

# B<sup>C</sup> BIRDING

Newsletter of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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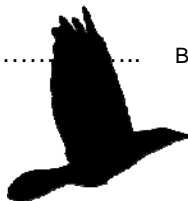


## British Columbia Field Ornithologists

PO Box 45507,  
Westside RPO,  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
V6S 2N5

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British Columbia Field Ornithologists (BCFO)

**PO Box 45507,  
Westside RPO,  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
V6S 2N5**

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

**PO Box 45507, Westside RPO, Vancouver, B.C., V6S 2N5**

### 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)  
#305 – 155 Cheney Lane  
Parksville, B.C. V9P 1P2  
250-586-3838 / [guylmonty@gmail.com](mailto:guylmonty@gmail.com)

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

### Advertising

Advertising rates are available upon request

### BCFO Website

<http://www.bcfo.ca/>

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[www.bcfo.ca](http://www.bcfo.ca)

## Cover Story



Herring roe on *Fucus gardneri*. French Creek, Vancouver Island, BC. March 2010. ~ Photo Guy L. Monty©

Parksville Bay has been the site of an incredible spectacle since the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, 2010. In normal years, Pacific Herring spawn in multiple areas between Gabriola Island and Comox, on the east coast of Vancouver Island. This year, spawns were light everywhere but Nanaimo, and spawning activity was absent from most of the traditional spawning sites. However, the shoreline from the west end of Parksville Bay to about French Creek did have spawning activity for about 6 days in late February and early March. This has resulted in an incredible concentration of gulls, Brant, and various species of sea-ducks thronging areas where herring roe is still available. On March 9, the date when this photo was taken, I estimated there were over 75,000 gulls, of at least ten species, in Parksville Bay.

## 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://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 **British Columbia 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.

## Editor's Notes

Sitting here in my office I watch with joy, as a male Rufous Hummingbird buzzes around the feeder, checking it out first before he perches and tries a sip of nectar. It must be to his liking, because he comes back two more times before sunset. In the cedars just north of us, a Yellow-rumped Warbler lets out the first warbling notes of his spring song. A Turkey Vulture slowly floats north on an almost warm breeze from the south. Across the road, a neighbour is cutting his lawn. It's beginning to look and sound a lot like spring out there. Here in Parksville, it's also starting to smell like spring, as hundreds of square meters of herring roe washed up in recent storms, goes rotten on the beaches. Not exactly the scent of freshly blooming roses, but to those of us who live here, it's another sign of spring, unpleasant or not.

As Donna and I sat down to put this issue of BC Birding together, we were saddened that yet again, we had very little copy to print. In fact, there is barely enough to justify printing it. This leaves us scrambling again for material. Last issue it took us an extra month to get together enough material to get the newsletter to the point where we felt comfortable printing it. To put it simply; we can't go on like this! We need material for the newsletter!

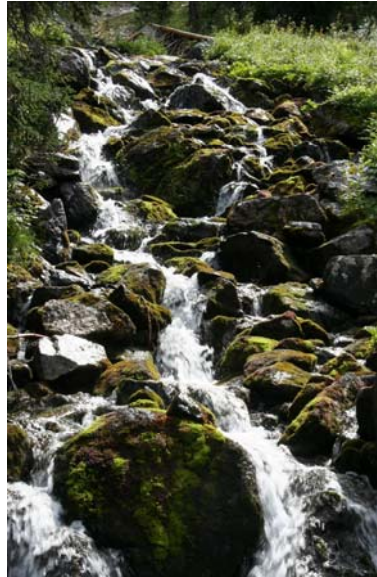
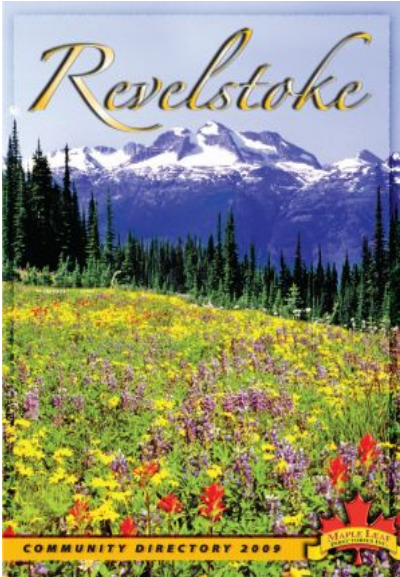
If everyone reading this could write just one short article per year, we would all be better off for it. We'd love to hear your stories, and perhaps learn something about you, or the region where you live, and the birding opportunities available there. Or perhaps you've observed some facet of bird behaviour that surprised you. This would make an excellent topic for a short article as well. Maybe you've reached some interesting personal milestone in your birding life, or happened upon a new birding site that others should know about. Conversely, maybe you have a beef with the way the BCFO is operating? A letter to the Editor is another way to bring up issues that others may wish to be involved in. Regardless of what it is, we need your submissions in order to keep this newsletter interesting!

