

# B<sub>C</sub> 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.

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### 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

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### 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*

Newsletter Editor  
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.*

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### Advertising

Advertising rates are available upon request

**BCFO Website  
www.bcfo.ca**

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\* Indicates an elected Director of the BCFO

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## Cover Story ~ Bald Eagles Talon-Locking



Malcolm Jolly of Comox, BC shot the great cover photo of two Bald Eagles engaged in talon locking, near his home back in May of 2010

Talon-locking is a behavior used by Bald Eagles for both courting and defense against other Bald Eagles invading established nesting territories or in fights over food resources.



## INTERNET SOURCES

### BCFO

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

### BC Bird Alert

<http://bcbirdalert.blogspot.com/>

### 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.

## President's Message

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Have you planned your early summer vacation yet...?? Want to get in some quality birding with lots of interesting species to seek out in new places, with other keen birders? - Then the BCFO Conference and AGM in Fort St. John (June 10 – 12) is where you want to be. Past trips the Peace River Country have always been popular and productive...and this year promises to be just as good.

You can even start before you get to Fort St. John by heading up to Prince George a day or so early and joining up with other birders and then bird your way to the conference arriving Friday afternoon in time for the registration and social in the evening. Saturday will feature wonderful field trips in the morning - - early birds and birders will be on the road at 5:30am and go until lunch time. The afternoon will feature special talks about birds, the Annual General Meeting which is followed by dinner and a banquet speaker.... Sunday will feature a chance to go out on another birding trip in the morning...and back for lunch and closing.... And for those that have not had enough birding you can sign up for the extension trip for another two days of quality birding lead by Russell Cannings or you can participate in some BC Bird Atlassing surveys in the area. (Details inside or check the website at [www.bcfo.ca](http://www.bcfo.ca) for updates.) Remember to register early and book your hotel.

At last year's Annual General Meeting in Cranbrook, the Board heard from our members that they would like more birding trips throughout the year. And those are now in place with four separate two day trips planned this year. A very successful trip was completed in March in the Parkville area lead by Guy Monty and other trips will be to the Skagit Valley/Hope Area in May, the pre conference tour in June, mentioned above, and the Fraser Delta/Boundary Bay in November. We are looking for other leaders to plan and lead other trips to their favourite spots. We are also using these trips to attract new members.

The board has also undertaken to update the BCFO website with the aims of attracting more members and to make membership registration and renewal easier. And, of course, our two publications: *British Columbia Birds: Journal of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists*; and *BC Birding* Newsletter are very important in keeping our members informed about what is happening in BCFO, and with birding and birders.

A BC Rare Bird Committee has been set up by BCFO and you will hear more about it at the AGM. Plans are also underway to bring out a new BC Birds checklist in the future.

I am looking forward to the Conference in Fort St. John, meeting many of you there, and hearing your suggestions for making BCFO better.

Good Birding  
Jude



## Editor's Notes



Greetings and welcome to spring birders! Well, at least the calendar claims it is spring. The unseasonably low temperatures across the west and the general lack of spring migrants does make one wonder if winter will ever end. Although a few Rufous Hummingbirds and Orange-crowned Warblers have arrived here in Parksville, overall, it's very lean for migrants so far. I guess we just have to keep the faith that the sun will eventually shine?

Putting this issue together, and looking through the last couple of issues, Donna and I are very pleased at the direction that the newsletter is taking. Not only are submissions way up (THANK YOU ALL), but we are all benefitting from some really interesting articles. Please keep those articles pouring in folks! In this issue, we have the long awaited return of Bird Listers' Corner, now coordinated very efficiently by Larry Cowan. We thank Wayne Weber for all of his hard work on this column over many previous years. We also continue to enjoy two columns which have become a key feature of this newsletter over the years, the Upcoming Events and BC Birding News Briefs columns. We thank Martin McNicholl for keeping us up to date!

This issue also contains all of the information on what looks to be a very interesting annual conference, to be held in Fort St. John in June, with an extension trip led by Russell Cannings venturing north into the wilds around Fort Nelson. Both promise to be exciting for those who choose to take part, and I look forward to seeing all of you there. Many thanks to Wayne Diakow, Jude Grass, George Clulow and Russell Cannings for planning what looks to be a very interesting conference this year.

There is also a pre-conference outing to the Prince George area planned. Having led one of these BCFO outings this spring in Parksville, I would encourage everyone to think about taking part in one of these trips. I had a great time meeting everyone for some great birding around the Parksville Qualicum Wildlife Management Area in March, and hope to join in as many of the other trips as I can manage.

Guy and Donna Monty  
Co-Editors, BC Birding



**BCFO member John Sprague studies the effects of radioactive fallout in BC due to the nuclear accident in Japan, which seems to have created a mutant race of oddly large House Sparrows.**



## 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).

### EVENTS IN 2011:

April 1-3 - JOHN SCHARFF MIGRATORY BIRD FESTIVAL, Burns, Oregon. Contact: festival office [no address indicated]; phone (514) 573-2636; no e-mail indicated; web-site: <http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com/index.html>.

April 9 - BRANT WILDLIFE FESTIVAL, BIG DAY, Parksville/Qualicum Beach, B.C. Contact: Rhys Harrison [no address indicated]; phone (250) 248-5305; e-mail: [rhys.harrison@shaw.ca](mailto:rhys.harrison@shaw.ca).

April 12 - B.C. WATERFOWL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Ladner, B.C. Contact: Kathleen Fry, B.C. Waterfowl Society, 5191 Robertson Rd., Delta, B.C. V4K 3N2, phone (604) 946-6980.

April 28-May 1 - FRASER CANYON FIELD CAMP, Camp Squeah, near Yale, B.C. Contact: Janne Perrin [no address or phone number indicated]; e-mail: [www.chilliwackfieldnaturalists.com](http://www.chilliwackfieldnaturalists.com).

April 29-May 1 - GRAYS HARBOR SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL, Aberdeen, Washington. Contact: festival office [no address indicated]; phone: (360) 289-5048; no e-mail indicated; web-site: <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com>.

May 2-8 - WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES FESTIVAL, Invermere, B.C. Contact: festival office [no address indicated]; phone (888) 342-9464 toll-free; e-mail: [info@wingsovertherockies.org](mailto:info@wingsovertherockies.org); web-site: <http://www.wingsovertherockies.org>.

May 6-7 - 2ND BURNABY LAKE BIOBLITZ, Burnaby, B.C. Contact: Stella Ramey, [no address given], phone (604) 520-6442; no e-mail indicated; web-site: <http://burnabylakepark.ca/bioblitz.html>.

May 6-8 - BIRD MONITORING & BANDING WORKSHOPS, Burnaby, B.C. Contact: Derek Matthews: no address, phone number or e-mail indicated; course details on inter-net at <http://www.birdvancouver.com/workshops.html>.

May 6-8 - SKAGIT VALLEY BIRD BLITZ, Skagit valley, B.C. Contact [no individual named]: Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Living [no address given]; phone (604) 869-1274; e-mail: [info@hopemountain.org](mailto:info@hopemountain.org); web: [www.hopemountain.org](http://www.hopemountain.org).

May 12-15 - B.C. NATURE SPRING CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Williams Lake. Contact: Fred McMechan, Williams Lake Field Naturalists, 1305A Borland Rd., Williams Lake, B.C. V2G 5K5; phone (250) 392-7680; e-mail: [fred\\_mcmechan@telus.net](mailto:fred_mcmechan@telus.net) OR Nola Danith, [address not indicated]; phone (250) 392-6858, e-mail: [dnola@telus.net](mailto:dnola@telus.net); web-site: <http://www.bcbature.ca>.

May 12-15 - LEAVENWORTH SPRING BIRD FEST, Leavenworth, Washington. Contact: Gail Roberts [no address or phone # indicated]; e-mail: [groberts@barnbeachreserve.org](mailto:groberts@barnbeachreserve.org); web-site: <http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/INDEX.HTML>.

May 19-23 - MEADOWLARK FESTIVAL, Penticton, B.C. Contact [no individual, address or phone number indicated]; e-mail: [meadowlarkfestival@osca.org](mailto:meadowlarkfestival@osca.org); web-site: <http://www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca/index.html>. Tickets available through web-site, starting 9 April.

May 27-28 - B.C.F.O. FIELD TRIP TO CHEAM WETLANDS & SKAGIT VALLEY. Contact: Jude Grass, 17375 27A Ave., Surrey, B.C. V3S 0E9; phone (604) 538-8774; e-mail: [judegrass@shaw.ca](mailto:judegrass@shaw.ca).

