to his Vancouver area list.

An explanation is in order for the "North Pacific Pelagic Waters" category. This area was originally introduced by previous Listing Editor Ken Morgan, to include only waterbirds seen more than 3 km off B.C., Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. However, it makes more sense to include all bird species seen offshore, hence the jump of 32 species for Ken Morgan and 15 for Mike Toochin since last year.

I would like to welcome Bill Heybroek of Courtenay, who submitted only one list— an ABA Area list of 379 which did not quite meet the threshold of 400 species. Bill, good luck in passing that threshold next year, and you are invited to submit lists for smaller areas as well. I would like to also recognize Marika (Marianne) Ainley, who sent in her listing totals for the last time in 2007. She passed away in Victoria last September. Marika served for many years as a Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Northern B.C. in Prince George, and was noted as an expert on the history of ornithology, and on women's contributions to ornithology. She will be greatly missed by everyone that knew her.

I note that several members submitted fewer lists this time than last time, so some of their lists appear with asterisks even though they sent in a form for 2007. People that send in lists by E-mail seem prone to forgetting one or more lists, so please watch out for this in future! Also, we encourage more people to send in lists for the National and Provincial Parks listed on the form— these areas seem to be under-birded by many of us.

We get occasional requests to add more areas outside B.C. to the listing categories. However, our policy is to accept mainly list totals for areas within or immediately adjacent to B.C., and there are other outlets for listing totals from other areas. For members of the American Birding Association, there is the annual ABA BIG DAY AND LIST REPORT (<http://americanbirding.org/bigday>). They will accept lists for all Canadian provinces and U.S. states, as well as many regions of the world outside North America. Also, for \$6.00 per year, you can subscribe to and send lists to the CANADIAN LISTERS' CORNER, edited by Larry Neily of Ottawa (<http://ca.geocities.com/neilyworld3@rogers.com/listerscorner/listers-corner.htm> ). This report publishes lists for all Canadian provinces and territories, for any local areas where you have seen 150 or more species, and also for "Big Days" and winter lists. Finally, for Washington State, Ken Knittle hosts a website called WASHINGTON BIRDER (<http://www.wabirder.com>) which publishes life and year lists for individual counties and some other areas within Washington, plus lots of other useful birding information. We encourage you to support the ABA, Larry Neily, and Ken Knittle; BCFO does not have the space to publish all these kinds of lists from outside BC.

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

Wayne C. Weber  
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## BIRD LISTING STATISTICS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2007