In a similar vein, the BCFO also needs new members if it is to continue. I feel like this organization is on the verge of really pulling together and embarking on some new and exciting initiatives. But, we need to maintain a certain number of members to continue in the direction we would like to go. If every member out there could contact just one of their birding pals that currently isn't a member, and talk them into giving the BCFO a try, it would make a big difference.



Guy L. Monty©





## **20<sup>th</sup> Annual BCFO Conference May 28 - May 30 2010**

**Hosted by  
Friends of Mt Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks**  
(<http://www.friendsrevglacier.com/home.html>).

**Post-conference Extension Tour with  
renowned bird guide Chris Charlesworth**  
Rocky Mountain Trench, Mountain National Parks, Prairie foothills  
Embark from Revelstoke May 30<sup>th</sup> Return to Revelstoke June 2<sup>nd</sup>



**BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**Revelstoke, BC**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held at the Powder Springs Inn in picturesque Revelstoke, B.C. on the weekend of May 28-30, 2010. Our host organization will be the Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks.

Just as last year, there will be just one flat rate for the Conference, this one price will include the meet and greet on Friday night which will include cheese, meat and veggie platters. A no host cash bar will be open from 6:00 till 10:00. Breakfasts both days which will include cereal, assorted muffins, fruit, toast, jams, tea, coffee, water and juices. Lunches both days which include soup and sandwiches.

Plus the banquet, to be held at the Powder Springs Inn in Revelstoke. This will include a wide variety of choices.

**Other Events:**

- ❖ Birding field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- ❖ Annual general meeting and technical presentations on Saturday afternoon at the Powder Springs Inn in Revelstoke.
- ❖ Guest speaker at the Banquet on the Saturday night.

**Transportation & Accommodation:**

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

List of Hotels / Motels

Hillcrest Hotel 250-837-3322

Powder Springs 250-837-5151

Regent Inn 250-837-2107

Days Inn & Suites 250-837-2191

Sandman Inn 250-837-5271

Super 8 250-837-0888

Campgrounds

KOA Revelstoke 250-837-2085

Lamplighter Campground 250-837-3385

Williamson Lake Campground 250-837-5512

Check this link for lots of Motels <http://www.revelstokecc.bc.ca/vacation/>

**Registration:** The Conference fees are: **\$130.00 per person which includes all of the above.**

Attendance is limited to BCFO members and spouses/family members. You may join BCFO at the same time as you register for the Conference.

**For information contact:** Wayne Diakow wdiakow@shaw.ca

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

**BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Revelstoke, BC**

**Conference Schedule**

**FRIDAY, May 28, 2010**

**6:00 - 9:00 pm**

Registration & Social Hour @ Powder Springs Inn.

Presentation at 8:00 PM: An introduction to Revelstoke and our host organization, the Friends of Mt. Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks by its executive director, Neills Kristensen

**SATURDAY, May 29, 2010**

**5:30 am**

Breakfast & Field Trips from Powder Springs Inn, return by 11:45

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**

Catered Lunch @ Powder Springs Inn

**1:00 - 2:00 pm**

Technical Session @ Powder Springs Inn:

Speaker A - Ed Hill, BC Hydro: Birds, Bees and Boardrooms

Speaker B - Christine Rock, Simon Fraser Univ: Raising the young you never wanted: the impacts of Brown-Headed Cowbird brood parasitism on female Yellow Warblers breeding in Revelstoke, BC.

**2:00 - 2:30 pm**

Break

**2:30 - 3:45 pm**

Technical Session @ Powder Springs Inn:

Speaker C - Cyndi Smith, Parks Canada: Bioacoustical monitoring of breeding songbirds in the mountain national parks.

Speaker D - Jo Ann MacKenzie: BCFO in Taiwan.

**3:45 - 5:30 pm**

Annual General Meeting @ Powder Springs Inn

**6:00 - 7:00 pm**

Social Hour @ Powder Springs Inn, (Cash Bar)

**7:00 - 10:00 pm**

Banquet @ Powder Springs Inn

Keynote Speaker, John Woods: A Naturalist in the Western Mountains.

