

# B<sub>C</sub> BIRDING

Newsletter of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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## BCFO Officers and Directors

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### Executive

**President:** Jude Grass, Surrey  
604-538-8774 [judegrass@shaw.ca](mailto:judegrass@shaw.ca)

**Past President:** Kevin Bell, North Vancouver  
604-980-9085 [sonbel@shaw.ca](mailto:sonbel@shaw.ca)

**Vice President:** George Clulow, Burnaby  
604-438-7639 [gclulow@shaw.ca](mailto:gclulow@shaw.ca)

**Treasurer:** Mike Fung, Vancouver  
604-266-0238 [mike.mikefung@gmail.com](mailto:mike.mikefung@gmail.com)

**Recording Secretary:** Mary Taitt, Ladner  
604-946-2438 [marytaitt@gmail.com](mailto:marytaitt@gmail.com)

### Other Board Members

Larry Cowan, Pitt Meadows  
604-465-1402 [lawrencecowan@shaw.ca](mailto:lawrencecowan@shaw.ca)

Les Gyug, Westbank  
250-769-5907 [Les\\_gyug@shaw.ca](mailto:Les_gyug@shaw.ca)

Art Martell, Courtenay  
250-334-2979 [Martell.BCBirds@shaw.ca](mailto:Martell.BCBirds@shaw.ca)

June Ryder, Vancouver  
604-736-4189 [jmryder@telus.net](mailto:jmryder@telus.net)

Wayne C. Weber, Delta  
604-579-7201 [contopus@telus.net](mailto:contopus@telus.net)

### BCFO Committees & Representatives to Other Organizations (\* Board Member)

AGM Planning Committee:  
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Archivist: Les Gyug\*

BC Birding (Newsletter)  
Editors: June Ryder\* & Mark Haddas

BC Breeding Bird Atlas: George Clulow\*

BCFO Awards Committee: Wayne Weber\*

British Columbia Birds (Journal)  
Editor: Art Martell\*

Canadian International Joint Venture:  
Wayne Weber\*

Changhua Wild Bird Society:  
Jo Ann MacKenzie

Librarian: Andy Buhler

Membership Committee: Larry Cowan\*

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**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 Changhua Wild Bird Society, Changhua, 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:

General membership (Canada)	\$30.
Junior membership (Canada)	\$20.
U.S. and International Membership	\$35.

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### Newsletter Submissions

Send material to the Editors at [jmryder@telus.net](mailto:jmryder@telus.net) (MS Word format preferred but not essential) or mail to BCFO at above address. Submissions may include bird finding information for our "Site Guide" series, articles about birding experiences, casual observations of bird behaviour, photos, and other topics of interest to birders, preferably but not necessarily in British Columbia.

*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 Rates

Full page: \$125 per issue or \$112.50 each for 4 or more issues  
Half page: \$75 per issue or \$67.50 each for 4 or more issues  
Quarter page: \$40 per issue or \$36 each for 4 or more issues.

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**BCFO Website: [www.bcfo.ca](http://www.bcfo.ca)**

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### COVER STORY

*American White Pelican: a composite image.*  
 Lower photo by Clive Keen, July 25, 2011, at Scout Island Nature Centre, Williams Lake. Clive writes: "I was living a photographer's dream when I took that shot. Moments before, I'd taken a prize-winning shot of a Yellow-headed Blackbird (p.28), and it was shortly followed by excellent shots of Northern Rough-winged Swallows, a catbird and redstart."  
 Upper photo by Mark Habdas shows pelicans flying over their wintering grounds near San Blas Mexico, January 2012.

## 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 submission of proposals for financial assistance for bird surveys and other ornithological research. It also wishes to foster greater connections 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 making a submission.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOW IS THE TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT AND REGISTERING FOR THE BCFO AGM IN PRINCETON, JUNE 1-3. Your BCFO conference planning team, consisting of Wayne Diakow and Les Gyug, along with Madelon Schouten and other members of the host club, VERMILLION FORKS FIELD NATURALISTS, have been working hard to finalize all the details of meeting locations, meals, field trips, extension trip, and the various speakers for Saturday afternoon and the Banquet. Full details on pages 9-13.

Our new BCFO website is almost ready to go 'live' thanks to all the time and effort put in by our Vice President George Clulow. (NOTE: the old one is still working !!! - <http://www.bcfo.ca/>) Those of us who have had a sneak preview of the new site think that everyone will be very pleased with it, and will find it very easy to navigate.

George has also put together another excellent series of four two-day field trips around BC:

- South Okanagan in April with Dick Cannings,
- Merritt area at the end of May with Les Gyug (just prior to AGM in Princeton),
- Salmon Arm in September with Ted Hillary, and
- Victoria in November with Mike McGrenere (includes ferry to Port Angeles and return).

Be sure to sign up early as these trips will fill up quickly, see page 23. If you have any suggestions for a two-day trip location and/or would like to lead one, please let George know so we can start planning for 2013.

Now that we have the **BC Birding** newsletter back on schedule, thanks to June and Mark, we are hoping that members will contribute material for the newsletter. Articles don't have to be long but can consist of items such as interesting bird observations, a write up of a good birding location you like to visit, or a photo.

I am looking forward to seeing YOU at the BCFO Conference and AGM.

Jude Grass

President

## EDITORS' NOTES

With this issue we are looking both backward and forward. In his two quite dissimilar articles, Adrian Leather recounts the satisfactions and (minor) disappointments of successful Christmas counts. Looking even further back, Agnes Lynn describes her personal impressions of the Fort St John Conference, which was her first BCFO annual meeting. She points out how she thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the meeting (and of course the birds), despite initially not knowing any of the other participants. We hope that this may encourage lone birders and new members to join us in Princeton. Looking forward, this issue includes information about the upcoming conference and field trips at Princeton (a very birdy venue), and upcoming BCFO field trips -- see Jude's comments above. (As soon as I read the descriptions of the "Two-day field trips" I immediately wanted to register for them all! -- but held back for now.)

Note that registration forms for the Princeton conference are inserted (loose) in the paper versions of this newsletter and included as a separate file on the website.

We apologize for a misidentification in the December newsletter: the bird conversing with the Steller's Jay (p.22) is a Sharp-shinned, not a Cooper's hawk. Thanks to Andy Stewart for a quick correction: note the size of the hawk relative to the jay. Andy Buhler's recommendation to 'always take a second look' (p.14) clearly applies to birds in photographs as well those we see through our binoculars.