### BRITISH COLUMBIA (500 species)

|                    |     |       |     |                    |     |       |     |
|--------------------|-----|-------|-----|--------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Mike Toochin       | 444 | 88.8% | +1  | Peter Blokker      | 345 | 69.0% | +1  |
| Hue MacKenzie      | 432 | 86.4% | 0   | Rand Rudland*      | 345 | 69.0% | 0   |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie   | 431 | 86.2% | 0   | David Mark         | 343 | 68.6% | +2  |
| Dale Jensen*       | 426 | 85.2% | 0   | Eric Tull          | 342 | 68.4% | +1  |
| Wayne Weber        | 420 | 84.0% | +2  | Marika Ainley      | 338 | 67.6% | +6  |
| David Stirling     | 419 | 83.8% | 0   | Carolynn Schmor    | 331 | 66.2% | +7  |
| Tony Greenfield    | 414 | 82.8% | 0   | Eva Durance        | 329 | 65.8% | --- |
| Dan Tyson**        | 412 | 82.4% | 0   | Ken Ward**         | 329 | 65.8% | 0   |
| John Luce**        | 408 | 81.6% | 0   | Roy Arlt**         | 327 | 65.4% | 0   |
| Roger Foxall       | 407 | 81.4% | +4  | John Sprague       | 326 | 65.2% | 0   |
| David Allinson     | 405 | 81.0% | +1  | Alex Gray**        | 325 | 65.0% | 0   |
| Lloyd Esralson     | 405 | 81.0% | +2  | Suzanne Benoit**   | 321 | 64.2% | 0   |
| Sharon Toochin     | 405 | 81.0% | +3  | Ken Taylor         | 320 | 64.0% | +4  |
| Brian Self**       | 402 | 80.4% | 0   | Kenneth Burden     | 320 | 64.0% | +3  |
| Bryan Gates        | 398 | 79.6% | +4  | Judy Latta         | 318 | 63.6% | 0   |
| Dick Cannings      | 398 | 79.6% | +2  | Laurie Rockwell    | 317 | 63.4% | +1  |
| Keith Riding       | 396 | 79.2% | +5  | Jerry Pilny        | 316 | 63.2% | --- |
| Russ Tkachuk       | 395 | 79.0% | 0   | Burke Korol**      | 314 | 62.8% | 0   |
| Hank Vanderpol*    | 394 | 78.8% | 0   | Kevin Neill        | 311 | 62.2% | +14 |
| Rick Tyson**       | 394 | 78.8% | 0   | Paul Lehman**      | 310 | 62.0% | 0   |
| Murray Brown       | 390 | 78.0% | +6  | Howard Braun       | 309 | 61.8% | +4  |
| Val George         | 390 | 78.0% | +3  | Gwen Nicol         | 307 | 61.4% | +3  |
| Brian Stech        | 389 | 77.8% | +8  | Dorothy Copp       | 304 | 60.8% | +3  |
| Barbara Begg       | 387 | 77.4% | +1  | Joan McDonald      | 303 | 60.6% | +3  |
| Mike McGrenere**   | 387 | 77.4% | 0   | Blake Maybank**    | 301 | 60.2% | 0   |
| Ken Klimko         | 385 | 77.0% | +5  | Mabel Crocker      | 300 | 60.0% | +3  |
| Guy Monty*         | 384 | 76.8% | 0   | Malcolm McDonald** | 300 | 60.0% | 0   |
| Thor Manson        | 384 | 76.8% | +24 | Ted Goshulak       | 300 | 60.0% | +1  |
| Larry Cowan        | 379 | 75.8% | +3  | Brooke Clibbon     | 299 | 59.8% | +9  |
| Stefan Zaremba     | 379 | 75.8% | 0   | Bill Wilson (AB)** | 289 | 57.8% | 0   |
| Gary Davidson*     | 372 | 74.4% | 0   | Bill Crins**       | 287 | 57.4% | 0   |
| Len Jellicoe       | 370 | 74.0% | +14 | Theo Hoffman**     | 286 | 57.2% | 0   |
| Chris Charlesworth | 369 | 73.8% | +9  | Ken Knittle        | 278 | 55.6% | --- |
| John Vooy          | 369 | 73.8% | +5  | Laure Neish        | 278 | 55.6% | +2  |
| Don Wilson*        | 364 | 72.8% | 0   | Janice Arndt       | 277 | 55.4% | --- |
| Ron Walker*        | 362 | 72.4% | 0   | Wayne Neily        | 277 | 55.4% | --- |
| Ken Morgan         | 361 | 72.2% | +1  | Gordon Tufts       | 272 | 54.4% | --- |
| Bruce Whittington  | 360 | 72.0% | +2  | Larry Neily        | 264 | 52.8% | --- |
| Brent Schmor       | 350 | 70.0% | +7  | Paul Mackenzie     | 264 | 52.8% | --- |
| Laird Law          | 350 | 70.0% | +3  | Bill Wilson (ON)*  | 263 | 52.6% | 0   |
| Martin McNicholl*  | 350 | 70.0% | 0   | Mike Mulligan      | 261 | 52.2% | +4  |
| Gwynneth Wilson    | 348 | 69.6% | +2  | Fred Peters        | 257 | 51.4% | --- |
| Andy Buhler**      | 347 | 69.4% | 0   | Deuane Hoffman     | 250 | 50.0% | --- |
| Marilyn Buhler**   | 347 | 69.4% | 0   |                    |     |       |     |

**WORLD ( 9838 species )**

|                  |      |       |      |
|------------------|------|-------|------|
| Nigel Mathews    | 4454 | 45.3% | ---  |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 4417 | 44.9% | +25  |
| Keith Riding     | 4359 | 44.3% | +214 |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 4351 | 44.2% | +19  |
| Mike Toochin     | 4102 | 41.7% | +392 |
| David Stirling   | 3937 | 40.0% | +130 |
| Roger Foxall     | 3737 | 38.0% | +241 |
| Sharon Toochin   | 3274 | 33.3% | +372 |
| Stefan Zaremba   | 3232 | 32.9% | +62  |
| Ken Taylor       | 3171 | 32.2% | +265 |
| Mike Mulligan    | 3144 | 32.0% | +2   |
| Ron Walker*      | 3100 | 31.5% | 0    |
| Barbara Begg     | 2996 | 30.5% | +522 |
| Dick Cannings    | 2763 | 28.1% | +89  |
| Eric Tull        | 2550 | 25.9% | +402 |
| Laird Law        | 2458 | 25.0% | +2   |
| Dale Jensen*     | 2390 | 24.3% | 0    |
| Hank Vanderpol*  | 2026 | 20.6% | 0    |
| Brian Self**     | 2019 | 20.5% | 0    |
| Val George       | 1720 | 17.5% | +240 |
| Don Wilson*      | 1631 | 16.6% | 0    |
| Ken Morgan       | 1517 | 15.4% | +51  |
| Sandra Eadie     | 1491 | 15.2% | +144 |
| Lee Harding      | 1427 | 14.5% | ---  |
| Tony Greenfield* | 1425 | 14.5% | 0    |
| Rand Rudland*    | 1366 | 13.9% | 0    |
| Bryan Gates**    | 1346 | 13.7% | 0    |
| Gary Davidson*   | 1285 | 13.1% | 0    |
| Dorothy Copp     | 1057 | 10.7% | ---  |
| Brian Stech      | 1045 | 10.6% | ---  |