**SUNDAY, May 30, 2010**

**5:30 am**

Breakfast & Field Trips from Powder Springs Inn, return by 11:45

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**

Catered Lunch @ Powder Springs Inn and wrap up



## BCFO A.G.M. EXTENSION TRIP May 30-June 2, 2010

While in Revelstoke for the AGM, you'll have explored forests, wetlands and mountains, so join leader Chris Charlesworth on the AGM Extension for a trip east through the Rockies to the vast prairies of Alberta.

We'll leave after lunch at the end of the AGM, and while on the way to the Bow Valley (Banff/Canmore), we'll briefly stop in the Beaver Valley in Glacier National Park to look for Magnolia Warbler. We'll continue past Moraine Lake in Banff to look for Harlequin Ducks, as well as Boreal Chickadees and Gray Jays.

The next day, early morning birding at Vermilion Lakes near Banff may include Common Loons and Red-necked Grebes among other waterfowl, and songbirds including Blackpoll Warblers. As we make our way east, Bear Hill in the foothills is a good place for Cape May and Tennessee warblers, White-throated Sparrows, White-winged Crossbills and more. We'll carry on towards Drumheller watching for raptors including Swainson's and Red-tailed hawks. Perhaps we'll see a herd of Pronghorn Antelope. In the Drumheller area we'll search the grasslands for the uncommon and local Baird's Sparrow, and prairie potholes for breeding Marbled Godwits, Wilson's Phalaropes and perhaps Black-necked Stilts.

The next morning near Drumheller, with luck we may find Piping Plovers at Handhills Lake, and nearby we should find Sprague's Pipits, Brown Thrashers, Alder Flycatchers, Baltimore Orioles, Loggerhead Shrikes and perhaps Upland Sandpipers. We'll also explore Dinosaur Provincial Park, where riparian corridors are home to Yellow-breasted Chats, Brown Thrashers, Bullock's Orioles, Spotted Towhees and other interesting species. Lark Sparrow and perhaps Prairie Falcon are also possible in this beautiful and unique landscape. Later on in the day we'll turn west and make our way back to the Bow Valley.

The next morning, before we leave Banff, we'll do a little birding at the Cave and Basin Trail, good for woodland species, and for water birds including Sora and Virginia rails. We'll arrive back in Revelstoke by lunch time.

Cost for the trip is \$590 including 3-nights accommodation (double occupancy) and van transportation from Revelstoke after the AGM, and return to Revelstoke, Wednesday June 2. Meals will not be included. Minimum number of participants to run the trip is 8, and the most that can be guaranteed space will be 10 (first come, first served), so book early. If more bookings are received before April 1, then we may be able to arrange for a second van, but we cannot guarantee extra space will be available. A registration form is available in this issue of the newsletter.



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

*Compiled by Martin K. McNicholl*

## **John Allen Livingston, 1923-2006**

Although John Livingston's name may not be familiar to younger members of B.C.F.O., many will know his voice from the "Hinterland Who's Who" series of animal profiles featured on CBC for many years. He was also the early narrator on "The Nature of Things" before that TV series was hosted by David Suzuki and the author of several books on nature in Canada and elsewhere, including "The birds of the northern forest," featuring paintings of J. Fenwick Lansdowne. Although one of his books, published in 1981, was "The Fallacy of Wildlife Conservation," he was one the founders and the first L in LGL, a pioneering environmental consulting firm. He was also a Professor at York University and an Honorary Life Member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. – based partly on Anonymous. 2008. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 122:195.

## **Rex Kenner**

Members of the Birding Section of the Vancouver Natural History Society lost another prominent member, when Dr. Rex Kenner died in his sleep on 23 January 2010. Rex was a regular participant in Christmas Bird Counts and regular reporter of bird observations. He was Curator of the Cowan Vertebrate Collection of the Beaty Biodiversity Museum at U.B.C., where he often guided and hosted visits by the Young Naturalists. He was also a leading entomologist, publishing significant notes on dragonflies in the Greater Vancouver area. – based partly on Anonymous. 2010. *Wandering Tattler* 33(6):3.

## **Canadian Species at Risk**

Canadian risk status categories were assigned or confirmed for six bird species and one race during the most recent meeting of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada in November 2009 (Anonymous. 2010. *Wandering Tattler* 33(5):12). Greater Prairie-Chicken was confirmed as Extirpated, Yellow Rail as a Species of Special Concern, Mountain Plover as Endangered, Eskimo Curlew as at best Endangered and probably Extinct and the Ipswich race of Savannah Sparrow as a race of Special Concern. Bicknell's Thrush was "uplisted" from a Species of Special Concern to Threatened and Chestnut-collared Longspur newly designated as Threatened.