June 3-5 - MT. ROBSON BIRD BLITZ, Mt. Robson, B.C. Contact: Gail Ross [no address or phone number indicated]; e-mail: [gailross1@telus.net](mailto:gailross1@telus.net).

June 10-12 - B.C.F.O. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Ft. St. John, B.C. Contact details elsewhere in this newsletter.

June 17-19 - MANNING PARK BIRD BLITZ 29TH ANNIVERSARY. Contact [no individual named]: no address indicated; phone (604) 869-1272; e-mail: [info@hopemountain.org](mailto:info@hopemountain.org); web: [www.hopemountain.org](http://www.hopemountain.org).

June 17-19 - - OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING, Pendleton, Oregon. Contact: David Smith [no address or phone number indicated] e-mail: [smitdwd@hotmail.com](mailto:smitdwd@hotmail.com); web-site: <http://www.oregonbirds.org>.

July 17-19 - - STRATHCONA PARK CAMP. Contact [no individual named]: B.C. Nature, c/o Heritage Centre, 1620 Mount Seymour Rd., North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 2K9, phone (604) 985-3507; e-mail; [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca).

July 17-24 & July 24-31 - - NATURE VANCOUVER 2011 SUMMER CAMP, Waterton Lakes, Alberta. Contact: Elly Brok [no address or e-mail indicated], phone: (604) 438-1871 OR Don Griffiths [no address or e-mail indicated], phone: (604) 228-1450; inter-net: [www.naturevancouver.ca](http://www.naturevancouver.ca).

July 24-29 - - 129th STATED MEETING, AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, Jacksonville, Florida. Contact: Rob Fletcher [no address or phone number indicated] e-mail: [robert.fletcher@ufl.edu](mailto:robert.fletcher@ufl.edu); web-set: <http://www.birdmeetings.org/aou2011>.

August 4-6 2011 - - ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS, Moncton, New Brunswick. Contact: Marc-Andre' Villard, Dept. de Biologie, Universite' de Moncton, Moncton, NB E1A 3E9; phone (506) 858-4334; e-mail: [villarm@umoncton.ca](mailto:villarm@umoncton.ca).

August 11-15 - - 4TH WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD GROUP CONFERENCE, Vancouver, B.C. contact: David B. (Dov) Lank or Ron Ydenburg, Centre for Wildlife Ecology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6; phone (778) 782-3010; e-mail: [dlank@sfu.ca](mailto:dlank@sfu.ca); inter-net: <http://www.sfu.ca/biology/wildberg/4WHSG.htm>.

August 19-22 - - WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Port Angeles, Washington. Contact details not yet available. Web-site: <http://www.wos.org>.

September 2-4 - - SEABIRD GROUP 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, Plymouth, England. Contact: Stephen Votier, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, England; phone +44(0) 1752 584654; e-mail: [Stephen.votier@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:Stephen.votier@plymouth.ac.uk); web-site: <http://www.seabirdgroup.org.uk/>

September 30 – October 2 - - FEDERATION OF B.C. NATURALISTS/B.C. NATURE fall general meeting, Delta, B.C. contact details not yet announced.

October 5-9 - - 2011 RAPTOR RESEARCH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Duluth, Minnesota. Contact: Julie O'Connor, mailing address not yet announced; phone (218) 348-2291; e-mail: [RRFinDuluth@aol.com](mailto:RRFinDuluth@aol.com).

November - - FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SWAN SYMPOSIUM, Valdivia, Chile. Exact date and contact details to be announced; POSTPONED from 1-5 November 2010 because of recent earthquake.

November 12-13 - - B.C.F.O. FIELD TRIP TO FRASER DELTA. Contact: George Clulow, 6579 Oakhill Place, Burnaby, V5E 4E5; phone (604) 438-7639; e-mail: [gclulow@shaw.ca](mailto:gclulow@shaw.ca).

November 21-24 - - BIOLIEF 2011 -2ND WORLD CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS & ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING, Mar del Plata, Argentina. Contact: Jorge L. Guitierrez [no address or phone indicated]; e-mail: [biolief@grieta.org.ar](mailto:biolief@grieta.org.ar); web-site: URL:<http://www.grieta.org.ar/biolief/>.

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

January 9-12 - - SEVENTH NATIONAL QUAIL SYMPOSIUM, Tucson, Arizona. Contact [no individual, address, phone number or e-mail indicated]: web-site: <http://www.azgfd.gov/quailvii>.

August 14-18, 2012 5TH NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, joint meeting of American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Bird Studies Canada, Cooper Ornithological Society, Raptor Research Foundation, Seccion Mexicana del Consejo Internacional para la Preservacion de las Aves, Society of Canadian Ornithologists, Waterbird Society & Wilson Ornithological Society, Vancouver, B.C. Contact: Kathy Martin, Dept. of Forest Sciences, 3041-2424 Main Mall, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z4; phone (604) 822-9695; e-mail: [kmartin@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:kmartin@interchange.ubc.ca); web-site: <http://www.aou.org/meetings/>.

# B.C. BIRDING NEWS BRIEFS



*Compiled by Martin K. McNicholl*

## **Rock Receives Scholarship**

Simon Fraser University M. Sc. candidate Christine Rock received the Vancouver Natural History Society's 2010 scholarship to assist in her research on Brown-headed Cowbird nest parasitism on Yellow Warblers in the Revelstoke area. Christine gave very informative presentations on her work to the Burke Mountain Naturalists, the Langley Field Naturalists and the birders' section of VNHS, as well as a shorter version to the BCFO annual general meeting in Revelstoke. Some of us also enjoyed visiting one of her study areas with her during the field trips portion of the AGM. —based partly on Anonymous. 2010. *Vancouver Naturalist* 12(2):6.

## **Vancouver Birders Awarded**

As usual, birds figure at least peripherally in the contributions recognized by most of the awards given out at the AGM of the Vancouver Natural History Society in April 2010. Former VNHS and Federation of B.C. Naturalists President Jeremy McCall received the society's premier award, the Kay and Charles Ney Award for his past and current service to both of these organizations in many positions, several involving birds (G. Bangham. 2010. *Van. Nat.* 12(2):7). Another former Federation of B.C. Naturalists President, Anne Murray, was awarded the Davidson Award for Conservation in recognition of her efforts as chair/co-chair of the Federation's Conservation Committee, her two books on Boundary Bay, her role in helping to found the Boundary Bay Conservation Committee and her contributions in obtaining official designations of Boundary Bay and/or the Fraser River estuary as the Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area, an Important Bird Area and part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (J. McCall. 2010. *Vancouver Nat.* 12(2):8). Mark Haddas received one of six Garibaldi service awards for his contribution of numerous outstanding photographs to various Nature Vancouver publications and posters, his participation in monthly bird surveys on Iona and Sea islands and his advocacy efforts on conservation issues, most recently control and licensing of domestic cats (A. Grant Duff. 2010. *Vancouver Nat.* 12(2):9).

## **Birch Van Horne**

One of the Chilliwack Field Naturalists' most prominent members, Harold Bircham Van Horne, died on 23 April 2010 at the age of 96. An article on his contributions indicated that he participated annually in the local Christmas bird count (Anonymous. 2010. *B.C. Nature* 48(2):13).

## **Federation Awards**

As usual, birds feature at least peripherally in all six of the most recent awards presented by B.C. Nature. Birds feature prominently in the Regional Awards given to Ann Nightingale of Victoria, who has coordinated the Victoria Christmas Bird Count since 2002, taught bird courses, contributed substantially to the work of the Rocky Point Bird Observatory, and served as regional co-coordinator of the B.C. Breeding Bird Atlas among other activities and to Robert Handfield, whose many contributions to Okanagan natural history include the development, organization and production of a book on Okanagan Valley birding. The premier Elton Anderson Award was presented to Harold King, who co-coordinated one of the Okanagan Christmas Bird Counts with his late wife for over ten years and contributed substantially to several Okanagan conservation efforts.

## **Sealy Award for Teaching**

Spencer G. Sealy of the University of Manitoba received the 2009 Jamie Smith Mentoring Award in Ornithology from the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (Anonymous. 2010. [*University of Manitoba*] *Faculty of Science News* April 2010:7]. Spencer's Ph.D. thesis was based on research conducted on alcids in B.C. and Alaska and he continues to publish papers based on B.C. research and observations.