Many thanks to Martin McNicholl and Wayne Weber for continuing to compile "Upcoming Meetings and Events" and "BC Birding News Briefs"; this is not an easy task when the accuracy of all the details is so important. We are grateful to Larry Cowan for sorting out all the individual submissions into the neat tabulations of "Lister's Corner". And many thanks to everyone else who has contributed to this newsletter.

Finally, to reinforce another of Jude's comments, we strongly encourage members to send in material for *your* newsletter; see box on p.14 for suggestions.

We hope that everyone has time to get outside and enjoy the spring, especially the birding.

June Ryder

Editor





## TREASURER'S NOTES

### *BC Birding Online*

Following the last AGM vote to recoup directly the printing and mailing expenses of our newsletter *BC Birding*, eight members have so far elected to pay the annual \$12 to continue receiving their hard copies through Canada Post.

The general acceptance of online delivery, and the understanding and co-operation of others to pay directly, mean a very significant current savings for BCFO. Thank you.

### *Donations*

In the recent round of annual membership renewals, eight members made a donation to BCFO together with their dues. Thank you.

Donations are tax deductible and an official receipt will be gratefully sent. Donations are welcome at any time, not just during annual membership renewal, and can be mailed directly to our PO Box address. Direct enquiries to the Treasurer at [mike.mikefung@gmail.com](mailto:mike.mikefung@gmail.com) or (604) 266 0238, or any of the other Board Members.

Mike Fung

Treasurer



*Pacific Wren with new members*

*Hank Tseng*

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

*Compiled by Martin K. McNicholl*

### **Ron Walker**

B.C.F.O. members who attend most annual meetings will likely have encountered Ron Walker, who attended them occasionally. He and his wife, Ollie, managed a resort on the shore of Christina Lake for more than 55 years. This was the centre of his "insatiable appetite" for studying and photographing birds and plants and experiencing other aspects of nature. He was among the most active leaders of the West Kootenay Bird Study group and its successor, the Boundary Naturalists Association. –based slightly on personal encounters and primarily on B. Merilees. 2011. *B.C. Nature* 50(4):11-12, 2011; see also *B.C. Birding* 21(2):9, 2011.

### **Krista Kaptein Awarded**

Comox Valley Naturalists Society member Krista Kaptein was awarded the 2011 B.C. Nature Club Service Award for her contributions to the running of that society, counting of Trumpeter Swans, leadership in educational aspects of preserving the Courtenay River estuary and in the activities of the Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre at Paradise Meadows, her work on a forthcoming nature viewing book and related on-line guide and several related activities. –based on J. Gray. 2011. *B.C. Nature* 50(4):16.

### **Mary Ronback Awarded**

Another 2011 B.C. Nature Club Service Award was given to Mary Ronback for her many contributions to the operation of the Delta Naturalists' Society, including newsletter editing and to OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society). –based on U. Easterbrook. 2011. *B.C. Nature* 50(4):16.

### **Kansas-banded Waxwing at Revelstoke**

A Cedar Waxwing banded as a hatching-year bird at Meade, Kansas in November 2005 was recaptured in July 2010 at Revelstoke, B.C. –based on abstract by P. Lowther in press in *North American Bird Bander* 37, 2012.

### **B.C. Chickadee Presentation Ranked First**

A presentation by University of Northern B.C. Agnes Lewden on relations between social dominance and size and social dominance and winter metabolic performance in chickadees was selected best oral performance at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithology in Moncton, New Brunswick in August 2011. –based on E. Nol. 2011. *Picoides* 24(3):4-5.

### **Mary Rempel**

The Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club and Langley Field Naturalists lost a long-term dedicated birding member on 9 December 2011 with the death of Mary Rempel, who was pre-deceased by her husband, Dan, on 31 October 2007. Dan was very active in raptor surveys and other bird projects in the Langley area for many years before they moved farther east. –based on announcement by Rob Rempel, forwarded by Jude Grass to Langley Field Naturalists 14 Dec. 2011.

### **Pacific Flyway Shorebird Project**

The B.C. Coastal Waterbird Survey of Bird Studies Canada is now included in a hemisphere-wide survey to assess the distribution and abundance of Dunlin and Western Sandpipers on their wintering grounds and at migration stop-over sites. –based on Anonymous. 2012. *Bird Studies Canada Latest News* 10 Feb. 2012:3-4.



## 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 Jude Grass for contributions to this issue of this compilation.

### EVENTS IN 2012:

March 20-23 -- 2012 ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIETY FOR NORTHWESTERN VERTEBRATE BIOLOGY, Hood River, Oregon. For information on the meeting and to register, visit the Society website at <http://www.thesnvb.org/annualmeeting.html>. (No e-mail address or mailing address provided.)

March 23-25 -- OTHELLO SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL (15<sup>th</sup> Annual), Othello, WA. For information, contact the festival office at PO Box 542, Othello, WA 99344 or phone 866-726-3445. Website, <http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org>.

March 29-April 10 -- BRANT WILDLIFE FESTIVAL, Parksville, BC. For information, check the festival website at <http://brantfestival.bc.ca>, or contact Robin Rivers at 866-288-7878 (604-924-9771 in Vancouver); e-mail [rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca).

March 30-April 1 -- OLYMPIC BIRDFEST, Sequim, WA. For information, check the festival website at <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>, or contact the Dungeness River Audubon Center at 360-681-4076 (e-mail [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org)).

April 29 -- PELAGIC BIRDING TRIP from Ucluelet, sponsored by WildResearch. For information, check the webpage at <http://www.wildresearch.ca/PelagicTrip.html>. Trip open only to members of WildResearch, but anyone can join for \$25/year. Send correspondence to WildResearch at 212-2150 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V5L 0A5 (e-mail [wildresearchpelagics@gmail.com](mailto:wildresearchpelagics@gmail.com)). Please note that the price increases for reservations made after April 1.

April 1 -- ORPHANED WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Delta, B.C. Contact: Bev Day, 3800 72<sup>nd</sup> St., Delta, B.C.; phone (604) 946-3171; e-mail: [owlrehab@dccnest.com](mailto:owlrehab@dccnest.com); web-site: [www.owlcanada.ca](http://www.owlcanada.ca).

April 12-15 -- JOHN SCHARFF MIGRATORY BIRDS FESTIVAL, Burns, OR. Contact: no individual or address announced; phone (514) 573-2636; e-mail [info@migratorybirdfestival.com](mailto:info@migratorybirdfestival.com); web-site: <http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com>.

May 4-6 -- GRAYS HARBOR SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL, Hoquiam, WA. Contact: no individual, address or e-mail announced; phone (360) 289-5048; web-site: <http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com>.