**ABA AREA ( 939 species )**

|                  |     |       |     |
|------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Roger Foxall     | 768 | 81.8% | +6  |
| Mike Toochin     | 761 | 81.0% | 0   |
| Mike Mulligan    | 752 | 80.1% | 0   |
| Stefan Zaremba   | 740 | 78.8% | +2  |
| Hank Vanderpol*  | 738 | 78.6% | 0   |
| Russ Tkachuk     | 729 | 77.6% | +1  |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 702 | 74.8% | 0   |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 698 | 74.3% | 0   |
| Dale Jensen*     | 679 | 72.3% | 0   |
| Dorothy Copp     | 676 | 72.0% | +17 |
| Wayne Weber      | 672 | 71.6% | +2  |
| David Stirling   | 671 | 71.5% | +1  |
| Eric Tull        | 658 | 70.1% | +2  |

**ABA AREA (cont'd)**

|                    |     |       |     |
|--------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| John Luce**        | 657 | 70.0% | 0   |
| Sharon Toochin     | 655 | 69.8% | +1  |
| Brian Stech        | 647 | 68.9% | +13 |
| Brian Self**       | 635 | 67.6% | 0   |
| Chris Charlesworth | 624 | 66.5% | +74 |
| David Allinson     | 622 | 66.2% | +6  |
| John Vooy          | 621 | 66.1% | +36 |
| Gary Davidson*     | 616 | 65.6% | 0   |
| John Sprague       | 614 | 65.4% | 0   |
| Keith Riding       | 614 | 65.4% | +1  |
| Gwynneth Wilson    | 612 | 65.2% | +12 |
| Tony Greenfield    | 604 | 64.3% | 0   |
| Don Wilson*        | 602 | 64.1% | 0   |
| Ken Klimko         | 602 | 64.1% | +25 |
| Barbara Begg       | 599 | 63.8% | +1  |
| Dan Tyson**        | 596 | 63.5% | 0   |
| Marika Ainley      | 593 | 63.2% | +2  |
| Andy Buhler**      | 592 | 63.0% | 0   |
| Lloyd Esralson     | 592 | 63.0% | +1  |
| Marilyn Buhler**   | 592 | 63.0% | 0   |
| Sandra Eadie       | 584 | 62.2% | +48 |
| Mabel Crocker      | 580 | 61.8% | 0   |
| Dick Cannings      | 573 | 61.0% | +2  |
| Thor Manson        | 570 | 60.7% | +34 |
| Ken Morgan         | 566 | 60.3% | +2  |
| Bryan Gates        | 565 | 60.2% | +2  |
| Kevin Neill        | 554 | 59.0% | +11 |
| Rand Rudland*      | 531 | 56.5% | 0   |
| Brent Schmor*      | 523 | 55.7% | 0   |
| Martin McNicholl*  | 522 | 55.6% | 0   |
| Gwen Nicol         | 516 | 55.0% | +1  |
| Howard Braun       | 510 | 54.3% | +6  |
| Mike McGrenere**   | 509 | 54.2% | 0   |
| Carolynn Schmor*   | 503 | 53.6% | 0   |
| Murray Brown       | 488 | 52.0% | +10 |
| Laure Neish        | 486 | 51.8% | +1  |
| Ken Taylor         | 468 | 49.8% | +3  |
| Larry Cowan*       | 466 | 49.6% | 0   |
| Laird Law          | 464 | 49.4% | +3  |
| Eva Durance        | 457 | 48.7% | --- |
| Ted Goshulak       | 449 | 47.8% | +1  |
| Peter Blokker      | 411 | 43.8% | +9  |