## **Hesse Endowment to U.B.C.**

In addition to willing their extensive database of B.C. bird observations to the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Centre, Hildegard and Werner Hesse willed considerable sums of money to the faculties of Forestry and Science of the University of British Columbia for avian research. –based on Anonymous. 2010. *Wandering Tattler* 33(5):13.

## **Creston Valley Bird Booklet**

A new 35-page booklet has been published by Linda Van Damme on birds and birding in the Creston Valley. The booklet, published in 2009 as Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies Special Publication No. 11, includes a map, general information on birding in the Creston Valley, details on ten bird-finding sites and a detailed check-list, including breeding status and bar graphs showing status of each species by month. The booklet is available from Linda at lvd2@shaw.ca for \$3.99 plus taxes, postage and handling and from several Creston area outlets. Although announced in *Wandering Tattler* 33(5):14, 2010 as the "culmination" of Linda's 30 years of significant bird study in the area, I suspect that it will help stimulate much more data collection and observation by both Linda and others who live in or visit the valley.

# 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 internet access, on BIRDNET at [www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/ornith/birdmeet.html](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/ornith/birdmeet.html). Thanks to Ken H. Morgan for contributing to this compilation.

## EVENTS IN 2010:

**April 9-10, 2010 OLYMPIC PENINSULA BIRD FESTIVAL**, Sequim, Washington. Contact [no individual named or mailing address indicated]; phone: (360) 681-4076; e-mail [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org); website: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org/>.

**April 10, 2010 BIG DAY BIRDING COMPETITION** Parksville-Qualicum, B.C. Contact Robin Rivers: The Nature Trust of B.C., 260-1000 Roosevelt Cresc., North Vancouver, B.C/ V7P 3R4; phone: (604) 924-9771 E-mail [rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca); website: [www.brantfestival.bc.ca](http://www.brantfestival.bc.ca) OR [www.naturetrust.bc.ca](http://www.naturetrust.bc.ca).

**April 13, 2010 BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERFOWL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Ladner, B. C. Contact: Acting Sanctuary Manager Kathleen Fry, 5191 Robertson Rd., Delta, B.C. V4K 3N2; phone (604) 946-6980; [no e-mail or website indicated].

**April 15-18, 2010 HAWK MIGRATION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE**, Duluth, MN. Contact : HMANA Conference, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Box 3006, Duluth, MN 55803; phone (218) 428-6209; e-mail: [mail@hawkridge.org](mailto:mail@hawkridge.org); OR Julie O'Connor, 3603 Sandberg Rd., Duluth, MN 55810; phone: (218) 348-2991; e-mail: [hmana2010@aol.com](mailto:hmana2010@aol.com). ; website: [www.hmana.org](http://www.hmana.org) OR [www.hawkridge.org](http://www.hawkridge.org).

**April 30-May 2, 2010 GRAYS HARBOR SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL**, Hoquiam, Washington. Contact [no individual indicated] Box 470, Montesano, Washington 98563; phone: 1-800-303-8498; no e-mail indicated; website: <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>.

**May 3-9, 2010 WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES FESTIVAL**, Invermere, B.C. Contact: Pynelogs Cultural Centre, Box 2633, Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0; phone toll-free 1-(888) 342-9464; e-mail: [wingsovertherockies@gmail.com](mailto:wingsovertherockies@gmail.com); website: <http://www.adventurevalley.com/wings/> OR Larry Halverson, Box 220, Radium Hot Springs, B.C. V0A 1M0; phone (250) 342-3305.

**May 7-9, 2010 BIRD MONITORING AND BANDING WORKSHOP**, Burnaby, B.C. Contact: Derek Matthews [no mailing address indicated]; phone (604) 218-1191; e-mail: [info@birdvancouver.com](mailto:info@birdvancouver.com); website: [http://www.birdvancouver.com/workshop\\_banding\\_intro.html](http://www.birdvancouver.com/workshop_banding_intro.html).

**May 13-16, 2010 B.C. NATURE 2010 AGM**, Kamloops, B.C. Contact: Kamloops Naturalist Club, c/o Karen Willies, 679 Patricia Ave., Kamloops, B.C. V2B 1Y7; [no phone number indicated] OR June Kitimura [no address indicated], phone (250) 374-8734, e-mail: [kitamura@shaw.ca](mailto:kitamura@shaw.ca); OR Margaret Graham [no address indicated], phone (250) 554-1285, e-mail: [marggraham@shaw.ca](mailto:marggraham@shaw.ca); OR Rick Howie [no address indicated], phone (250) 578-7542; e-mail: [r.howie@shaw.ca](mailto:r.howie@shaw.ca); website: [www.bcnature.ca](http://www.bcnature.ca).