May 4-6 -- SKAGIT VALLEY BIRD BLITZ. See details p.13. Contact: Kelly Pearce, phone (604) 869-6745; e-mail: [kpearce@uniserve.com](mailto:kpearce@uniserve.com); web-site: <http://www.bcnature.ca/pages/conferences/conferences.html>.

May 7-13 -- WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES BIRDING FESTIVAL, Invermere, B.C. Contact: no individual or address yet announced; phone 1 (855) 342-2473; e-mail: [info@wingsovertherockies.org](mailto:info@wingsovertherockies.org); web-site: <http://www.wingsovertherockies.org>.

May 10-13 -- B.C. NATURE SPRING CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Kelowna. Contact: Rita Frake, 2225 Bennett Rd., Kelowna, B.C., V1V 2C2; phone: Fiona Flook (250) 860-9751 or Pat Wesheuser (250) 769-6605; e-mail: [rfrake@shaw.ca](mailto:rfrake@shaw.ca); [donaldandfiona@shaw.ca](mailto:donaldandfiona@shaw.ca) or [hughwest@shaw.ca](mailto:hughwest@shaw.ca); internet: [www.bcnature.ca](http://www.bcnature.ca) or [www.okanannature.org](http://www.okanannature.org).

May 11-12 -- BURNABY LAKE BIOBLITZ, BURNABY, B.C. Contact: Stella Ramey [address not announced]; phone (604) 420-3031; no e-mail announced; web-page: <http://bioblitz.burnabylakepark.ca/>

May 17-21 -- MEADOWLARK FESTIVAL (15<sup>th</sup> Annual), Penticton, BC. For information, check the festival website at <http://www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca> , or send an e-mail message to [meadowlarkfestival@osca.org](mailto:meadowlarkfestival@osca.org) .

June 1-3 -- B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Princeton, B.C. See details on p. 9-13.

June 4-8 -- B.C NATURE SALTSPRING ISLAND CAMP. Contact: Betty Davison, B.C. Nature, Heritage Centre, 1620 Mount Seymour Rd., North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 2R9; phone: (604) 985-3057; e-mail: [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca) .

June 8-11 -- WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Spokane, WA. For information, check the conference website at <http://www.wos.org/2012conferencehome.html> , or send an e-mail message to [information@wos.org](mailto:information@wos.org) . Please note that online registration begins on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

June 9-10 -- MOUNT ROBSON BIRD BLITZ. Contact: Betty Davison, B.C. Nature, Heritage Centre, 1620 Mount Seymour Rd., North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 2R9; phone (604) 985-3057; e-mail: [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca).

June 15-17 -- MANNING PARK BIRD BLITZ. See details p.13. Contact: Kelly Pearce, phone (604) 869-6745; e-mail: [kpearce@uniserve.com](mailto:kpearce@uniserve.com); web-site: <http://www.bcnature.ca/pages/conferences.html>.

June 22-24 -- WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION 2012 ANNUAL MEETING WITH OREGON FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, near Klamath Falls, OR. Contact: Howard Browers, USFWS Mid-Columbia River Ref., 3250 Port of Benton Blvd., Richland, WA 99354-1670; no phone indicated; e-mail: [howard\\_browers@fws.ov](mailto:howard_browers@fws.ov) .

July 22-29 & July 29-Aug. 5 -- NATURE VANCOUVER 2012 SUMMER CAMP, Niut Range, Chilcotin Mountains. Contact: Elly Brok [no address indicated]; phone (604) 438-1871; [no e-mail indicated] OR Don Griffiths [no address indicated]; phone (604) 228-1450 [no e-mail indicated].

August 14-18 -- 5<sup>TH</sup> NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS, joint meeting of American Ornithologists' Union, Association of Field Ornithologists, Bird Studies Canada, Cooper Ornithological Society, Raptor Research Foundation, La Sociedad para el Studio y Conservacion de las Aves en Mexico, 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.naoc-v2012.com/> .

Sept. 27-30 -- B.C. NATURE FALL GENERAL MEETING, Nanoose Bay & Parksville area, Vancouver Island. Contact: Betty Davison, B.C. Nature, Heritage Centre, 1620 Mount Seymour Rd., North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 2R9; phone (604) 985-3057; e-mail: [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca); web-site: <http://www.bcnature.ca/pages/conferences/conferences.html>.

Oct. 1-6 -- B.C. NATURE LILLOOET CAMP,. Contact: Betty Davison, B.C. Nature, Heritage Centre, 1620 Mount Seymour Rd., North Vancouver, B.C. V7G 2R9; phone (604) 985-3057; e-mail: [manager@bcnature.ca](mailto:manager@bcnature.ca); web-site: <http://www.bcnature.ca/pages/conferences/conferences.html> .

## EVENTS IN 2013:

June 20 – 23 -- BIRDLIFE WORLD CONGRESS, Ottawa, Ont. Contact information not yet announced.

Oct. 21 – 25 - 2013 RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING WITH NEOTROPICAL RAPTOR NETWORK & WORLD WORKING GROUP ON BIRDS OF PREY AND OWLS, Bariloche, Argentina. Contact: Libby Mojica [no address or phone number yet announced]; e-mail: [ekmojica@wm.edu](mailto:ekmojica@wm.edu).





# ***BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS***

## ***22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 1-3, 2012 PRINCETON, BC***

The 22nd Annual Conference will be held in the **Princeton Auditorium at the Riverside Centre, located at 148 Old Hedley Road, Princeton, B.C.** on the weekend of June 1-3, 2012. See the following link: <http://www.princeton.ca/residents/riverside-centre>

This year there will be not only one flat rate for the Conference, but also a rate for those wishing to attend only the Friday night 'Meet & Greet' and Saturday night Banquet. The cost for only the meet and greet and the banquet will be \$50.00 per person, which **does not include field trips or any other meals**. The all-inclusive price for the Conference will be \$150.00, including all field trips, the meet and greet, and the banquet. The meet and greet will include cheese, meat and veggie platters. A no-host cash bar will be open from 6:00 till 9:00 pm. Breakfasts and lunches both days and the banquet will be held in the Princeton Auditorium at the Riverside Centre in Princeton.

### Other Events:

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

### Transportation & Accommodation:

Transportation to the conference and accommodation are up to the individual(s) to arrange. Below is a list of local hotels, a link about those hotels, and campsites.