## Loss of Two Whooping Crane Champions

Although not quite B.C. news, most B.C. birders and ornithologists will be interested to learn of the recent passing of two biologists who played significant roles in the partial recovery of Whooping Crane populations. A scholarship announcement (Anonymous. *Science Contours* 23(1):19, 2010) refers to a June 2010 memorial service for Dr. William A. (Bill) Fuller, former Chair of the Department of Zoology at the University of Alberta. When Whooping Cranes had ceased to breed in all known nesting sites and extensive surveys for the nesting area of the tiny last flock that wintered in Aransas National Park in Texas had failed to locate any nests, Bill observed nesting cranes in the Northwest Territories portion of Wood Buffalo National Park while he was conducting aerial surveys of the park's mammal herds. Ernie Kuyt, the biologist assigned by the Canadian Wildlife Service to monitor this flock, passed away in Edmonton on 21 May 2010 at the age of 81 (Anonymous. 2010. *Nature Alberta* 40(1):11). Ernie not only monitored the cranes for 25 years, but was the key biologist involved with applying colour bands to help monitor their movements, with taking one egg from two-egg clutches for artificial incubation to increase the chances that at least one egg would survive the hazardous incubation period and with participating with U.S. officials in transferring some of those eggs to Sandhill Crane nests at other sites to help establish flocks that would winter in areas other than the hurricane-susceptible Aransas wintering area. These efforts helped increase the population to a somewhat less hazardous level.) MKM

## B.C. Students Awarded

Two of five Society of Canadian Ornithology student awards for 2010 went to students at B.C. universities and a third was awarded to a Manitoba student who was prominent in the B.C. ornithology community prior to starting graduate studies and continues to publish on B.C. birds (I. Warkentin. 2010. *Picoides* 23(2):6-9). The Fred Cooke Award was presented to Marie-Helene Burle of Simon Fraser University for studies on the mating system and breeding ecology of the Tuamotu Sandpiper, an endangered species now restricted to four atolls in French Polynesia. Amanda Edworthy of the UBC Forest Sciences Centre received a Junco Technologies Award for studies on tree cavity persistence and re-use by birds and mammals. Kyle Elliott's Ph.D. studies at the University of Manitoba received a James L. Baillie Award for studies on effects of aging on metabolic rates of long-lived Arctic seabird species.

## Osprey Elevated and Wrens Split

The latest (51<sup>st</sup>) supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union's check-list of North American birds (R. T. Chesser *et al.* 2010. *Auk* 127:726-744) contains numerous changes to the taxonomy and nomenclature of North American birds, as usual. Those that affect the B.C. list follow. Black Scoter, *Melanitta nigra* has been split into Black and American (*M. americana*) scoters, with the latter the North American species. Tropicbirds have been split out of the order Pelecaniiformes into their own order Phaethontiformes. Frigatebirds, gannets and boobies, cormorants and anhingas have all also been transferred from Pelecaniiformes into a new order Sulidae. This would leave only pelicans in Pelecaniiformes, but they have been joined by herons (Ardeidae) and ibises and spoonbills (Threskiornithidae), leaving storks alone in Ciconiiformes. Osprey is elevated to a monotypic family, Pandionidae. Falcons (Falconidae) have been transferred out of Accipitriformes into a separate order (Falconiformes). Whip-poor-will has been split into two species, Eastern Whip-poor-will and Mexican Whip-poor-will. Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) has been split into three species, with Winter Wren (*T. hiemalis*) and Pacific Wren (*T. pacifica*) the two found in North America. Those found in B.C. are mostly Pacific, but Winter Wrens occur in the northeastern corner of the province, along with aspen parkland bird species. Gnatcatchers have been removed from the Old World Warbler family Sylviidae into their own family Polioptilidae. Tennessee, Orange-crowned and Nashville warblers have been removed from the genus *Vermivora* and placed into the new genus *Oreothlypis*. The waterthrushes have been removed from the genus *Seiurus* and placed in the new genus *Parkesia*. The longspurs and Snow and McKay's buntings have been

removed from the towhee/sparrow family Emberizidae and placed in a new separate family, Calcariidae. McCown's Longspur has been removed from *Calcarius* and given back its old genus *Rhynchophanes*. The order in which species are listed in some families has also been shuffled, as usual and several small passerine families have also been shuffled.

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### **Gertrude (Trudy) Moore**

The Birders' section of the Vancouver Natural History Society lost another prominent member when Gertrude (Trudy) Moore died in New Westminster on 21 September 2010. (Anonymous. 2010. *Wandering Tattler* 34(3):9). She attended most monthly meetings, usually with her sister, Ruth (Jones) Richmond, periodically bringing mesh bags of the hair of her long-haired dog for purchase by donation to aid in the work of the section. The compiler of these notes can attest to the welcome these bags received by Black-capped Chickadees, as those at his former Canada Way, Burnaby home began to remove hair from such a bag within seconds of his hanging it on a tree. She was also an actively contributing member of the Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (OWL) helping to landscape their property.

### **New Bird Alert**

Russell Cannings (son of Dick) has started a province-wide computerized bird alert recently for reporting rare birds and "interesting bird trends." He would appreciate reports by e-mail at [russellcannings@shaw.ca](mailto:russellcannings@shaw.ca). The alert can be found on the inter-net at <http://bcbirdalert.blogspot.com>. –based on R. Cannings. 2010. *Wandering Tattler* 33(4):9.

### **Fall 2010 Federation Awards**

Birds feature prominently in the contributions recognized by McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist Awards presented to Al Grass and Kiyoshi Takahashi at the fall 2010 meeting of the Federation of B.C. Naturalists in Langley. Takahashi was recognized for general nature writings in both English and Japanese, photographic contributions, nature recordings and supplying bat and bird houses for bats, Barn Owls and Purple Martins in various parks in the "lower mainland." Birds also feature prominently in the numerous field trips, park lectures, newspaper articles, journal notes, photographs and customer advice given or produced by well-rounded naturalist Al Grass through his many years as a provincial park naturalist, columnist, member of several naturalists and Wild Birds Unlimited staff member. Mike Griffin of the Burke Mountain Naturalists was given a Club Service Award for his many contributions to that club and the preservation of local parks and other natural areas. Raptor counts and local Christmas Bird Counts were the birdier items among his many contributions to the documentation and preservation of natural features in the Burke Mountain area. –based on Anonymous. 2010. *B.C. Nature* 48(4):9-10.

### **Prince George Tree Swallow Flies to Calgary Area**

A Tree Swallow banded by Russ Dawson west of Prince George was recovered in 2010 on a nest-box trail 667 km. SE by veteran bander Donald J. Stiles near Didsbury, Alberta (near Calgary), an unusual pathway for this species. –based on B. Taylor and D. J. Stiles. 2010. Calgary Area Nest-box Monitors Annual Report 2010:6.

# Two-day Field Trips for Members

*New for 2011: BC Field Ornithologists is offering a series of field trips, led by expert local leaders to outstanding, bird-rich areas of the Province.*

## **Skagit Valley**

**May 27-28, 2011**

*Explore this hidden Shangri-la: more than 200 species of birds, and flora and fauna of both coastal, and dry interior ecosystems. Day 2 locations: Cheam Wetlands, Hope Airport, and other hotspots.*

**Jude Grass – leader**

[judegrass@shaw.ca](mailto:judegrass@shaw.ca)

(604) 538 8774

## **Central BC**

**June 10-12, 2011**

**Nancy Krueger - leader**

*See below for  
details of pre-  
AGM field trip in  
the Prince George  
Region  
(Central BC)*

## **Fraser Delta**

**November 12-13, 2011**

*See wintering raptors and vast numbers of waterbirds that use the delta in winter. Experience some of Canada's best winter birding right on Vancouver's doorstep. Gyr Falcon anyone?*

**George Clulow – leader**

[gclulow@shaw.ca](mailto:gclulow@shaw.ca)

(604) 438 7639

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## **Fort St. John BCFO AGM Conference Pre-Conference Two-Day Field Trip for Members Prince George Region June 9 – 10, 2011**

The journey up to Fort St. John for this year's AGM will be a long drive for many BCFO members. To break up the journey, and to offer the opportunity to see and to bird in some other great places in the Province, we have built in 2 days of birding around the Prince George area on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>. We expect participants will stay in, or near Prince George on Wednesday night.