**May 13-16, 2010 LEAVENWORTH SPRING BIRD FEST**, Leavenworth, Washington. Contact: [no individual indicated]: Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest at Barn Beach Reserve, Box 2073, Leavenworth, Washington; phone Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce (509) 548-5807; e-mail: [groberts@barnbeachreserve.org](mailto:groberts@barnbeachreserve.org); website: <http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/>.



**May 20-23, 2010 91<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING, WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY,** Geneva, New York. Contact: Mark Deutschlander, Dept. of Biology, Hobart and William Smith College, 300 Pulteney St., Geneva, N.Y. 14456; phone (315) 781-3921; e-mail: deutschlande@hws.edu; website: <http://www.wilsonsociety.org/wos2010>.

**May 20-24, 2010 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEADOWLARK FESTIVAL,** Penticton, B.C. Contact [no individual or mailing address indicated]: phone Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Alliance toll free 1-866-699-9453; e-mail: meadowlarkfestival@osca.org; website: <http://www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca>.

**May 28-30, 2010 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL B.C.F.O. CONFERENCE,** Revelstoke, B.C. Contact details elsewhere in this issue; website: <http://www.bcfo.ca>.

**June 4-6, 2010 FIRST ANNUAL SKAGIT BIRD BLITZ,** Ross Lake, B. C. Contact: [no individual named] B. C. Nature, c/o Heritage Centre, 1620 Mount Seymour Rd., North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 2R9; Phone (604) 869-1274; e-mail: [info@hopemountain.org](mailto:info@hopemountain.org); website: [www.hopemountain.org](http://www.hopemountain.org).

**June 11-14, 2010 WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE,** Wenatchee, Washington. Contact [no person yet named or address or phone number announced]. e-mail: [information@wos.org](mailto:information@wos.org); website: <http://www.wos.org/2010conference.htm>.

**June 18-20, 2010 MANNING PARK BIRD BLITZ,** Manning Park, B.C. Contact: Betty Davison, B. C. Nature, c/o Heritage Centre, 1620 Mount Seymour Rd., North Vancouver, B.C.; phone (604) 985-3057; e-mail: [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca); website: [www.hopemountain.org](http://www.hopemountain.org).

**June 26, 2010 NATURE CANADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,** [city?,] Prince Edward Island. Contact: S. Robertson, Nature Canada, Suite 300, 75 Albert St., Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5E7; phone: 1-800-267-4088; e-mail: [srobertson@naturecanada.ca](mailto:srobertson@naturecanada.ca); website: [naturecanada.ca](http://naturecanada.ca).

**August 12-14, 2010 ANNUAL MEETING, ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGY,** Ogden, Utah. Contact: John E. Cavitt, Dept. of Zoology, Weber State University, Ogden, UT 84408-2505; no phone number indicated; e-mail: [jcavitt@weber.edu](mailto:jcavitt@weber.edu); website: <http://www.acquaviva.com.br/loc2010>.

**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@acquaviva.com.br](mailto:ioc2010@acquaviva.com.br).

**September 7-11, 2010 FIRST WORLD SEABIRD CONFERENCE:** Pacific Seabird Group hosting over 25 professional seabird and research organizations, Victoria, B.C. Contact: Marischal De Armound, Conference Secretariat [no address indicated], phone (250) 472-7644; e-mail: [wsc@dearmondmanagement.com](mailto:wsc@dearmondmanagement.com); website: <http://www.worldseabirdconference.com/main.cfm?cid=181>.

**September 19, 2010 BIODIVERSITY CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE STUDIES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,** location and contact details to be announced. website: <http://www.wildlifebc.org>.

**September 22-26, 2010 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING,** Fort Collins, Colorado. Contact: Libby Mojica: address and phone number not announced; e-mail: [ekmojica@wm.edu](mailto:ekmojica@wm.edu). OR Judy Scherpelz: no address indicated; phone (970) 484-7756; e-mail: [judy@rmrp.org](mailto:judy@rmrp.org); website: <http://raptorresearchfoundation.org>.

**September 24-26, 2010 OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING,** Newport, Oregon. Contact details not yet announced. Website: <http://www.oregonbirds.org>.

**November 1-5, 2010 FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SWAN SYMPOSIUM**, Valdivia, Chile. Contact: Roberto Schlatter, [no address indicated], phone: 56-63-221408, e-mail: rshlatt@uach.cl, Dr. John O. Albertson [no address or phone number given]; e-mail: swanspecialistgroup@gmail.com OR Carl D. Mitchell [no address indicated], phone (208) 574-2755, e-mail: carl\_mitchell@fws.gov.; website: <http://www.wetlands.org/Aboutus/Specialistgroups/>.