[http://www.tripadvisor.ca/AllLocations-g181776-c1-Hotels-Princeton\\_British\\_Columbia.html](http://www.tripadvisor.ca/AllLocations-g181776-c1-Hotels-Princeton_British_Columbia.html)

### Hotels / Motels

Best Value Princeton Inn & Suites	250-295-3537
Sandman Inn	250-295-6923
The Villager Inn	250-295-6996
Countryside Inn	250-295-7464
Evergreen Motel	250-295-7179

### Campgrounds

Otter Lake Provincial Park (33 km NW of Princeton on Coalmont Rd.)

Allison Lake Provincial Park (28 km north of Princeton on Hwy 5A)

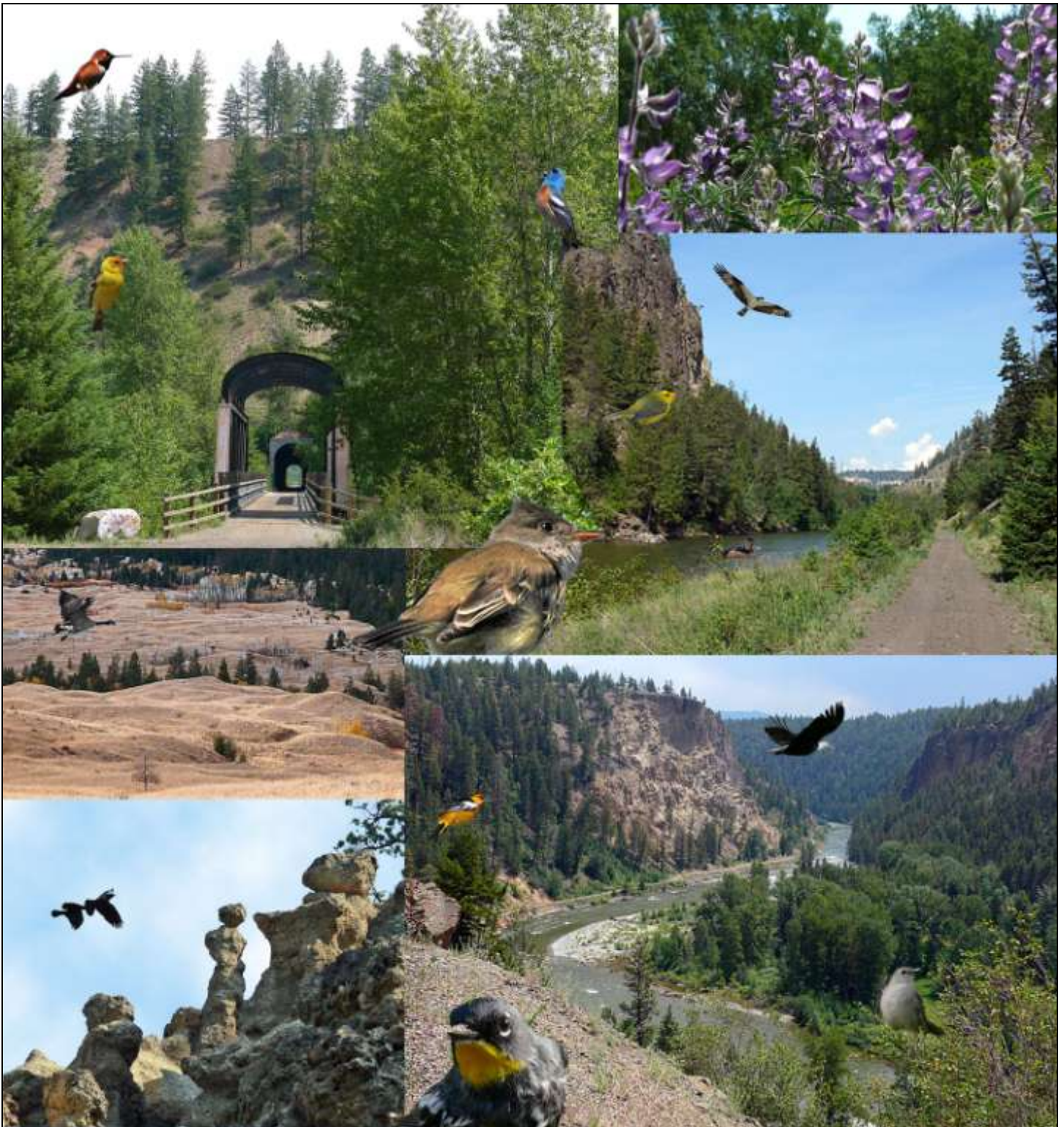
Princeton Municipal RV Park and Campground (2.8 km E of Princeton on Hwy 3)

**Registration:** Conference fee is: **\$150.00 per person**, including all activities as noted above. A registration fee of **\$50.00** is available for non-birders who wish to attend social events on Friday and Saturday evenings; see *registration form for details*. Attendance is limited to BCFO members and spouses/partners/family members. Non-members may join BCFO at the same time as they register for the Conference.

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

**\*\*A registration form is provided with this issue of BC Birding\*\***

JOIN US IN PRINCETON *for the* BCFO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2012



MH

**BCFO 22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**June 1 – 3, 2012, The Princeton Auditorium**

***CONFERENCE SCHEDULE***

**FRIDAY, June 1, 2012**

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm.    **Registration & Social Hour @ the Princeton Auditorium**  
7:30 pm            **Welcome by Princeton Mayor, Fred Thomas**  
                         **Guest speaker Kelly Pearce – The Birds of Manning Provincial Park**

**SATURDAY, June 2, 2012**

5:00 am – 5:30 am    **Breakfast @ the Princeton Auditorium**

5:30 am - 12:30 pm    **Field trips**

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm    **Catered Lunch @ the Princeton Auditorium**

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm    **Technical Session @ the Princeton Auditorium**  
*Tanya Lucysz, Partners in Flight Initiatives*  
*Elly Knight, Simon Fraser University*  
*Life on the Edge: Impacts of Habitat Fragmentation on Grassland Songbirds*  
*Dick Cannings, Bird Studies Canada, Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory Results*  
*TBA*

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm    Break with Coffee and Tea

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm    **Annual General Meeting @ the Princeton Auditorium**

4:45 pm – 5:15 pm    **Directors' Board Meeting @ TBA**

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm    **Social Hour @ the Princeton Auditorium, (Cash Bar).**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm    **Banquet @ the Princeton Auditorium**

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm    Guest Speaker –Alan Burger, *Univ. of Victoria, BBA Coordinator Princeton-Nicola*  
***Icebergs and Ivory Gulls: birds and their ecosystems in a changing Arctic***

**SUNDAY, June 3, 2012**

5:00 am – 5:30 am    **Breakfast @ the Princeton Auditorium**

5:30 am- 12:30 pm    **Field trips**

12:30pm – 1:30 pm.    **Catered Lunch @ the Princeton Auditorium & wrap up**

**Post-Conference:**

**Extension Trip**            1:30 PM Depart Princeton for northern Washington (return June 6) See p.12-13.

Please check on the BCFO website ([www.bcfo.ca](http://www.bcfo.ca)) for the latest changes to the agenda.