As per the other Two-Day Field Trips we are offering this year (see Winter 2010 Newsletter), participants are responsible for their accommodation, food, and getting to the starting location. Where possible, carpooling will be arranged. The cost is \$10.00 per participant.

For Thursday, depending on river water levels at this time, and on the areas that seem to offer the best birding, we will choose from the following locations: Forests for the World; Bowron Forest Road, including Eaglet Lake; Wilkins Regional Park; Cottonwood Island Nature Park; and Fort George Canyon PP. Target species will include Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

On Friday we will begin a leisurely drive to Fort St. John to arrive in time for the Registration & Social Hour at the Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel, Fort St. John.

En route we will stop to bird at a number of locations including: Summit Lake; Whiskers Point; Tudyah Lake; and Bear Flats.

**Important:** Please register **at least two weeks** in advance. Send an email (address below), or phone Jude Grass advising the names and numbers of participants and their contact information. The leader will advise later, specifically when and where to meet in Prince George for Thursday morning.

If needed, additional leaders will be recruited to keep group sizes small.

Leader: Nancy Krueger    Email registration: [BCFO.trips@shaw.ca](mailto:BCFO.trips@shaw.ca)    Phone: 604-538-8774

## Shelley Lagoons: a must-visit en Route to Fort St John

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*Clive Keen, Prince George, B.C.*



A septic lagoon is not many people's idea of heaven, but there's one in Prince George that seems to me not far short, and any BCFO members heading to Fort St John in June is welcome to a conducted tour.

A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, posing for my camera, certainly made me overlook the pong. Similar favours from a White-rumped Sandpiper almost made me a fan of the aroma. People look at me strangely when I say it, but there really is no place I'd rather be. Particularly when the wind is in the right direction.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Photo by Clive Keen)

I'd heard about the Shelley Lagoons soon after I'd moved in 2009 from Prince Edward Island to Prince George, and after finding a nice group of Long-billed Dowitchers on my first visit, returned with a camera and 500 mm lens. The Dowitchers had moved on, and I could only see a couple of peeps in the entire six-pond location. But since one of those peeps was the young Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – a bird that should have been in deepest Siberia – I had no cause for complaint.

Since that moment I've returned on many occasions, and seen most of BC's duck species, along with a good proportion of the fauna attracted to bodies of water – many shorebirds, Sora, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and so forth – though I missed a recent Avocet.

The Sharp-tailed taught me the importance of taking my camera with me. Just before writing this, I'd seen a group of Least Sandpipers mixing with something larger. A Semipalmated Sandpiper? But it did seem rather too large for a semi, so I spent nearly half an hour taking its portrait, and circulated a shot through the ncbird listserver. Fortunately, one of the viewers took a close look, and asked to see more photographs. The experts quickly agreed – It was a White-rumped Sandpiper, very rare for BC, and not seen in the central interior since 1997. Another triumph for the Shelley Sludge Lagoons. I'll be back often. The fragrance is addictive.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference will be held at the Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel <http://www.qualityinnnortherngrand.com/index.html> in the heart of the Peace River country, Fort St. John, B.C. on the weekend of June 10-12, 2011.

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 Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel in Fort St. John. This will include Salmon and Roast Beef.

### Other Events:

- ❖ Birding field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- ❖ Annual general meeting and technical presentations on Saturday afternoon at the Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel in Fort St. John.
- ❖ 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. However we have been guaranteed a rate of \$119.00 per night for up to 4 people per room at the Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel, our group booking name is BCFO.

### List of Hotels / Motels

Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel	250-787-0521
Stonebridge Hotel	250-263-6880
Pomeroy Hotel	250-262-3233
Super 8 Motel	250-785-7588

### Campgrounds

Charlie Lake RV and Leisure Ltd. – 250-787-1569  
Beaton Provincial Park

**Registration:** Fort St. John is a great venue for our conference bird wise, unfortunately it is also more expensive as you get that far north and that is reflected in our Conference fee for this year which will be: **\$150.00 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](mailto:wdiakow@shaw.ca)

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

**21ST ANNUAL BCFO CONFERENCE**  
**FORT ST. JOHN, BC**  
**June 10 – 12, 2011**  
**Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel**

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY, June 10, 2011**

6:00 – 9:00 pm      Registration & Social Hour @ Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel

**SATURDAY, June 11, 2011**

5:00 am      Breakfast

5:30 am - 12:45 pm      **Field Trips** from Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel

1:00 – 2:00 pm.      **Catered Lunch** @ Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel

2:00 – 3:45 pm      **Technical Session** @ Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel

**Alicia Goddard**      Sharp-tailed Grouse in NE BC

**Ian Robertson**      Recent use of stand watch surveys to record Fall Raptor  
Migration in NE BC

**Pete Davidson**      Update on the BC Breeding Bird Atlas

3:45 – 4:00 pm      Break

4:00 - 5:00 pm      **Annual General Meeting** @ Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel

5:00 – 5:30 pm      **Director's Board Meeting**

6:00 – 7:00 pm      **Social Hour** @ Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel, (Cash Bar).

7:00 – 10:00 pm      **Banquet** @ Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel

**Guest Speaker** – Dr. Ken Otter, University of Northern BC

Assessing the conflict between avian migration and wind development in the  
BC Rockies

**SUNDAY, June 12, 2011**

5: 5:00 am      Breakfast

5:30 am - 12:45 pm      Field Trips from Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel

1:00 – 2:00 pm.      Catered Lunch @ Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel and wrap up.

**After Conference: June 12**

3 pm      **Extension Trip** - local birding trip

For those staying over to Atlas - there will be Local Birding Trips in the  
afternoon organized by Bird Studies Canada.

**BCFO 2011 Extension Trip**  
**Fort St. John to Fort Nelson and Area**  
**June 12 – 15, 2011**  
**Leader: Russell Cannings**

**Sun, June 12th**

This afternoon will be an optional birding outing, and we will decide where to go based on what birds participants are interested in. After dinner we will visit the Taylor Flats area where there is a good chance of seeing Ruby-throated Hummingbird. After returning to Fort St. John, we will go to Watson Slough, where we hope to hear the ticking call of the Yellow Rail, and see the rare Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. We'll overnight at the Quality Inn Northern Grand Hotel.

**Mon, June 13th**

We'll get an early start today as we'll be covering a fair bit of ground. We'll head north from Fort St. John watching for Northern Hawk-Owls and Great Gray Owls perched along the roadside, before arriving at Pink Mountain mid-morning. Here we will hike around the summit searching for Rock Ptarmigan, Dusky Grouse, Horned Lark, and perhaps Rock Wren. In the subalpine willow/spruce scrub there is a chance of finding Gray-cheeked Thrush, and further down we should encounter a nice variety of songbirds. The black spruce bogs that carpet the lower flats of Pink Mountain are great for breeding Rusty Blackbird. After lunch we will drive north to Fort Nelson where we can squeeze in a bit of birding before checking into the Fort Nelson Ramada. After dinner, many people will probably want to relax, but if there is interest we could get out for an optional evening birding session. The sun doesn't set until fairly late in mid-June this far north so owling is probably out of the question!

**Tues, June 14th**

Another early start, as we'll be heading up the Liard Hwy toward the Northwest Territories. We'll stop at the Beaver Lake Recreation Site to look for Cape May Warbler and other songbirds. Continuing up to the Fort Nelson River, we will search for birds such as Philadelphia Vireo, Boreal Chickadee, Mourning Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and White-winged Crossbill. After lunch we'll work our way back to Fort Nelson, stopping at Parker Lake to scope for water birds and listen for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. Another optional after dinner outing will allow us to check out the Fort Nelson Sewage Lagoons and the Fort Nelson Airport for shorebirds, and Sandhill Cranes. We will overnight at the Ramada in Fort Nelson.

**Wed, June 15th**

This morning we'll visit a couple great birding sites close to Fort Nelson, before heading south back to Fort St. John. We can improvise a little bit today but essentially the tour ends in the early afternoon in Fort St. John.