**CANADA ( 643 species )**

|                   |     |       |     |
|-------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Roger Foxall      | 525 | 81.6% | +2  |
| Hue MacKenzie     | 518 | 80.6% | +1  |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie  | 515 | 80.1% | 0   |
| John Luce**       | 493 | 76.7% | 0   |
| Mike Toochin      | 488 | 75.9% | +1  |
| David Stirling    | 486 | 75.6% | 0   |
| Eric Tull         | 484 | 75.3% | +1  |
| Brian Self**      | 480 | 74.7% | 0   |
| Marika Ainley     | 476 | 74.0% | +3  |
| Russ Tkachuk      | 473 | 73.6% | 0   |
| Dale Jensen*      | 472 | 73.4% | 0   |
| Wayne Weber       | 465 | 72.3% | +1  |
| Dan Tyson**       | 462 | 71.9% | 0   |
| Dick Cannings     | 457 | 71.1% | +2  |
| Sharon Toochin    | 453 | 70.5% | +3  |
| Stefan Zarembo    | 452 | 70.3% | 0   |
| Barbara Begg      | 449 | 69.8% | +1  |
| Keith Riding      | 445 | 69.2% | +4  |
| David Allinson    | 444 | 69.1% | +1  |
| Hank Vanderpol*   | 444 | 69.1% | 0   |
| Martin McNicholl* | 439 | 68.3% | 0   |
| Mike McGrenere**  | 439 | 68.3% | 0   |
| Larry Cowan*      | 429 | 66.7% | 0   |
| Lloyd Esralson    | 429 | 66.7% | 0   |
| Mike Mulligan     | 429 | 66.7% | +22 |
| Ken Morgan        | 427 | 66.4% | +1  |
| Len Jellicoe      | 426 | 66.3% | +8  |
| Tony Greenfield   | 426 | 66.3% | 0   |
| Bryan Gates       | 417 | 64.9% | +3  |
| John Vooy         | 414 | 64.4% | +6  |
| Murray Brown      | 414 | 64.4% | +4  |
| Eva Durance       | 413 | 64.2% | --- |
| Gwynneth Wilson*  | 410 | 63.8% | 0   |
| Kevin Neill       | 410 | 63.8% | +7  |
| Thor Manson       | 409 | 63.6% | --- |
| Peter Blokker     | 408 | 63.5% | +11 |
| Sandra Eadie      | 408 | 63.5% | +6  |
| John Sprague      | 406 | 63.1% | 0   |
| Rick Tyson**      | 404 | 62.8% | 0   |
| Don Wilson*       | 402 | 62.5% | 0   |
| Gary Davidson*    | 400 | 62.2% | 0   |
| Brian Stech       | 396 | 61.6% | +7  |
| Rand Rudland*     | 394 | 61.3% | 0   |
| Ken Klimko        | 391 | 60.8% | +11 |
| Andy Buhler**     | 382 | 59.4% | 0   |
| Marilyn Buhler**  | 382 | 59.4% | 0   |
| Ron Walker*       | 380 | 59.1% | 0   |
| Janice Arndt      | 376 | 58.5% | --- |

**CANADA (cont'd)**

|                  |     |       |    |
|------------------|-----|-------|----|
| Laird Law        | 376 | 58.5% | +3 |
| Ted Goshulak     | 366 | 56.9% | +1 |
| Chris            |     |       |    |
| Charlesworth**   | 365 | 56.8% | 0  |
| Brent Schmor*    | 362 | 56.3% | 0  |
| Mabel Crocker    | 358 | 55.7% | +1 |
| Gwen Nicol       | 357 | 55.5% | +3 |
| Carolynn Schmor* | 345 | 53.7% | 0  |
| Laure Neish*     | 323 | 50.2% | 0  |

**WASHINGTON STATE ( 484 species )**

|                  |     |       |    |
|------------------|-----|-------|----|
| Wayne Weber      | 387 | 80.0% | +3 |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 349 | 72.1% | 0  |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 343 | 70.9% | 0  |
| Mike Toochin     | 313 | 64.7% | 0  |
| Guy Monty*       | 285 | 58.9% | 0  |
| Brian Self**     | 272 | 56.2% | 0  |
| Hank Vanderpol*  | 272 | 56.2% | 0  |
| Dick Cannings*   | 267 | 55.2% | 0  |
| Roger Foxall     | 257 | 53.1% | +5 |
| David Stirling   | 254 | 52.5% | 0  |
| John Vooy        | 254 | 52.5% | 0  |
| Keith Riding     | 249 | 51.4% | +5 |
| Lloyd Esralson   | 235 | 48.6% | 0  |
| Dale Jensen*     | 231 | 47.7% | 0  |
| Brent Schmor*    | 223 | 46.1% | 0  |
| Carolynn Schmor* | 219 | 45.2% | 0  |
| Dorothy Copp     | 209 | 43.2% | +1 |
| Brian Stech      | 202 | 41.7% | +2 |
| Eric Tull*       | 201 | 41.5% | 0  |

**ALBERTA ( 406 species )**

|                   |     |       |    |
|-------------------|-----|-------|----|
| Eric Tull         | 356 | 87.7% | +2 |
| Mike Mulligan     | 340 | 83.7% | +3 |
| Hank Vanderpol*   | 288 | 70.9% | 0  |
| David Stirling    | 285 | 70.2% | +1 |
| Hue MacKenzie     | 244 | 60.1% | 0  |
| Martin McNicholl* | 241 | 59.4% | 0  |
| Roger Foxall      | 241 | 59.4% | 0  |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie  | 240 | 59.1% | 0  |
| Wayne Weber       | 235 | 57.9% | 0  |
| Bryan Gates*      | 222 | 54.7% | 0  |
| Laure Neish       | 222 | 54.7% | 0  |
| Gary Davidson*    | 215 | 53.0% | 0  |
| Dick Cannings     | 214 | 52.7% | 0  |

**YUKON TERRITORY (296 species)**

|                 |     |       |    |
|-----------------|-----|-------|----|
| Dick Cannings   | 172 | 58.1% | 0  |
| Eric Tull       | 155 | 52.4% | 0  |
| Tony Greenfield | 153 | 51.7% | +4 |
| David Stirling  | 149 | 50.3% | 0  |
| Roger Foxall    | 139 | 47.0% | 0  |
| John Sprague    | 104 | 35.1% | 0  |
| Brian Self*     | 102 | 34.5% | 0  |