**BCFO 22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE,**  
***PRINCETON AREA FIELD TRIPS – PREVIEW\****

**Trip One: Princeton – Summerland Road**

*Elevation: 650 – 1100 m; approximate distance: 45 km; mostly driving with short walks*

We will drive a secondary hwy NE of Princeton through grassland and forest, past small lakes, marshes, creeks, and 3 larger lakes. Expect to find a variety of waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, swallows, thrushes, warblers, bluebirds, flycatchers, chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and more. Less likely are shorebirds, Golden Eagle, Lewis's Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, Varied and Hermit thrushes, Black-headed Grosbeak, Wild Turkey and Red Crossbill. We may visit a hummingbird banding site (Rufous, Calliope, Black-chinned) but this is *not confirmed*.

**Trip Two: Baldy and Iron Mountains**

*Elevation: 650-1000m. This trip will involve more walking than Trip 1, so bring water.*

We will drive the Iron Mountain Rd, NE of Princeton, a narrow gravel road with many switchbacks before leveling out at the top in grasslands. Ephemeral ponds and/or waterholes for cattle attract many birds. Many Trip 1 species will be found here, plus Canyon and Rock wrens and there may be more accipiters. Possibilities include Horned Lark (has nested), Prairie Falcon, Common Nighthawk, Long-eared Owl (roosting in Juniper), White-throated Swift, Golden Eagle, grouse. Good views of Similkameen R. from Mt. Baldy.

**Trip Three: KVR Trail along the Tulameen R. and River Rd along the Similkameen R.**

*Elevation: 650 m. Length: up to 18 km on foot. This tends to be a very hot walk so bring water.*

Access is through tunnel. The trail heads NW, past the Vermillion Cliffs (historical/geological interest). Good area for a host of passerines: lots of shrubs, grass and diverse trees. Look for a variety of sparrows, warblers, and Gray Catbird, Northern Oriole, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Black-headed and Evening Grosbeaks, Willow Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Osprey, Bald and Golden eagles. Possibilities: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Least Flycatcher, Great Horned Owl. On the river: Common Merganser and Harlequin Duck are common.

**Trip Four: Sewage Lagoons, August Lake, Allenby Rd, Copper Mtn. Rd**

The sewage lagoons are often productive, and surrounding wet meadows attract a few shorebirds, including Solitary Sandpiper. From the golf course to August L. (hayfields on left, forest on right) look for nuthatches, woodpeckers; possible Williamson's Sapsucker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Band-tailed Pigeon. At August L: waterfowl, and chances for shorebirds are better than anywhere else; there are records for Barred and Great Gray owls (nesting), and Flammulated, Saw-whet and Screech owls (calling). Allenby and Copper Mtn. Rds: waterfowl, rails and many of the passerines mentioned above. (*Caution: traffic on these roads can be quite busy at times.*)

\* Information provided by Madelon Schouten, Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists.

Additional information about each Field Trip will be available at the "Meet and Greet" on the Friday evening.

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***BCFO 2012 EXTENSION TRIP***  
**NORTHERN WASHINGTON: SAGEBRUSH, PINE AND OAK**  
**June 3 – 6, 2012**  
**Leader: Russell Cannings**

**Sun, June 3<sup>rd</sup> Princeton to Omak**

After lunch (1:30 PM) we will depart Princeton and head south through the Similkameen Valley to the American border at Chopaka. Along the way we will stop in the fruit-growing community of Cawston to visit a nice local wetland with a mix of marsh and riparian specialties such as Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teals, Sora and Virginia Rails, Veery, Gray Catbird, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Further south along Hwy 3, we will scan some large hayfields for Long-billed Curlews and Bobolinks. As we near the border at Chopaka, a quick stop on the Canadian side will hopefully yield a few "Okanagan specialties" such as California Quail, Lewis's Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Lark Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and if we're lucky—Sage Thrasher.

After passing through Customs, we will continue south into Washington, stopping to soak in the beautiful rural scenery of this dry country. More Okanogan species like Chukar, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, and Bobolink will be our targets, before we reach Omak for the evening.



### Mon, June 4<sup>th</sup> Omak to Yakima

Today we will rise early, to beat the heat and catch the peak of bird song. The Cameron Lake Road, just SE of Omak will occupy us for the morning, as we bird the Ponderosa Pine forest, in search of White-headed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Gray Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Cassin's Finch. The lower reaches of the road, clad with sage brush grasslands, should give us a good chance of finding a Sage Thrasher or two, along with the drab tyke with a big and buzzy voice—the Brewer's Sparrow.

After lunch we will continue southward, stopping in at Wilson Creek Marsh to try for the extremely local Tricolored Blackbird. An abundance of other wetland-loving species should also be in the area, including American Avocet and Black-necked Stilt. We will also keep our eyes directed skyward for grassland raptors such as Ferruginous Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, and Prairie Falcon. If time permits, we will also visit a good site for Burrowing Owls just north of Yakima.

Tonight we will be staying in the Yakima Valley. After dinner there will be an optional owling trip. Our top 3 targets will be Spotted (scarce but possible), Flammulated, and Western Screech-Owls.

### Tues, June 5<sup>th</sup> Yakima to Ephrata

Another early morning will see us out in the grasslands and wetlands in the Toppenish area. In addition to Lark, Vesper, Brewer's, and Grasshopper Sparrows, we also hope to add Sage Sparrow to our list, along with other open-country breeders like Loggerhead Shrike, Horned Lark, and Lazuli Bunting. Next we will head to the stately Garry Oaks of Fort Simcoe where we should see plenty of Lewis's Woodpeckers, along with few southern specialties like Ash-throated Flycatcher and Western Scrub-Jay.

After a good day's birding, we will head back north to Ephrata, where we will spend the night. If people are still keen, a shorter owling trip might be an option.