**Join us in Fort St. John  
for the  
2011  
BCFO Annual  
Conference.**

**Great Birding!  
Great Scenery!  
Great Company!**



## Herring Spawn Tour Trip Report

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On March 10 and 11, 2011, 14 hearty birders braved the cold wind and abundant rain in sunny Parksville on the BCFO's Herring Spawn Tour, led by local, Guy Monty. Due to the unseasonably cold winter, the Pacific Herring spawn was later than in recent years, but the fish did oblige us by coming ashore near French Creek on the final day of the tour, attracting many thousands of gulls. Although all of the birding was interesting, and the Parksville Qualicum area does offer some lovely scenery, the spectacle of huge swarms of gulls accompanied by over 50 Bald Eagles, all thrashing in the intertidal areas trying to catch herring, was the highlight of the trip. During all of this chaos, Guy found a juvenile Iceland Gull, which was a new species for most of us. Large flocks of scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, and Greater Scaup, all patiently waiting for herring eggs, were another memorable sight, as were the flocks of black Brant. It was a wonderful tour, and it was great meeting birders from around the province. Species seen in the Parksville-Qualicum Area, March 10-11, 2011:

Brant	Barrow's Goldeneye	Mew Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Canada Goose	Red-breasted Merganser	Ring-billed Gull	American Robin
Mute Swan x Trumpeter Swan hybrid	Pacific Loon	California Gull	Varied Thrush
Trumpeter Swan	Common Loon	Herring Gull	European Starling
Eurasian Wigeon	Horned Grebe	Thayer's Gull	Spotted Towhee
American Wigeon	Red-necked Grebe	Iceland Gull	Fox Sparrow
Mallard	Brandt's Cormorant	Western Gull	Song Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Double-crested Cormorant	Glaucous-winged Gull	White-crowned Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Pelagic Cormorant	Common Murre	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Great Blue Heron	Pigeon Guillemot	Dark-eyed Junco
Harlequin Duck	Bald Eagle	Rock Pigeon	Red-winged Blackbird
Surf Scoter	Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Flicker	Brewer's Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Black-bellied Plover	Northwestern Crow	House Finch
Black Scoter	Killdeer	Common Raven	Pine Siskin
Long-tailed Duck	Black Oystercatcher	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	House Sparrow
Bufflehead	Black Turnstone	Bushtit	
Common Goldeneye	Dunlin	Pacific Wren	
	Bonaparte's Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	

## Bird Listers' Corner 2010 Lists

Welcome back to Listers' Corner for the 2010 edition. After a one year hiatus, for various reasons, we are now back in BC Birding. I would like to thank Wayne Weber for his efforts since taking over the task in 2005. Along with the 2010 listings, the 2009 submissions are included as part of this report. You will note changes in the presentation of the figures this time around. The number under the "%" in the tables represents, as in previous years, the percentage of that individual's figure compared to the total species in that particular area/list. The "incr" column indicates the increase, if any, from the 2009 figure. If a 2009 figure was not received I have brought forward the 2008 number if one was available. Any figures brought forward from a previous listing are noted with a preceding "asterisk". As in the past if a member does not supply a submission for 2 consecutive years (*shown in italics*), that listing will be dropped on subsequent reports. An individual in **bold** print indicates that person had the largest increase from the previous year's report for that particular listing. Eye-track shading has been used to make it easier to read across the charts. I hope readers can find their way through the tables without problem.

Submissions were received from 53 members and improvement from the 35 in 2009. It should be noted only BCFO members in 2010 are included in this report with a few listings carried forward from 2009 members. It is hoped we will again see everyone's name on the 2011 membership list. A large percentage of submissions were received by email which is my personal preference of receipt. All email and mailed submissions, provided an email address was known for the mail-ins, were personally acknowledged. Also a reminder email was sent out mid January as a friendly reminder to previous submitters.

Now let's see who has been out there enjoying new sightings whether in BC, Canada, south of the border or around the World.

Let's start with the BC list which had the most submissions. For reasons know to most, Russ

Cannings amassed an increase of 28 species. These came in his quest to top Mike Toochin's 2001 BC Big Year mark of 364. Russ finished with an impressive 373 !! Kevin Neill continues to improve his list with a 12 species increase. Mike Toochin remains number one with Jo Anne MacKenzie moving into second spot one ahead of Dale Jensen.

British Columbia - 505					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	456	Mike Toochin	90.3	3	453
2	438	Jo Ann MacKenzie	86.7	5	433
3	437	Dale Jensen	86.5	3	434
4	425	Wayne Weber	84.2	3	422
5	422	Sharon Toochin	83.6	9	413
6	421	David Sterling	83.4	1	420
7	420	Tony Greenfield	83.2	6	*414
8	419	Roger Foxall	83.0	8	411
9	415	Lloyd Esralson	82.2	7	408
10	408	Murray Brown	80.8	4	404
11	405	Dick Cannings	80.2	2	403
11	405	Brian Stech	80.2	5	400
13	404	Guy Monty	80.0	3	401
14	401	Val George	79.4	3	398
15	399	Bryan Gates	79.0	2	*397
16	396	Thor Manson	78.4	5	391
16	396	Keith Riding	78.4	--	*397
16	396	Russ Tkachuk	78.4	--	*396
19	395	Mike McGrenere	78.2	2	393
20	394	Hank Vanderpol	78.0	--	*394
21	391	Brian Scott	77.4	--	--
22	389	Barbara Begg	77.0	1	388
22	*389	Ken Klimco	77.0	--	389
24	<b>386</b>	<b>Russell Cannings</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>358</b>
24	386	Larry Cowan	76.4	4	382
26	383	John Voos	75.8	5	378
27	377	Gary Davidson	74.7	--	*377
27	377	Len Jellicoe	74.7	7	*370
29	374	Chris Charlesworth	74.1	5	*369
30	367	Ken Morgan	72.7	1	366
30	367	Don Wilson	72.7	2	365
32	365	Kevin Neill	72.3	12	353
33	*362	<i>Ron Walker</i>	71.7	--	*362
33	362	Bruce Whittington	71.7	--	362
35	356	Martin McNicholl	70.5	1	355
36	355	Rand Rudland	70.3	5	350
37	354	Laird Law	70.1	--	354
38	350	Gwynneth Wilson	69.3	1	349
39	349	Peter Blokker	69.1	2	347
40	348	Andy Buhler	68.9	--	--
40	348	Marilyn Buhler	68.9	--	--
42	326	John Sprague	64.6	--	326
43	322	Ken Taylor	63.8	1	321
44	*317	<i>Laurie Rockwell</i>	62.8	--	*317
45	*312	<i>Howard Braun</i>	61.8	--	*312

British Columbia - 505 (cont)					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
45	312	Ted Goshulak	61.8	4	308
47	311	Dorothy Copp	61.6	3	308
48	308	Gwen Nicol	61.0	--	*308
49	*306	Mabel Croker	60.6	--	306
50	291	Janice Arndt	57.6	10	281
51	284	Peter McIver	56.2	--	284
52	278	Laure Neish	55.0	--	*278
53	272	Mike Mulligan	53.9	3	269
54	260	Lee Harding	51.5	4	256
55	242	Rick Wright	47.9	--	--

Several members surpassed ABA milestones in 2010. Thor Manson moved to the 700 plateau by adding a Brown Shrike in the fading days of December for an increase of 59. Dorothy Copp also crested the 700 milestone. Dick Cannings had the largest increase with 62 moving him well over the 600 mark. I finally passed the 500 level by adding 42 to my list.

ABA - 969					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	770	Roger Foxall	79.5	4	766
2	769	Mike Toochin	79.4	6	763
3	762	Mike Mulligan	78.6	3	759
4	751	Hank Vanderpol	77.5	4	747
5	734	Russ Tkachuk	75.7	2	732
6	706	Jo Ann MacKenzie	72.9	1	705
7	705	Dale Jensen	72.8	--	705
8	701	Dorothy Copp	72.3	2	699
9	<b>700</b>	<b>Thor Manson</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>641</b>
10	690	Brian Stech	71.2	1	689
11	681	John Vooy	70.3	10	671
12	679	David Sterling	70.1	1	678
13	675	Wayne Weber	69.7	1	674
14	664	Sharon Toochin	68.5	3	661
15	653	John Sprague	67.4	--	653
16	643	Chris Charlesworth	66.4	19	*624
16	643	Gary Davidson	66.4	11	*632
18	641	Brian Scott	66.2	--	--
19	635	Andy Buhler	65.5	--	--
19	635	Marilyn Buhler	65.5	--	--
19	<b>637</b>	<b>Dick Cannings</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>575</b>
22	626	Gwynneth Wilson	64.6	4	622
23	619	Don Wilson	63.9	--	619
24	*618	Ken Klimco	63.8	--	618
25	614	Keith Riding	63.4	--	*615
26	606	Tony Greenfield	62.5	2	*604
27	605	Barbara Begg	62.4	1	604
28	597	Lloyd Esralson	61.6	4	593
29	588	Sandra Eadie	60.7	4	*584
30	584	Ken Morgan	60.3	3	581
30	584	Kevin Neill	60.3	15	569
32	*582	Howard Braun	60.1	--	*582