**VANCOUVER ISLAND ( 387 species)**

|                   |     |       |    |
|-------------------|-----|-------|----|
| David Allinson    | 345 | 89.1% | +1 |
| David Stirling    | 341 | 88.1% | +1 |
| Barbara Begg      | 333 | 86.0% | +2 |
| Bryan Gates       | 330 | 85.3% | +4 |
| Hank Vanderpol*   | 322 | 83.2% | 0  |
| Mike McGrenere**  | 319 | 82.4% | 0  |
| Bruce Whittington | 312 | 80.6% | 0  |
| Guy Monty*        | 311 | 80.4% | 0  |
| Mike Toochin      | 279 | 72.1% | +3 |
| Ken Morgan        | 270 | 69.8% | +3 |
| Wayne Weber       | 254 | 65.6% | 0  |
| Hue MacKenzie     | 252 | 65.1% | +1 |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie  | 250 | 64.6% | 0  |
| Roger Foxall      | 246 | 63.6% | +4 |
| Dan Tyson**       | 238 | 61.5% | 0  |
| Brent Schmor*     | 234 | 60.5% | 0  |

**VICTORIA AREA ( 362 species )**

|                   |     |       |    |
|-------------------|-----|-------|----|
| David Allinson    | 330 | 91.2% | +1 |
| David Stirling    | 325 | 89.8% | +1 |
| Barbara Begg      | 318 | 87.8% | +1 |
| Bryan Gates*      | 315 | 87.0% | +3 |
| Hank Vanderpol*   | 313 | 86.5% | 0  |
| Mike McGrenere**  | 305 | 84.3% | 0  |
| Bruce Whittington | 301 | 83.1% | 0  |
| Mike Toochin      | 246 | 68.0% | +1 |
| Guy Monty*        | 238 | 65.7% | 0  |
| Wayne Weber       | 235 | 64.9% | 0  |
| Brent Schmor*     | 230 | 63.5% | 0  |

**CLOVER POINT & DALLAS ROAD,  
VICTORIA**

|                |     |  |   |
|----------------|-----|--|---|
| David Stirling | 199 |  | 0 |
|----------------|-----|--|---|

**ROCKY POINT AREA  
( 299 species )**

|                |     |       |   |
|----------------|-----|-------|---|
| David Allinson | 268 | 89.6% | 0 |
|----------------|-----|-------|---|

**NANAIMO AREA  
( 292 species )**

|            |     |       |   |
|------------|-----|-------|---|
| Guy Monty* | 261 | 89.4% | 0 |
|------------|-----|-------|---|

**PARKSVILLE / QUALICUM  
(292 species)**

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

**SALT SPRING ISLAND  
( 238 species)**

|              |     |       |    |
|--------------|-----|-------|----|
| John Sprague | 154 | 64.7% | +1 |
|--------------|-----|-------|----|

**SATURNA ISLAND  
(175 species )**

|                 |     |       |   |
|-----------------|-----|-------|---|
| Tony Greenfield | 102 | 58.3% | 0 |
|-----------------|-----|-------|---|

**CAMPBELL RIVER  
( 266 species )**

|            |     |       |   |
|------------|-----|-------|---|
| Guy Monty* | 170 | 63.9% | 0 |
|------------|-----|-------|---|

**QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS  
(250 species)**

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

## VANCOUVER AREA

(397 species)

|                  |     |       |     |
|------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Mike Toochin     | 359 | 90.4% | +3  |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 347 | 87.4% | 0   |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 342 | 86.1% | 0   |
| Wayne Weber      | 336 | 84.6% | +2  |
| Brian Self**     | 332 | 83.6% | 0   |
| Dan Tyson**      | 331 | 83.4% | 0   |
| John Luce**      | 330 | 83.1% | 0   |
| Keith Riding     | 330 | 83.1% | +6  |
| Lloyd Esralson   | 326 | 82.1% | +3  |
| Rick Tyson**     | 316 | 79.6% | 0   |
| Ken Klimko       | 313 | 78.8% | +3  |
| Stefan Zaremba   | 313 | 78.8% | +1  |
| Roger Foxall     | 306 | 77.1% | +5  |
| Larry Cowan*     | 305 | 76.8% | 0   |
| Dick Cannings    | 285 | 71.8% | 0   |
| John Vooy        | 282 | 71.0% | +6  |
| Brian Stech      | 280 | 70.5% | +18 |
| David Allinson   | 279 | 70.3% | 0   |
| David Stirling   | 242 | 61.0% | 0   |
| Brent Schmor*    | 241 | 60.7% | 0   |
| Bryan Gates      | 234 | 58.9% | 0   |
| Don Wilson*      | 234 | 58.9% | 0   |

## WESTHAM & REIFEL ISLANDS

(260 species)

|                |     |       |     |
|----------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Wayne Weber    | 215 | 82.7% | +2  |
| Dan Tyson**    | 193 | 74.2% | 0   |
| Lloyd Esralson | 186 | 71.5% | +1  |
| Rick Tyson**   | 171 | 65.8% | 0   |
| Keith Riding   | 169 | 65.0% | --- |