#### **EVENTS IN 2011:**

**February 1-3 2011, GYRFALCONS & PTARMIGAN IN A CHANGING WORLD**, Boise, Idaho. Contact: Peregrine Fund, no person named & mailing address and phone number not yet announced; e-mail: [tpf@peregrinefund.org](mailto:tpf@peregrinefund.org); website: [http://www.peregrinefund.org/gyr\\_conference/](http://www.peregrinefund.org/gyr_conference/).

#### **EVENTS IN 2012:**

**August 14-18, 2012 5<sup>TH</sup> NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**, Vancouver, B.C. contact information and participating organizations not yet announced.

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## **Where are Anna's hummingbirds headed?**



There's been a clear pattern of northward expansion of Anna's hummingbirds on the west coast, and researchers want to know more. Anyone willing to watch a feeder and record visits by Anna's can help scientists understand how far their range has already extended and where they are headed.



A second project aims to learn more about the migration

waves of rufous hummingbirds. Birdwatchers are asked to help collect data by measuring the amount of feeder solution rufous use during their migration and breeding season March to July. Field ornithologists can participate in one or both of the projects as it suits them.

There are already bird population data projects on the go, like the Breeding Bird Survey, that can help answer these questions but volunteers are also wanted for hummingbird-specific information. Monitors are especially needed on the central and north coast of British Columbia and on Haida Gwaii.

If you are interested, please e-mail [hummingbird@rpbo.org](mailto:hummingbird@rpbo.org) for more information and instructions.

Alison Moran, Ph.D.  
Co-ordinator, Hummingbird Project of B.C.  
Rocky Point Bird Observatory  
Victoria, B.C.  
[hummingbird@rpbo.org](http://hummingbird@rpbo.org)

## Invitation to authors: *British Columbia Birds*

*British Columbia Birds* welcomes submissions of original manuscripts of any length, on wild birds in British Columbia (B.C.). Studies from neighbouring areas will also be considered for publication if birds found in B.C. are discussed in the manuscript.

*British Columbia Birds* is the B.C. journal of record for reporting rarities or range expansions, the general status of species, avian ecology and behaviour. It publishes 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.

Manuscripts summarizing field research are highly desirable. Annotated lists based on detailed study of an area could be a useful publication, although records from brief visits are more suitable for the BCFO newsletter, *B.C. BIRDING*. Papers based on laboratory research (e.g. physiology) are not suitable for the journal unless authors demonstrate strong links to avian behaviour or ecology. Advocacy articles will not be considered.

Papers and notes in *British Columbia Birds* count as refereed (peer-reviewed) articles in the scientific literature; manuscripts are reviewed by the editor, one member of the editorial board and one qualified outside person. The editor will assist new authors in achieving a suitable format. The journal is in its 18th year and volume (as of 2008). It is archived in the National Library of Canada Serials Records Section, Canadian Museum of Nature, Royal Ontario Museum, Van Tyne Memorial Library of Wilson Ornithological Society (Michigan), and the larger university and public libraries in B.C. Articles are abstracted in *Zoological Record* and online in *Ornithological Worldwide Literature*. Each paper is posted on the BCFO web site at the same time as the print version is published, so it will be found by others when they search the web. The author is supplied with printed and electronic (pdf) copies.

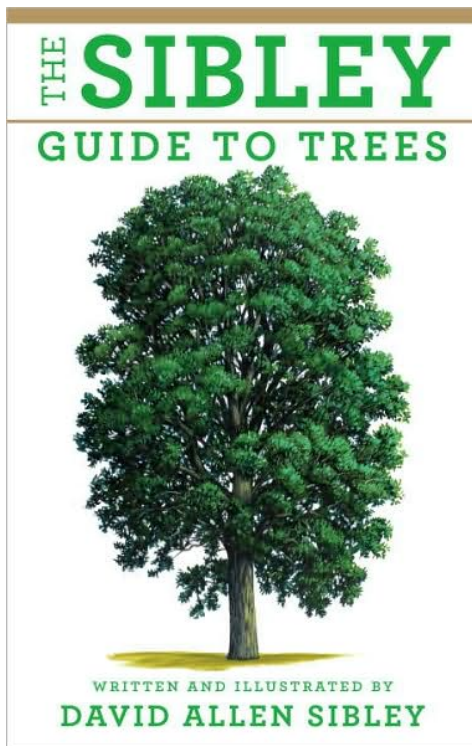
Submissions should follow the style and format of recent papers on the BCFO website, and the detailed instructions in *Guidelines for authors: British Columbia Birds* (pdf) which can be accessed at the same website, in printed volume 18, or directly from the editor. Submissions and enquiries should be directed to the editor:

Art Martell  
Editor, *British Columbia Birds*  
251-3399 Crown Isle Drive  
Courtenay, BC V9N 9X7  
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Email: Martell.BCBirds@shaw.ca





## New Sibley Guide to Trees



Yes, you read that correctly. I thought it was a misprint when I first saw the newspaper advertisement for the book. It's the same guy -- he paints trees and leaves as well as birds and feathers. What a productive fellow. He seemed to be busy with bird conferences and magazine articles, but suddenly here is another big book on a new topic, with some 4,000 new paintings.

Other field guides to trees exist, for example a Peterson Guide and those of the National Geographic Society and National Wildlife Federation (U.S.). I still use the Canadian government's *Native Trees of Canada*, but my copy is dated 1950. My favourite for many years has been the pocket-sized Golden Guide, *Trees of North America* by Brockman and Merrilees, which has excellent paintings and maps. It was last reprinted in 1986, but there are lots of used copies available online.

Now we have Sibley trees. It is a great book, elegant and well-organized, and birders should at least be aware that it exists. It is the same size as his full guide to birds, almost as thick (465 pages), and comes from the same publisher (Knopf). It covers USA and Canada, and has the 600 wild species likely to be encountered, including established exotics. There is a good "teaching" section at the front.

Most of the species or species groups get a full page, with 6 to 8 little paintings of leaves, twigs, bark, fruit, and sometimes the whole tree. Sibley writes authoritative comments on the species. Distribution maps are good, much better than his bird maps. Clearly, the book is destined to become THE field guide to trees.

My one negative comment is that only about one species in five has a painting of the whole tree. Yes, we identify by the leaves, fruit and bark, nevertheless it would be interesting and reassuring to see the shape and appearance of the whole tree. The book is also rather expensive at \$45 list. I bought it and will use it, but I will keep my Golden Guide ready at hand.

John B. Sprague





## **Get Ready to Take Part in the 2010 B.C. Breeding Bird Atlas**

**In 2009 BC Breeding Bird Atlassers tripled their point-counts from 2008 to 3796 point counts equal to 29,000 records! Will they be able to break their record in 2010??**

With financial help from the Baillie Fund, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, and BC Conservation Foundation, we've been able to help get atlassers out across the whole province – have a look at the maps at: <http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca/bcdata/maps.jsp>

### **What is an Atlas**

Mapping birds is quickly becoming a world-wide phenomenon. It is fun to participate of course, but the results are an invaluable foundation of information for conserving birds and their ecosystems. Not long ago, atlases were books of maps but more recently atlases have on-line versions that are interactive. The BC Breeding Bird Atlas will be on-line and we hope to have a book too.

### **Search, count and record**

The BC Breeding Bird Atlas is a seven year project to determine the distribution and relative abundance of birds across British Columbia. It is the first time that a project of this scale has been undertaken in the province. The results will form a foundation for conservation policy and legislation and to ask important questions about how climate change affects on our environment, species at risk, environmental assessment and how to keep common birds common.

**Do a world of good for birds in some of the world's most beautiful landscapes**

The BC Breeding Bird Atlas Project is a big task to undertake in such a large province with a small number of residents and even fewer birdwatchers. But the project offers opportunities for adventure in some of the most stunning landscapes in the world which we hope will draw outside help. New discoveries will be made because many areas of the province have never before been visited by birders. Contact us to learn of opportunities.

### **Simply Fun**

The Atlas project is fun, informative, healthy, and simple to do. Over the next 5 years, we will be looking for volunteers to visit 10 km<sup>2</sup> squares across the province where you will record birds. There are three levels of participation. You choose an atlas square that you want to visit and then:

1. Tell us where you saw breeding birds. This is as simple as recording where you saw a bird at a nest, feeding its young or where you heard it singing.
2. Tell us how many birds you saw. Here you will join a team of experienced birders who

follow a predetermined route to record all birds seen or heard first thing in the morning.

3. Tell us about birds that are rare or nest in colonies. We provide a list of species in your area that are of high conservation concern because they are rare or nest in colonies. You provide us with details such as how many birds you saw, where they nested, and how many young were present.

The project has a Coordination Office supporting a network of volunteer Regional Coordinators who will oversee atlassing in their regions. You need to be able to identify birds correctly but you do not need to be expert - all records are welcome. We encourage all data to be entered on-line and the results will appear in real-time on this web site.