ABA - 969 (cont)					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
33	*581	Mabel Croker	60.0	--	581
33	581	Peter McIver	60.0	8	573
35	566	Bryan Gates	58.4	1	*565
35	566	Bill Heybroek	58.4	27	539
37	563	Russell Cannings	58.1	--	--
38	535	Rand Rudland	55.2	3	532
39	526	Martin McNicholl	54.3	1	525
40	520	Mike McGrenere	53.7	4	516
40	520	Laure Neish	53.7	7	513
40	520	Gwen Nicol	53.7	3	*517
43	514	Murray Brown	53.0	8	506
44	512	Larry Cowan	52.8	42	470
45	485	Laird Law	50.1	18	467
46	468	Ken Taylor	48.3	--	468
47	464	Ted Goshulak	47.9	15	*449
48	453	Lee Harding	46.7	--	--
49	412	Peter Blokker	42.5	1	*411
50	410	Janice Arndt	42.3	7	403

On the World stage Keith Riding remained at the top of the heap improving his total by 504 species moving him to 5,507. Dale Jensen also added an impressive 530 putting him over the 3,000 mark to 3,058. Dick Cannings also crossed that same plateau and follows him closely with 3,042.

World - 9,984					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	5,507	Keith Riding	55.2	504	5,003
2	4,682	Nigel Mathews	46.9	90	4,592
3	4,548	Jo Ann MacKenzie	45.6	23	4,525
4	4,417	Roger Foxall	44.2	217	4,200
5	4,403	Mike Toochin	44.1	45	4,358
6	3,940	David Sterling	39.5	4	3,936
7	3,564	Sharon Toochin	35.7	13	3,551
8	3,443	Peter McIver	34.5	61	3,382
9	3,290	Ken Taylor	33.0	11	3,279
10	3,276	Mike Mulligan	32.8	--	3,276
11	3,112	Barbara Begg	31.2	112	3,000
12	*3,100	Ron Walker	31.0	--	*3,100
13	<b>3058</b>	<b>Dale Jensen</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>2528</b>
14	3,042	Dick Cannings	30.5	223	2,819
15	2,822	Laird Law	28.3	197	2,625
16	2,670	Hank Vanderpol	26.7	--	2,670
17	2,098	Don Wilson	21.0	163	1,935
18	2,051	Val George	20.5	109	1,942
19	1,989	Rand Rudland	19.9	322	1,667
20	1,811	Lee Harding	18.1	6	1,805
21	1,738	Ken Morgan	17.4	5	1,733
22	1,620	Dorothy Copp	16.2	172	1,448
23	1,597	Sandra Eadie	16.0	106	*1,491
24	1,588	Bryan Gates	15.9	2	1,586
25	1,521	Brian Stech	15.2	186	1,335

World - 9,984 (cont)					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
26	1,425	Tony Greenfield	14.3	--	1,425
27	1,285	Gary Davidson	12.9	27	*1,258
28	*1,018	Howard Braun	10.2	--	*1,018
29	1,003	Larry Cowan	10.0	58	945

The next major list is Canada. The top ten in this listing remained unchanged, position wise, with Roger Foxall retaining first place. There were two birders who improved their totals by 10, Murray Brown & Peter McIver.

Canada - 667					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	538	Roger Foxall	80.7	8	530
2	518	Jo Ann MacKenzie	77.7	2	516
3	498	Mike Toochin	74.7	3	495
4	488	David Sterling	73.2	1	487
5	482	Dale Jensen	72.3	2	480
6	474	Russ Tkachuk	71.1	--	474
7	471	Sharon Toochin	70.6	5	466
8	468	Wayne Weber	70.2	2	466
9	466	Dick Cannings	69.9	4	462
10	458	Hank Vanderpol	68.7	2	456
11	450	Thor Manson	67.5	7	443
12	449	Barbara Begg	67.3	1	448
13	448	Mike McGrenere	67.2	3	445
14	447	Keith Riding	67.0	1	446
15	444	Martin McNicholl	66.6	2	442
16	444	Brian Scott	66.6	--	--
17	439	Larry Cowan	65.8	3	436
18	438	Lloyd Esralson	65.7	7	431
18	438	Mike Mulligan	65.7	3	435
18	438	Brian Stech	65.7	5	433
21	436	Kevin Neill	65.4	6	430
22	435	<b>Murray Brown</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>425</b>
23	434	Len Jellicoe	65.1	8	*426
24	432	Ken Morgan	64.8	1	431
24	432	John Vooy's	64.8	3	429
26	431	Tony Greenfield	64.6	5	426
27	425	Chris Charlesworth	63.7	--	--
28	418	Bryan Gates	62.7	2	416
29	417	Russell Cannings	62.5	--	--
30	412	Sandra Eadie	61.8	4	408
30	412	Gwynneth Wilson	61.8	2	*410
32	410	Peter Blokker	61.5	--	410
33	407	Gary Davidson	61.0	1	*406
33	407	John B. Sprague	61.0	--	407
33	407	Don Wilson	61.0	1	406
36	403	Rand Rudland	60.4	5	398
37	397	Andy Buhler	59.5	--	--
37	397	Marilyn Buhler	59.5	--	--
39	*394	Ken Klimco	59.1	--	394
40	390	Janice Arndt	58.5	7	383

Canada - 667 (cont)					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
41	380	Laird Law	57.0	--	380
41	*380	Ron Walker	57.0	--	*380
43	375	Ted Goshulak	56.2	9	*366
44	371	Dorothy Copp	55.6	1	370
45	368	<b>Peter McIver</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>358</b>
46	363	Gwen Nicol	54.4	5	*358
47	*361	Mabel Croker	54.1	--	361

Another popular BC birding area is the Okanagan Valley. Chris Charlesworth retained top position at 303, six ahead of runner up Dick Cannings. The best increase was 11 by Russ Cannings. John Vooy's wasn't too far behind with an increase of 9.

Okanagan Valley - 342					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	303	Chris Charlesworth	89	--	*299
2	297	Dick Cannings	87	4	293
3	292	Gwynneth Wilson	85	1	291
4	288	Don Wilson	84	2	286
5	<b>286</b>	<b>Russell Cannings</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>275</b>
6	*280	Laurie Rockwell	82	--	*280
7	*274	Howard Braun	80	--	*274
8	271	Peter Blokker	79	1	270
9	269	Laure Neish	79	2	267
10	268	Mike Toochin	78	3	265
11	259	Hank Vanderpol	76	--	*259
12	258	Wayne Weber	75	1	257
13	255	Gary Davidson	75	--	*265
14	242	David Sterling	71	--	242
15	234	Jo Ann MacKenzie	68	--	234
16	232	Tony Greenfield	68	2	*230
17	221	John Vooy's	65	9	*212
18	218	Laird Law	64	--	218
19	215	Lloyd Esralson	63	8	207
20	208	Keith Riding	61	--	*208
21	193	Bryan Gates	56	--	*193
22	181	Gwen Nicol	53	--	*181
23	175	Brian Stech	51	4	171
24	174	Rand Rudland	51	--	--
25	168	Larry Cowan	49	--	168

Another of the new additions to Birder's Corner is this year's list for Non-Motorized Transport. This consists of species seen/heard using self powered locomotion (walk, run, bicycle, canoe etc.) from your home. Although we only have five listings, NMT birding is catching on with many birders. I have noted the home location for each listing. This would indicate it is a definite advantage living near the Coast as can be seen by the top 2 listers.

Non-Motorized Transport			
#	2010	Name	Location
1	243	Mike McGrenere	Victoria
2	219	Guy Monty	Parksville
3	192	Dick Cannings	Penticton
4	143	Janice Arndt	Nelson
5	134	Russell Cannings	Penticton

Familiar to the ABA members amongst us is the listing addition of ATPT. This listing comprises the totalling of all Canadian Province & Territory lists to create a "Total Ticks" list.

All Ticks Provinces & Territories				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	2,148	David Sterling	--	*2,148
2	1,261	Barabara Begg	2	1,259

The North Pacific Pelagic Waters List saw Ken Morgan remain on top but Mike Tootchin with the addition of 28 species has moved from the middle of the pack to second place.