## BLACKIE SPIT, SURREY

|                  |     |  |   |
|------------------|-----|--|---|
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 189 |  | 0 |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 186 |  | 0 |
| Wayne Weber      | 176 |  | 0 |
| Dan Tyson**      | 156 |  | 0 |

## COLONY FARM REGIONAL PARK

(187 species)

|              |     |       |   |
|--------------|-----|-------|---|
| Larry Cowan* | 154 | 82.4% | 0 |
|--------------|-----|-------|---|

## LANGLEY TOWNSHIP AND CITY

|              |     |  |     |
|--------------|-----|--|-----|
| Ted Goshulak | 161 |  | --- |
|--------------|-----|--|-----|

## TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, LANGLEY

|              |     |  |     |
|--------------|-----|--|-----|
| Ted Goshulak | 146 |  | --- |
|--------------|-----|--|-----|

## SUNSHINE COAST

(301 species)

|                 |     |       |    |
|-----------------|-----|-------|----|
| Tony Greenfield | 268 | 89.0% | 0  |
| Russ Tkachuk    | 246 | 81.7% | +2 |
| Rand Rudland*   | 221 | 73.4% | 0  |
| Dan Tyson**     | 165 | 54.8% | 0  |

## KAMLOOPS AREA

(306 species)

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

## OKANAGAN VALLEY

(333 species)

|                    |     |       |     |
|--------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Chris Charlesworth | 299 | 89.8% | +4  |
| Gwynneth Wilson    | 289 | 86.8% | 0   |
| Dick Cannings*     | 287 | 86.2% | 0   |
| Judy Latta         | 287 | 86.2% | +3  |
| Don Wilson*        | 286 | 85.9% | 0   |
| Eva Durance        | 281 | 84.4% | +24 |
| Laurie Rockwell    | 280 | 84.1% | +3  |
| Howard Braun       | 271 | 81.4% | +5  |
| Peter Blokker      | 270 | 81.1% | +1  |
| Laure Neish        | 264 | 79.3% | +3  |
| Mike Toochin       | 262 | 78.7% | 0   |
| Hank Vanderpol**   | 259 | 77.8% | 0   |
| Wayne Weber        | 257 | 77.2% | 0   |
| Gary Davidson*     | 254 | 76.3% | 0   |
| Dan Tyson**        | 246 | 73.9% | 0   |
| David Stirling     | 242 | 72.7% | 0   |
| Hue MacKenzie      | 236 | 70.9% | 0   |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie   | 234 | 70.3% | 0   |
| John Luce**        | 231 | 69.4% | 0   |
| Tony Greenfield*   | 230 | 69.1% | 0   |
| Ken Klimko         | 228 | 68.5% | 0   |

## OKANAGAN VALLEY (cont'd)

|                |     |       |    |
|----------------|-----|-------|----|
| Laird Law      | 217 | 65.2% | 0  |
| John Vooyo     | 211 | 63.4% | 0  |
| Keith Riding** | 208 | 62.5% | 0  |
| Lloyd Esralson | 208 | 62.5% | 0  |
| Bryan Gates    | 193 | 58.0% | +1 |
| Rick Tyson**   | 188 | 56.5% | 0  |
| Brent Schmor** | 185 | 55.6% | 0  |
| Gwen Nicol     | 181 | 54.4% | +2 |
| Brian Stech    | 171 | 51.4% | 0  |
| Larry Cowan*   | 165 | 49.5% | 0  |

## NORTH OKANAGAN

(278 species)

|               |     |       |   |
|---------------|-----|-------|---|
| Peter Blokker | 248 | 89.2% | 0 |
|---------------|-----|-------|---|

## WEST KOOTENAY

(313 species)

|                  |     |       |     |
|------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Gary Davidson*   | 270 | 86.3% | 0   |
| Gwen Nicol       | 237 | 75.7% | +4  |
| Janice Arndt     | 226 | 72.2% | --- |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 180 | 57.5% | 0   |
| Wayne Weber      | 177 | 56.5% | 0   |
| Hue MacKenzie    | 168 | 53.7% | 0   |

## CRESTON VALLEY

(283 species)

|                |     |       |    |
|----------------|-----|-------|----|
| Gwen Nicol     | 172 | 55.1% | +5 |
| Gary Davidson* | 170 | 54.5% | 0  |

## REVELSTOKE AREA

(242 species)

|             |     |       |   |
|-------------|-----|-------|---|
| Wayne Weber | 145 | 59.9% | 0 |
|-------------|-----|-------|---|

## WILLIAMS LAKE AREA

(248 species)

|                 |     |       |   |
|-----------------|-----|-------|---|
| Laurie Rockwell | 175 | 70.6% | 0 |
| Bryan Gates     | 138 | 55.6% | 0 |