### Wed, June 6<sup>th</sup> Ephrata to Princeton (or home)

Today we will drive back to Princeton, stopping briefly along the way to clean up any species that may have been missed on the trip. If time permits, we'll visit the jaw-dropping Grand Coulee Dam where both Western and Clark's Grebe breed close-by. We should get into Princeton around lunch-time or shortly-there-after. Any car pool groups traveling back to the Lower Mainland may wish to travel alternate routes home including Interstate 90, Highway 2 or the North Cascades Highway (20) through Washington, rather than back through Princeton.

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**BIRD BLITZ**  
**May 4/5/6, 2012**

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**30th Anniversary**  


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## Always take a second look ...

by Andy and Marilyn Buhler

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

*.....a cautionary tale for the tyro,  
a gentle reminder for the seasoned birder.*

In early October 2010 we were in need of a birding 'fix' so we packed up the Hyundai and pointed it south. We knew it was not a birdy time of year but we wanted to reacquaint ourselves with some old Arizona friends – Phainopeplas, Cactus Wrens, Greater Roadrunners, Harris Hawks, Violet-crowned Hummingbirds, the usual suspects.

By November 8th we had circled back into southern California. We went to the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Headquarters on Salton Sea. Winds were strong. Waterfowl were scattered and distant. Passerines were tucked tightly into the shrubberies. So we scooted over to Red Hill Marina to look for Yellow-footed Gulls. We could scarcely see the water, much less any gulls, because the Sea was so low. Strike outs one and two for our birding spots!

Before heading back to our motel we went to Unit One, Salton Sea NWR, at the most southerly end of the Sea. Winds were still strong, rains were spitting down, but at Unit One we found hundreds of Snow and Ross's Geese. They were flying circuits, feeding, or just hunkered down. We noticed several 'Blue morph' Snow Geese among the masses of regulars and, off to one side, there were four medium-sized, brownish-grey geese. Through our rain-spattered binocs we noted that one or two of these four geese had white facial markings. We ticked them as our first-of-the-trip Greater White-fronted Geese (GWFG) and headed to our motel for a much needed hot bath and supper.

November 9th dawned calm and cool. No wind or rain. We went to check Unit One once again. There were still scads of Snow and Ross's Geese, the occasional 'Blue morph' Snow Goose, at least one 'Blue morph' Ross's Goose, and only those four GWFG. They were still difficult to see as they kept bobbing up and down among the white mass of geese surrounding them. We watched them for a while, noting that, when we could see them, one GWFG did not seem to have any distinctive white facial markings. We "assumed" it was a juvenile, that we just could not see the white very clearly.

Parked on the road just ahead of us was a fellow in a truck with a window-mounted scope focused on those same four GWFG. As we drove past his truck we heard him saying something about a "Bean Goose" into his cell phone. Well, if there was a Bean Goose here we better take a second look! We got out our scope and the fellow from the truck (Al Kalin) came over for a quick discussion. Al lives in the area. He birds Unit One regularly. He had just been calling the Unit Manager to say, "... there is a Bean Goose over here."

We took our scope up to higher ground. We scanned again ... GWFG, GWFG, GWFG, GWFG – NOT! There was the Bean Goose: no white facial markings observable; bill dark with narrow orangish band around the tip; feathers on back and top of folded wings outlined with whiter edges making the bird look less drab than its three companions.

Al had his Nikon x18 digital camera out and clicking. He showed us one of his shots. "Yep, that's the bird we saw." Yippee! We did our ritual 'lifer' dance. Later Al shared a digital copy of his picture with us (see below).

He also sent his picture to Bob Miller who posted it to CALBIRDS [9 Nov 2010, Message 8781]. We lurked on their site whenever we could get WiFi connections. Comments bantered back and forth among the cognoscenti along the lines of: "Yes, bird is still there." "Could be a first record for California." "Looks like a Taiga Bean Goose to me." "We better get some Brits to confirm whether Tundra or Taiga." Postings seemed, eventually, to determine that the bird was a Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis middendorffii*). [See some of their discussion at

<http://birdingfrontiers.com/2010/11/23/bean-geese-salton-sea-part-2/>].

Our trip then took us north. We stopped at Sacramento NWR, where we saw thousands of GWFG with just a sprinkling of Snow and Ross's Geese. We scoped those masses of GWFG very, very carefully. Perhaps there are more Bean Geese than we know of camouflaged among the skeins, the rafts, the huddles of GWFG that we oft times gloss quickly over. Since BC is geographically closer to the northern Taiga than is California, could we be missing Bean Geese here? As the title says, "Always take a second look..."



Taiga Bean Goose photo taken by Al Kalin on 9 November 2010 at Unit One Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge using a hand-held Nikon x18 digital camera



Greater White-fronted Goose

Photo: Mike Fung



## 2011 BC FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE IN FORT ST JOHN

by Agnes Lynn

I have been a BCFO member for a few years now, but never managed to get to one of the annual conferences with their great sounding field trips. I decided that I had to go to this one in Fort St John because that area is actually on the other side of the Rockies and thus has a great variety of birds not seen elsewhere in BC. It was held on June 10 to 12, the best birding time in the area. This was a golden opportunity to go birding with people who really knew where to find the treasures.

To break up the long drive to the conference for us southerners, the adventure started with one of the BCFO's two-day field trips held in the Prince George area and led by local expert Nancy Krueger. She managed to cover several habitats and we saw about 65 species in total. Highlights for me included good views of American Redstarts, Tennessee Warblers and a Magnolia Warbler. The hoped-for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were nowhere to be found despite us lurking in their favourite spots. We also visited the sewage lagoon written up in the *BC Birding* newsletter (Spring 2011) as a teaser to get us to go on this field trip. Everyone was so helpful that day making sure that we all got good looks at the birds. It felt just like one of our local birding outings even though I didn't know a soul. (See Clive Keen's more complete details of this field trip in *BC Birding*, Dec 2011).

We planned to go in convoy to Fort St. John and Nancy had organized some birding stops for us. Well that day didn't work out for me as I had car problems, but I caught up later. Nancy and others had suggested that we take the road through Hudson Hope so that we would see the beautiful land that will be flooded if the Site C Dam gets built. So sad.

I got to Fort St John too late for the opening event in the evening but I was up early for the first morning of field trips. They divided the 40 of us into two groups with local birders plus other experts in each half. My group went south that day, down through Dawson Creek almost to the Alberta border. We chased an illusive Blue-headed Vireo and were entertained by a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We enjoyed Philadelphia Vireo and Mourning Warbler along the way. Black Terns were on the lake. It was just a matter of absorbing one great bird and another would show up.