North Pacific Pelagic Waters				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	100	Ken Morgan	1	99
2	96	Mike Tootchin	28	68
3	77	Bruce Whittington	--	77
4	69	Russell Cannings	--	--
5	67	David Sterling	--	67
6	63	Lloyd Esralson	--	*63
7	60	Val George	--	60
8	58	Kevin Neill	--	--
9	57	Jo Ann MacKenzie	--	58

Also new to our lists is a BC Winter List. This includes period sightings from Dec/Jan/Feb with a total to Feb. 28, 2010.

B.C. Winter List - Dec, Jan, Feb (2010)				
#	2010	Name		
1	252	David Sterling		
2	235	Guy Monty		
3	209	Larry Cowan		
4	188	Russell Cannings		
5	118	Janice Arndt		

A place that could stand a few more visits from birders is the Sunshine Coast. Tony Greenfield the perennial top lister in this area moved further ahead in 2010 with the addition of 6 to his impressive listing.

Sunshine Coast Area - 304					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	274	Tony Greenfield	90	6	268
2	247	Russ Tkachuk	81	1	*246
3	229	Rand Rudland	75	2	227
4	181	Guy Monty	60	--	--

The Alberta list stayed basically static with only minor additions to the 2009 listings.

Alberta - 417					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	347	Mike Mulligan	83	1	346
2	305	Hank Vanderpol	73	2	303
3	286	David Sterling	69	--	286
4	241	Roger Foxall	58	--	241
4	241	Martin McNicholl	58	--	241
6	240	Jo Ann MacKenzie	58	--	240
7	235	Wayne Weber	56	--	235
8	222	Bryan Gates	53	--	*222
8	222	Laure Neish	53	--	*222
10	215	Gary Davidson	52	--	*215
11	214	Dick Cannings	51	--	214

Wayne Weber still tops the Washington State List with an impressive 43 species lead to second place Jo Ann MacKenzie. Guy Monty posted the biggest increase of 9 species.

Washington State - 500					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	392	Wayne Weber	78	1	391
2	349	Jo Ann MacKenzie	70	--	349
3	315	Mike Tootchin	63	2	313
4	294	Guy Monty	59	9	285
5	275	Hank Vanderpol	55	--	275
6	267	Dick Cannings	53	--	267
7	261	John Vooy	52	4	*257
8	257	Roger Foxall	51	--	257
9	256	Chris Charlesworth	51	--	--
10	254	David Sterling	51	--	254
11	250	Keith Riding	50	1	*249
12	235	Lloyd Esralson	47	--	235
13	234	Dale Jensen	47	0	234
14	211	Dorothy Copp	42	1	210
15	203	Brian Stech	41	1	202

Another great place to bird in BC is Vancouver Island. This list saw minimal gains by submitters except for Roger Foxall's addition of 4 to his total.

Vancouver Island - 387					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	344	David Sterling	89	1	343
2	334	Barbara Begg	86	1	333
3	332	Bryan Gates	86	2	*330
4	331	Mike McGrenere	86	2	329
5	327	Guy Monty	84	3	324
6	322	Hank Vanderpol	83	--	*322
7	313	Bruce Whittington	81	--	313
8	289	Mike Toochn	75	3	286
9	284	Ken Morgan	73	1	283
10	283	Brian Stech	73	--	*283
11	255	Wayne Weber	66	1	254
12	<b>254</b>	<b>Roger Foxall</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>250</b>
13	250	Jo Ann MacKenzie	65	--	250
14	*193	Mabel Croker	50	--	193

Moving to the north of the Province the Peace River Area saw a few people move down the list with the addition of a submission by Guy Monty of 213. With this year's Conference in Fort St. John I'm sure next year's listings will see some changes and possible additions.

Peace River Area - 272					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	241	Laird Law	89	--	241
2	213	Guy Monty	78	--	--
3	207	Tony Greenfield	76	--	*207
4	206	Russell Cannings	76	--	206
5	191	Jo Ann MacKenzie	70	--	191
6	184	Bryan Gates	68	--	*184
7	164	Wayne Weber	60	--	164
8	163	David Sterling	60	--	163
9	151	Larry Cowan	56	--	151

Further north the Yukon Territory List showed only one minor improvement of 3 species by Tony Greenfield. He still trails Dick Cannings by 16.

Yukon Territory - 310					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	172	Dick Cannings	55	--	172
2	<b>156</b>	<b>Tony Greenfield</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>153</b>
3	150	David Sterling	48	--	150
4	142	Roger Foxall	46	--	142
5	112	Rand Rudland	36	--	112
6	104	John Sprague	34	--	104
7	100	Gary Davidson	32	--	*123

The Northwest Territories has been added to this year's listings. As it has a common border with BC I felt it was a valid addition.

Northwest Territories - 322					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	151	Tony Greenfield			
2	51	Lee Harding			

Two major listing areas in BC are the Victoria and Vancouver Checklist Areas. There were no great surprises in either of these lists from 2009. David Sterling still resides atop the Victoria list and Mike Toochn the Vancouver list.

Victoria Area - 362					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	327	David Sterling	90	1	326
2	319	Barbara Begg	88	1	318
3	<b>317</b>	<b>Mike McGrenere</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>314</b>
4	315	Bryan Gates	87	--	*315
5	313	Hank Vanderpol	86	--	*313
6	302	Bruce Whittington	83	--	302
7	254	Mike Toochn	70	1	253
8	248	Guy Monty	69	1	247
9	235	Wayne Weber	65	--	235

Vancouver Area - 397					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	362	Mike Toochn	91	1	361
2	351	Jo Ann MacKenzie	88	2	349
3	341	Wayne Weber	86	2	339
4	333	Lloyd Esralson	84	4	329
5	330	Keith Riding	83	--	*330
6	318	Roger Foxall	80	3	315
7	*318	Ken Klimco	80	--	318
8	311	Larry Cowan	78	2	309
9	297	Brian Stech	75	3	294
9	<b>297</b>	<b>John Vooy</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>292</b>
11	286	Dick Cannings	72	--	286
12	242	David Sterling	61	--	242
13	235	Bryan Gates	59	1	*234
14	234	Don Wilson	59	--	234

With Cathy Antoniazzi's submission this year it's now apparent Laird Law has a bit of competition on his hands in Prince George.

Prince George Area - 297					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	<b>268</b>	<b>Laird Law</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>267</b>
2	266	Cathy Antoniazzi	90	--	--
3	190	Don Wilson	64	--	190
4	186	Russell Cannings	63	--	186
5	151	Peter Blokker	51	--	*151

The West Kootenay Area saw Gwen Nicol add 5 to her total but Gary Davidson still maintains a 32 species lead at the top.

West Kootenay Area - 313					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	274	Gary Davidson	88	--	*274
2	<b>242</b>	<b>Gwen Nicol</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>237</b>
3	239	Peter McIver	76	--	*239
4	229	Janice Arndt	73	3	*226
5	183	Jo Ann MacKenzie	58	3	180
6	*180	Wayne Weber	58	--	180

A popular birding location on the Lower Mainland, Sea & Iona Islands, saw Mike Toochin pull further ahead of the other listers by a margin of 30 with the addition of 11 in 2010.

Sea & Iona Islands (Vanc)				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	<b>270</b>	<b>Mike Toochin</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>259</b>
2	240	Keith Riding	--	*240
3	232	Wayne Weber	--	232
4	204	Lloyd Esralson	1	203
5	177	Larry Cowan	--	177

The BCFO has held two of their previous Conferences in the Creston Valley. Peter McIver maintains first place but Gwen Nicol added 13 last year to move closer to the top.

Creston Valley Area - 301					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	208	Peter McIver	69	--	*208
2	<b>185</b>	<b>Gwen Nicol</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>172</b>
3	169	Gary Davidson	56	--	*169
4	142	Wayne Weber	47	--	142

Lloyd Esralson's increase of 11 for the Princeton Area, I suspect, was added while staking out the Acorn Woodpecker present for several weeks in Princeton preceding the Revelstoke BCFO Conference.

Princeton Area				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	<b>95</b>	<b>Lloyd Esralson</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>84</b>
2	90	Bryan Gates	--	--

The remaining lists have four or fewer submitters so I'll leave the analysis of those lists to you the readers.