## PRINCE GEORGE AREA

(283 species)

|               |     |       |    |
|---------------|-----|-------|----|
| Laird Law     | 262 | 92.6% | +5 |
| Don Wilson*   | 190 | 67.1% | 0  |
| Dan Tyson**   | 166 | 58.7% | 0  |
| Peter Blokker | 151 | 53.4% | 0  |

## BULKLEY AND KISPIOX VALLEYS

(237 species)

|               |     |       |   |
|---------------|-----|-------|---|
| Ray Sturney** | 209 | 88.2% | 0 |
|---------------|-----|-------|---|

## PEACE RIVER AREA

(272 species)

|                  |     |       |    |
|------------------|-----|-------|----|
| Laird Law        | 225 | 82.7% | +2 |
| Tony Greenfield* | 207 | 76.1% | 0  |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie | 191 | 70.2% | 0  |
| Bryan Gates      | 184 | 67.6% | 0  |
| Wayne Weber      | 164 | 60.3% | 0  |
| David Stirling   | 158 | 58.1% | 0  |
| Larry Cowan*     | 151 | 55.5% | 0  |

## PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK

(254 species)

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

## YOHO NATIONAL PARK

(208 species)

|             |     |       |   |
|-------------|-----|-------|---|
| Wayne Weber | 125 | 60.1% | 0 |
|-------------|-----|-------|---|

## GWAIL HAANAS NATIONAL PARK

|                 |    |     |
|-----------------|----|-----|
| Laurie Rockwell | 69 | --- |
|-----------------|----|-----|

## MIRACLE BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK

(160 species)

|                |     |       |   |
|----------------|-----|-------|---|
| David Stirling | 159 | 99.4% | 0 |
|----------------|-----|-------|---|

## MITLENATCH ISLAND PROV. PARK

(160 species)

|                |     |       |   |
|----------------|-----|-------|---|
| David Stirling | 110 | 68.8% | 0 |
|----------------|-----|-------|---|

## MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK

(206 species)

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

## STRATHCONA PROV. PARK

(136 species)

|            |     |       |   |
|------------|-----|-------|---|
| Guy Monty* | 105 | 77.2% | 0 |
|------------|-----|-------|---|

## HAINES TRIANGLE

|                |    |  |   |
|----------------|----|--|---|
| David Stirling | 88 |  | 0 |
|----------------|----|--|---|

## MOUNT ROBSON PROVINCIAL PARK

(168 species)

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

## RATHTREVOR BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK

|            |     |  |   |
|------------|-----|--|---|
| Guy Monty* | 170 |  | 0 |
|------------|-----|--|---|

## NORTH PACIFIC PELAGIC WATERS

|                   |    |     |
|-------------------|----|-----|
| Ken Morgan        | 90 | +32 |
| Bruce Whittington | 77 | +3  |
| David Allinson**  | 75 | 0   |
| Mike Toochin      | 67 | +15 |
| Lloyd Esralson    | 63 | 0   |
| David Stirling    | 62 | 0   |
| Val George*       | 59 | 0   |
| Jo Ann MacKenzie  | 51 | 0   |

# 2007 Treasurer's Report

In 2007 the society ran a small deficit of \$452.<sup>00</sup>. This deficit would have been significantly larger, had the BCFO not made a profit on last year's annual general meeting and the field extension trip,. The December 2007 newsletter which was delayed into 2008 was also not included as a 2007 expense. Early in 2008, for the first time in recent memory we needed to draw down our reserve account in order to keep our operating account in the black.

Publishing and distributing our quarterly newsletter and our journal remain the BCFO's main cost and consumes most of our annual revenue. For these reasons, the Board of Directors recommended a dues increase of \$5.00. This dues increase was approved by the membership at our Annual General Meeting in Creston and was brought into effect in 2009. To further reduce our costs, all members have been asked to consider receiving their newsletters electronically. For those members connected to the internet, receiving newsletters digitally rather than in hard copy will substantially reduce our printing and postage costs. Please consider this option if you have not done so already.

Your directors have been working hard to keep their travel expenses to a minimum. We usually meet face to face only twice a year, including the AGM. Most meetings are now held via phone conference which seems to work well and is considerably less expensive than travel. Our past newsletter editor (Phil Henderson), newsletter distributor (Ted Goshulak), past membership records coordinator (Rita Wege), past journal editor (John Sprague) and past journal production editors (Andy and Marilyn Buhler) are to be commended for their many hours of volunteer time in 2007 and for diligently keeping their expenses to a minimum.