### History

Early written descriptions of bird distributions in the entire British Columbia began nearly a century ago with a review by Brooks and Swarth (1925) of the bird fauna. James A Munro and Ian McTaggart Cowan updated the review in 1947. Our understanding took a leap forward with the publication of The Birds of British Columbia by R. Wayne Campbell and his co-authors, a comprehensive review of the distribution and biology of all birds prior to about 2000.

The British Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas follows an approach developed in the Ontario and Maritimes atlases. It relies on systematic visits to collect data from much of the province. Bird Studies Canada spearheaded the atlas projects as part of its role to conserve Canada's birds. In 2005, Bird Studies Canada began discussions with naturalists, the federal and provincial governments and some industries in British Columbia. The concept was keenly supported and in 2007, the project was officially launched.

The data and maps are free to view even if you are not registered. Look to the atlas website for opportunities to get to remote areas of BC.

**[www.bsc-eoc.org](http://www.bsc-eoc.org)**



British Columbia  
**VALEMOUNT**

**Adventures in Birding**

The R.W. Starratt Wildlife Sanctuary is a 240 hectares birder's paradise and the main staging area of our festival. The significant size of this marsh and its location in the Rocky Mountain Trench make this an important stop for waterfowl on their migration routes and a nesting area for many more. Over 90 bird species have been spotted on or around the sanctuary.

Join us  
**May 28-29 2010**  
for our Spring Festival

For more information visit our full website at:

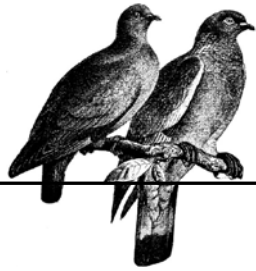
<http://www.visitvalemount.ca>

Email: [marketing@visitvalemount.ca](mailto:marketing@visitvalemount.ca)

Call: (250)566-3335

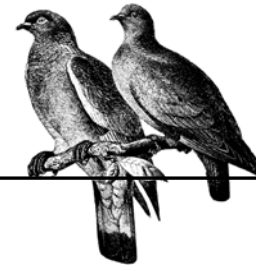






**2009  
BC Birding Newsletter  
Contributors**

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 Penny Hall  
 Peter Davidson  
 Phil Henderson  
 R. Wayne Nelson  
 Ralph Hocken  
 Rich Mooney  
 Rob Butler  
 Sandra Kinsey  
 Tony Greenfield  
 Wayne C. Weber  
 Wayne Diakow



**Welcome to new  
BCFO members**

Karen Barry  
 (Nanaimo)  
 Tyler Innes  
 (Duncan)  
 Derrick Marven  
 (Duncan)  
 Bob McKay  
 (Oliver)  
 W.M. Merilees  
 (Nanaimo)  
 Rich & Lori Mooney  
 (Parksville)  
 Michael Sather  
 (Maple Ridge)  
 Margaret Shore  
 (Vancouver)

**Thank You** *Mahalo*  
*Kiitos*  
*Tack* *Grazie* *Toda*  
*Obrigado* **Thanks**  
*Takk* **Gracias** **Merci**

## BCFO Advertising Rates for *BC Birding*

Our newsletter goes out quarterly (March, June, September and December) to 280+ members province-wide (some members in other parts of Canada and a few in the US), and has been a subscription-only publication for over 15 years. Ads are usually placed on the outside back cover but there is no guarantee of this; inside back cover and preceding pages will also be used. We accept full, quarter, and half page ads. Charges are per insertion. Payment is to accompany advertising copy. Cheques should be made payable to: BC Field Ornithologists. Receipts will be issued by the treasurer.

Advertising copy must be received by the BCFO Editors by the 15th of the month preceding your required issue date. Ads requiring graphics must be received camera-ready. Text-only ads can be prepared by the Editor, but in either case it is preferable for you to send camera-ready advertisements (files: JPGs, PDF, etc.) so that you retain control over appearance. In the event of any transcription errors the Editors' liability is limited to the rerunning of a corrected ad. Although every attempt will be made to include an advertisement in the issue following receipt of copy, the BCFO Editors and Directors can assume no liability for advertisements which may not be included in the required issue. In the event that copy cannot be included in the appropriate issue for any reason, the advertiser will be notified.

\*A reduction of 10% is applied to rates when four or more advertisements are purchased.

### **BC Birding Ad Rates:**

	H*	x	W*	Cost/Insertion	4 or More*
<b>Full page</b>					
Vertical	9.5" 24 cm	x x	7.5" 19 cm	..... \$125.00	\$112.50
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<b>Quarter page</b>					
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