BCFO members at Charlie Lake

Photo by Jo Ann MacKenzie

We spent the afternoon listening to a number of short, interesting technical birding topics and then we had our obligatory AGM, but they kept that short. The evening included a banquet complete with speaker Dr. Ken Otter of the University of Northern BC who discussed the challenges with wind farms.

Next morning, we headed north and stopped at Beaton Provincial Park on Charlie Lake. Highlights included Boreal Chickadee and Black-throated Green Warbler. I was teased by an Ovenbird many times throughout this trip but never managed to see one. They call constantly but are very secretive.

Finally we headed a bit south to the Taylor area. There we were lucky enough to find a Canada Warbler. While looking for a Vesper Sparrow, a lady came by and invited us to her yard as she said she had the hard-to-find Ruby-throated Hummingbird that we had also hoped to find. She had an oasis of amazing plants growing there and all the birds knew where she lived, including the promised hummingbird. Besides the hummer, a highlight for me in her yard was an Eastern Phoebe.



Eastern Phoebe

Photo by Clive Keen

Next it was back to our hotel and lunch and the wrap-up of a very enjoyable conference. We had some spare time before we started our official Extension Trip with Russell Cannings, so a few of us headed off to check out the sewage lagoons, of course! I spent a bit of time there with Barb and Mike McGrenere who were the only Victoria folks that I knew at the conference. We enjoyed close-up views of such birds as Eared Grebes and Cinnamon Teal plus many other ducks enjoying themselves in these huge ponds with few predators in evidence.

After supper we joined up with Russell Cannings for the Extension Field Trip, an extra cost addition for those who wanted to get the most out of their trip to the north. Russell had worked in the area so knew all the good spots for birds. There were 12 participants and Russell. We squished into two small vans for the next couple of days. On the first evening, we went to Watson Slough just at dusk, hoping to see the Yellow Rail

and the Nelson's (Sharp-tailed) Sparrow. We heard the rail almost right away, but it was like its cousins and kept hidden. The sparrow was also clearly heard but we only got fleeting glimpses of some fluttering in the grass near the marsh. Bugs were out in force that night.

Next morning, we had a quick look at a pair of Connecticut Warblers before heading off north and we visited Pink Mountain along the way. Photographer Ron Long has been spearheading a campaign to get more of this valuable area included in the small park already there. The area is under threat from mining, oil and gas exploration and potential wind farms. Not only do many important birds live there, but also an amazing selection of true alpine plants that need protection. We managed to get almost to the top of the mountain in our trusty vans, only needing to test the depth of a few puddles as we inched along.

The bird highlight of the day was a male Willow Ptarmigan who just sat there while we all admired him. I was also busy looking at the plants such as the Woolly Lousewort (*Pedicularis lanata*). A few Hoary Marmots were around as well, watching us. Continuing on to Fort Nelson, we traversed beautiful terrain in the Black Spruce forest with many interesting plants that I tried to see as we zoomed by. We settled into our motel and had dinner before calling it a night.

After breakfast, we headed north on the Liard Highway, almost as far as the Yukon, and visited several sites. We finally found a Bay-breasted Warbler among other good birds. The best spot of the day was Parker Lake. We did get our Yellow-bellied Flycatcher there and a number of other birds, including some on the water such as a lone Trumpeter Swan. We enjoyed a field of 40 Sandhill Cranes as we went to and from the motel. At a local Demonstration Forest, I did manage to see a real Winter Wren, so my BC checklist now includes both Pacific Wren and Winter Wren. I sure couldn't see or hear much difference -- but who is to argue?



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Photo by Clive Keen

On the final day, we returned to Parker Lake. We enjoyed a Palm Warbler plus a couple of unexpected Swamp Sparrows there. Finally we checked a few more spots on our way south. Again the Ovenbirds teased me while they hid in the bushes. The trip ended in the early afternoon back at Fort St John. Russell did an excellent job of leading the trip. He was organized and helpful and knew the territory. He even arranged for the weather for the entire trip to be amazingly good with very little rain or wind. (See Russell's more complete details of this Extension Trip in *BC Birding*, Dec 2011.)

I headed off for Prince George right away and then back to Victoria the next day. I enjoyed a group of White Pelicans on Williams Lake, right from the highway. In total, I saw almost 140 species on the trip and ended up adding 25 new BC birds to my list. I also got to hang out with some of the best birders in the province. Maybe you'll join us in Princeton for the 2012 annual conference on June 1 -3

### ***BC BIRDING NEEDS SUBMISSIONS***

BCFO's newsletter can accommodate a variety of materials –something for everyone. Items range from very short notes to articles of several pages. Here are some examples:

- short note (paragraph) about an interesting sighting, unexpected encounter, observed bird behaviour, early morning walk, or other birding experience;
- a single photograph with a short or longer (paragraph) caption;
- photo story (several related photos plus short text);
- short note about a book you've read that you would recommend to other birders. (Formal book reviews should be sent to *BC Birds*);
- description of a special day's birding, e.g., how you found your 200<sup>th</sup> (or 2000<sup>th</sup>) bird;
- account of a birding event (Christmas Bird Count, Big Day, Big Backyard Bird Watch; Bio-Blitz);
- a short birding guide to one of your favourite areas, or a local nature reserve, or a city park;
- information about a conservation issue in your home area;
- summary of an article from another birding magazine or a scientific publication (but don't copy it word for word);
- sketches, drawings, cartoons;
- letter to editors.

We like to include at least one write-up from every BCFO field trip – conference field trips and two-day field trips. Report can be done by a participant, not necessarily the leader).

We need material from *you* to keep our newsletter interesting, to keep in touch, and to report on what is happening around the province. Whether you are an experienced birder or a beginner, we will be happy to hear from you.



## QUESNEL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2011

by Adrian Leather

**NOTE:** Final tallies are shown in bold after the species name; ^ denotes a record high count; = denotes an equal high count.

Quesnel CBC started in 1987. Adam Moss got things going, and in the early days he would join Cris Guppy and some Prince George birders such as Sandra Kinsey and Laird Law and attempt to bird the entire Q area! Over the years we have tried to divide the area up into more manageable birding zones. We have detailed notes on hotspots and feeders in each zone. The record high species count is 52, and the record low is 19 when a count was conducted in what was described as "a full-on blizzard". The ten year average count is 6731 individual birds and 47 species.

2011 was a great count for Q! The numbers of individual birds (6622) are in-line with our ten year average but 50 species feels really good after sinking to 42 last year!