Andy Stewart  
BCFO Treasurer



**British Columbia Field Ornithologists**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**For the year ended December 31, 2007**  
**(Unaudited)**

|                                       | 2007            | 2007              | 2006          |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                        |                 |                   |               |
| Membership                            | \$ 5,428        | \$ 6,000          | \$ 6,799      |
| Conference extension                  | 8,280           | 4,500             | -             |
| Conference fees                       | 6,120           | 3,000             | 3,480         |
| Donation income                       | 865             |                   | 2,568         |
| Donations off set expenses            | -               | 2,000             | 1,968         |
| Transferred from Owl project fund     | 3,428           |                   | -             |
| Interest                              | 1,387           | 1,000             | 1,204         |
| Advertising                           | 1,019           |                   | 937           |
|                                       | <b>26,526</b>   | <b>20,500</b>     | <b>16,956</b> |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                   |                 |                   |               |
| Conferences extension                 | 7,057           | 3,400             | -             |
| Conference facilities                 | 4,555           | 3,400             | 3,586         |
| Newsletter                            | 4,467           | 3,400             | 2,857         |
| Postage                               | 251             | 3,400             | -             |
| Donations                             | 960             | 3,400             | 1,260         |
| Journals                              | 1,582           | 3,400             | 2,579         |
| Stationery                            | 620             | 3,400             | -             |
| Future Printing of Journal            | -               | 3,400             | 28            |
| Bank charges                          | -               | 3,400             | 12            |
| Insurance                             | 750             | 3,400             | 750           |
| Web site                              | 365             |                   | 452           |
| Memberships                           | 40              |                   | 40            |
| Owl project                           | 3,428           |                   | 497           |
| Bookkeeper                            | 148             |                   | 229           |
| Meetings                              | 2,755           | 3,400             | 4,351         |
|                                       | <b>26,978</b>   | <b>44,200</b>     | <b>16,641</b> |
| <b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b> | <b>\$ (452)</b> | <b>\$(23,700)</b> | <b>\$ 315</b> |

## Balance Sheet

### December 31, 2007

|                                              | 2007             | 2006             |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                                |                  |                  |
| <b>Current assets</b>                        |                  |                  |
| Cash in banks                                | \$ 50,426        | \$ 53,731        |
| GST Receivable                               | 344              | 316              |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                          | <b>50,770</b>    | <b>54,047</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities and Members' Equity</b>       |                  |                  |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                   |                  |                  |
| Deferred revenue                             | \$ 2,380         | \$ 2,983         |
| Accounts payable                             | 800              | -                |
| Prepaid memberships                          | 1,651            | 750              |
| Deferred Project                             | 6,613            | 10,536           |
| Future payable                               | 4,950            | 4,950            |
|                                              | <b>16,394</b>    | <b>19,220</b>    |
| <b>Members' Equity</b>                       |                  |                  |
| Balance, beginning of the year               | 34,828           | 34,513           |
| Net earnings for the year                    | (452)            | 315              |
| Balance, end of the year                     | <b>34,376</b>    | <b>34,828</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities and Members' Equity Total</b> | <b>\$ 50,770</b> | <b>\$ 54,047</b> |

## Vancouver Avian Research Centre

*Stimulating your interest in wild birds and nature*



### Bird Identification and Banding Workshops

The Vancouver Avian Research Centre offers workshops, birding resources, and other special presentations for you to explore and learn more about the birds and habitats of the Vancouver Area.

This year the Centre is offering two courses:

#### Bird Banding & Monitoring Workshop

Following the success of our banding workshops last year we will again be offering our 3 day action-packed introductory course consisting of presentations, specimen study, field mist-netting, banding, and processing under the direction of Derek Matthews, Master Bander and Bander-in-charge at the Vancouver Avian Research Centre.

The workshop has been developed for people with little or no bird banding or bird in the hand experience and provides a fantastic opportunity to see birds up close and personal, to learn about their plumages, molt sequences, and life habits.

#### Bird Identification Workshop

This new course for 2009 has been developed for birders who wish to take their bird knowledge and identification skills to the next level. Although designed for beginner and intermediate birders the ornithological aspects of the course would benefit even advanced and expert birders.



**Full details of the courses, schedules, dates and registration information can be found online at:**

**<http://www.birdvancouver.com/workshops.html>**

**Or by calling (604) 218-1191**

# BIRDING IN TAIWAN

## NEXT TRIPS:

**2009: May 5~17:** Endemics, Fairy Pitta, Lanyu Island  
**July 18~19:** Matsu, Chinese Crested Tern  
**July 20~26:** Extension, endemics  
**Nov 10~22:** Endemics, Black-faced Spoonbill

**2010: March 18-31: SPECIAL TOUR FOR BCFO MEMBERS at reduced price.** The Changhua Wild Bird Society's president has issued the invitation again. Visit the home area of BCFO's partner society in Changhua, Taiwan, and the very popular Bagua Mountain Bird Fair. The rest of the tour will focus on endemic species (good chances for all 15 in March plus the next endemics-to-be) and subspecies, as well as Lanyu Island; 14 days, FROM VANCOUVER, INCLUDING AIR, \$4590 (sharing), \$5090 (single). Ask for a detailed itinerary.

**PRICE: 13 days: From Taipei, Taiwan: \$4000 (sharing); \$4500 (single)**  
**July, 9 days: Contact us for details and price**

**EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT** for regularly scheduled tours:

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.

## [www.birdingintaiwan.org](http://www.birdingintaiwan.org)

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 spring, 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.

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INTERNATIONAL TAIWAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION  
The Taiwan Specialists  
ITBA is exclusive agent for Birding in Taiwan