Manning Provincial Park - 206					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	<b>152</b>	<b>Mike McGrenere</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>149</b>
2	125	Wayne Weber	61	--	125
3	110	Jo Ann MacKenzie	53	--	110
4	103	David Sterling	50	2	101

Blackie Spit (Vanc)				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	192	Jo Ann MacKenzie	--	192
2	<b>183</b>	<b>Wayne Weber</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>182</b>
3	112	Larry Cowan	--	112

Westham & Reifel Islands (Vanc)				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	222	Wayne Weber	2	220
2	193	Lloyd Esralson	3	190
3	<b>155</b>	<b>Larry Cowan</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>151</b>
4	139	Keith Riding	--	*139

Kamloops Area - 306					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	255	Wayne Weber	83	--	255
2	198	David Sterling	65	--	198
3	135	Gary Davidson	44	--	--

Revelstoke Area				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	<b>167</b>	<b>Russell Cannings</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>161</b>
2	*145	Wayne Weber	--	145

Williams Lake Area				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	*175	Laurie Rockwell	--	*175
2	138	Bryan Gates	--	*138

Gwaii Haanas National Park				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	*69	Laurie Rockwell	--	*69
2	*76	Bruce Whittington	--	76

Mt. Robson Provincial Park				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	*133	Laird Law	--	133
2	120	David Sterling	--	120

Parksville/Qualicum Area - 292				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	263	Guy Monty	7	*256
2	139	Larry Cowan	--	139

Salt Spring Island				
#	2010	Name	incr	2009
1	155	John Sprague	1	154
2	<b>147</b>	<b>Karen Ferguson</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>138</b>

The remaining listings are for areas with single submissions. They have been grouped by Provincial areas, National Parks, Provincial Parks, and Regional Parks.

<b>Northern BC</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>incr</b>	<b>2009</b>
Haida Gwaii	103	Bruce Whittington	3	100
Haines Triangle Area	88	David Sterling	--	88

<b>Interior BC</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>incr</b>	<b>2009</b>
Columbia Valley	123	Bryan Gates	--	--
North Okanagan Area	251	Peter Blokker	--	251

<b>Gulf &amp; Vancouver Islands</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>incr</b>	<b>2009</b>
Campbell River Area	170	Guy Monty	--	170
Clover Point (Victoria)	199	David Sterling	--	199
Nanaimo Area	261	Guy Monty	--	*261
Saturna Island	102	Tony Greenfield	--	*102

<b>Lower Mainland / Fraser Valley</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>incr</b>	<b>2009</b>
Point Roberts (Washington)	*171	Ken Klimco		*171
Trinity Western Univ Campus	149	Ted Goshulak	3	*146

<b>National Park</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>incr</b>	<b>2009</b>
Mt. Revelstoke	*81	Lloyd Esralson	--	81
Pacific Rim	175	David Sterling	--	175
Yoho	125	Wayne Weber	--	125

<b>Provincial Park</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>incr</b>	<b>2009</b>
Elk Valley	78	Lee Harding	--	--
Galena Bay	117	Lee Harding	--	--
Garibaldi	73	Mike McGrenere	--	--
Miracle Beach	159	David Sterling	--	159
Mitlenatch Island	110	David Sterling	--	110
Mt. Seymour	85	Wayne Weber		85
Rathtrevor Beach PP	171	Guy Monty	1	*170
Strathcona PP	111	Guy Monty	6	105

<b>Vancouver Regional Park</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>incr</b>	<b>2009</b>
Derby Reach	96	Ted Goshulak	--	--
Colony Farm	158	Larry Cowan	2	156

<b>Other</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>incr</b>	<b>2009</b>
Above 1,500m	111	Mike McGrenere	--	--

Members are reminded there are other opportunities for listing not encompassed by BCFO Listers' Corner. These include the American Birding Association (<http://www.aba.org/bigday/>) and Canadian Listers' Corner (<http://www.neilyworld.com/neilyworld/listerscorner/listers-corner.htm>). Up to date species totals for some areas were sourced from Tony White's State, Province & Territory Checklist summaries. The World total was sourced from the Shawneen Finnegan World-Wide Nation Checklist.

I would like to thank all those who submitted their life totals for this article. This being my first attempt producing this report I hope I have continued the tradition of bringing an informative compilation and review of the submissions supplied. If anyone would like a copy of the tables without the text I would be

more than happy to supply it in the form of an Excel spreadsheet. All that is needed is an email request. In closing I hope to see many of you at the June BCFO Annual Conference in Fort St. John and continued good birding for 2011.

Larry Cowan

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## A Big Come-down from Caviar

*Bill Merilees, Nanaimo, B.C.*



The cover story from our March 2010 (Vol. 20 No. 1) newsletter regarding the incredible concentration of gulls feasting on herring caviar at Parksville has an interesting aftermath. What do these gulls find to feed on when the herring spawn is over?

At the Horseshoe Bay Ferry terminal a partial answer to this question was recorded on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Quite a number of Glaucous-winged Gulls were 'lined up' picking mussels from the floating pontoons. From caviar to mussels in the short span of a few weeks would certainly be a decided come-down!

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## Adapt or Perish!

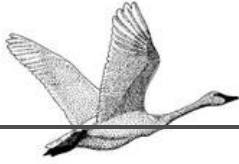
*Bill Merilees, Nanaimo, B.C.*



When confronted with the juggernaut of human economic and population expansion all living things in this path face the alternatives: relocate, adapt or disappear. One local example showing adaptation is the Brewer's Blackbirds. Once almost a strictly rural species they are now frequently encountered in mall parking lots.

Two other examples of adaptation recorded recently were Cattle Egrets following mechanical sugar cane harvesters in Queensland and Australian White Ibis waiting on tables outside a fish and chip shop. (see photos) Getting within a foot or two of these ibis provided an unexpected observation. The dorsal scutes between this species toe joints were as neatly coloured silver as a woman might paint her toe nails, something almost impossible to observe in the wild.

*Photos: Australian White Ibis 'waiting' tables. Cattle Egrets & Sugar cane harvester*



## Neck-Banded Tundra Swans from Alaska

*George Clulow, Burnaby, BC*

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The winter 2010 edition of *BC Birding* contained a request from Craig Ely of the Alaska Science Center for observations of Tundra Swans with blue neck bands.

On October 20, 2010, Carlo Giovanella, Meg Brown and I were birding along the old highway from Merritt to Kamloops when we observed, at Beaver Flats, a small group of Tundra Swans, which included an adult bird with a blue neck band. Having noted down the code, I was able to email the information of the sighting to Craig Ely. He replied the next day.

The bird we had observed was collared on July 20, 2010 as an adult male, near King Salmon, on the north end of the Alaska Peninsular.

Usually, the starting places and routes of the many migrants we observe can only be imagined. Sometimes, however, we get lucky and can connect a little more closely with a migrating bird, and contribute one small piece of information to those studying them. All the way from King Salmon Alaska to Merritt, BC – how cool is that?

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### New BCFO members

**Genevra Cavanaugh**  
(Kelowna)

**Amy Pavelich**  
(Nanaimo)

**Catherine E. Watson**  
(Bowser)

**Ernest Leupin**  
(Kamloops)

**Mary Robichaud**  
(Victoria)



# BIRDING IN TAIWAN

## TAIWAN for BCFO MEMBERS

**2012, March 14-28: SPECIAL TOUR FOR BCFO MEMBERS.** BCFO has been invited to Taiwan again. Visit the home area of BCFO's partner society in Changhua, and the popular Bagua Mountain Bird Fair. The rest of the tour will focus on endemic species, with excellent chances for all. ***The number of Taiwan endemic species is now 23***, according to *The Clements checklist of Bird of The world*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, updated to Dec.2010.

14 day tour, *FROM VANCOUVER*, INCLUDING AIR, \$4590 (sharing), \$5090 (single). Ask for a detailed itinerary.

**GROUP SIZE:** 1 – 10, with 2 leaders, Simon Liao and Jo Ann MacKenzie

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

INTERNATIONAL TAIWAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION [www.birdingintaiwan.org](http://www.birdingintaiwan.org)

*Good birds, good food, good friends!*

First  
Annual

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*Expert and novice birders are invited to explore the lush forests and waterways of Skagit Valley Provincial Park!*

**\$45 PER BIRDER (KIDS ARE FREE)**

- Two nights camping at Ross Lake Campground in the Skagit Valley — noon Friday, to Sunday.
- Guest speaker and barbecue, with salads, buns, and drinks provided (bring your own protein!).
- The Skagit offers stunning mountain scenery and a unique mix of climates that support many species.

To register:

Ph: (604) 869-1274 E-mail: [info@hopemountain.org](mailto:info@hopemountain.org)

Web: [www.hopemountain.org](http://www.hopemountain.org)

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29<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

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