Of the 24 birders in the field teams, we should note that eight are from PG and two from Williams Lake, again underlining the fact that Q-CBC could not happen without the dedicated and enthusiastic input of our birding friends from these communities. It was gratifying to see Quesnelite Dan Broderick and Clive Keen of PG have such a great time on their debut Q-CBC. Many more folks participated in the count as feeder-watchers at home, and others took a bird walk around their neighbourhood, input that is greatly appreciated and never underestimated. I always recall a count when feeder-watchers found eight species the teams did not, and they were genuine records, nothing fanciful!



*Red-tailed Hawk photographed by Rod Sargent in the West Fraser Zone of the Quesnel Christmas Bird Count area*

The weather on the day was pretty good, just a light breeze, particularly in the morning, but nothing that was any major deterrent to birding. If anything, the problem during the last several years has been increasingly mild weather. If birds can find what they need from natural sources they might not have the impulse to frequent feeders and many feeder-watchers reported having a slow time at their feeders. A cold day a few days prior to the count might have been a slight help, e.g. the Varied Thrush at Milburn Lake returned after a week away from the feeders. Driving snow the day before a count would certainly be a bonus in getting more birds congregating around feeders.

### Bald Eagle (38)

Phil Ranson from WL found an adult **Golden Eagle (1=)** over Yargeau near the south end of Q.Golf Course, a species rarely recorded on a Q-CBC.

### Red tailed Hawk (3)

A reliable **Rough-legged Hawk (2=)** at the airport didn't disappoint, and another was along West Fraser, a former regular haunt.

A beautiful **Gyr Falcon (1=)**, only recorded a few times before, and normally along the Q.River.



*Gyr Falcon, photographed by Rod Sargent in the West Fraser Zone of the Quesnel Christmas Bird Count area*

**Merlin (2)** was a good return as it is one of those species we know is out there yet it is not guaranteed to be seen on the count day, and has been missed in some recent years.

There was a record high count for **Mallard (106^)**.

The East Fraser Team came-up with a species **new** to Q-CBC with two female **Northern Pintail (2)** at Cariboo Pulp & Paper lagoons! We usually expect six **Green-winged Teal (3)** to be there as well but only three showed this year. The **Common Goldeneye (6)** have only started to gather there in recent winters following the sudden no-show of Northern Shoveler, which peaked at 30 before vanishing without trace.

In some years we have tallied 5 or 6 **Common Merganser (1)**, but this species seems to have become more challenging to locate so it was very pleasing to see that the Downtown Team managed to find one.

**Ruffed Grouse (34)** numbers seem to be well down. Taking my own yard as an example, I have had up to 23 Ruffed Grouse in the yard on a winter day, and I generally expect around 15 at this time of year. However, recently I've only seen one to three birds on average, with a recent max of six.

**Killdeer (3)** was great to see as it has been missed altogether on some recent counts. Another two Killdeer were seen on the recent Narcosli CBC.

Either the Peregrine and Merlin are doing a fine job in Q or we have been double-counting **Rock Pigeon (474)**, but it appears our Rock Pigeon numbers have crashed by 100%. We have had Peregrines in town for about five years or so. ('Perry' left in mid-September).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove (3)** is a **new** species for Q-CBC but an anticipated one. These birds have spread rapidly across North America, and across BC from a base in Cawston. They have been recorded in Alaska. Jerry McFetridge had the first Cariboo winter record on last year's Narcosli CBC so it was just a matter of time. Phil Ranson feels they will be "all over the place" in a few years' time. The three doves are hanging-out in a yard with feeders on the corner of Budd & Grimm in Kersley.

**Barred Owl (1=)** was an unexpected and exciting addition to the count in an area where I have heard them once before.

**Northern Hawk Owl (6^)** Six seems quite breathtaking! and they *are* different birds. They tend to be in the same spots most of the time. The one south of Dragon Lake has been widely seen and photographed, as has the one on the light posts by Extra Foods. Emma Jarrett has one by her place on Estate Rd. Another bird is said to be on Racing Rd "all day", and has been for a while. The 'new' ones were found by the Bouchie Team on Gunner Rd and Sanford Rd. If anything, you wonder that there are probably more out there.

**Downy (32)** and **Hairy Woodpecker (30)** numbers seem really low. **Northern Flicker (100^)** numbers have boomed during recent years and the recent record of 96 has now been overtaken. It seems odd to see more **Pileated Woodpecker (34)** than Downy and Hairy.

**Northern Shrike (9^)** was seen in record numbers.

The only **Steller's Jay (1)** has been hanging-out around Stebbe & Stanyer at Milburn Lake since October, but only heard and seen sporadically. It did put in a rare appearance at my feeders during count week after heavy snow the night before. Great to know the Bouchie Team recorded this bird for the CBC albeit with the help of an ipod recording.

A little disappointing was no Gray Jays recorded. Last year there were six at Pinnacles & Dome, Bouchie Lake. They started visiting when a resident put out cat food, and David & Carol Law found two on last year's CBC on Merz Rd. Yvonne Brinkert tells me she had them regularly off the end of Brennan Rd. If you look at a local map you might reach the same conclusion as myself: that they have probably been present in an area between Milburn Lake & Bouchie Lake for some time but largely unreported.

A fascinating and breathtaking report was of **Blue Jay (5^)**, yes, I mean eastern Blue Jays, not Steller's Jays, which have been visiting Ed & Vickie Campbell's place on Roan Rd., Richbar. Vickie keeps notes and told me the first two birds were seen on Nov 17, then two more joined them! Vickie explained that they seem to just fly around in a neighbour's yard most of the time, but come to her yard to feed. As if four Blue Jays wasn't enough, Elena Borsato also has one on Skyline Rd off West Fraser.

**Black-billed Magpie (6)** is a good count for Q.

Not many years ago in Q, **Common Raven (286)** outnumbered **American Crow (652)** 3 to 1, but the tables are definitely turning and now it's almost 2 to 1 in favour of crows. Why? I don't know.

**Black-capped Chickadee (765)**

**Mountain Chickadee (16)** numbers have remained low for a few years. Is it mild weather? Are they not dropping so frequently to lower elevations?

**Red-breasted Nuthatch (80)**

**Brown Creeper (4)** is very low, but it is one of those hit-and-miss species except in a few yards where it is a daily winter feature.

**American Dipper (3)** Not many but it's three better than zero. Rod Sargent was disappointed not to locate any at Deep Creek.

The **Varied Thrush (1)**! Debbie Leather was waiting at the kitchen window as first light broke. In flew the male Varied Thrush at 8 am, fed for three or four minutes, then that was it - he was gone. At least Debbie didn't suffer as much as my parents on last year's count - they had to wait until noon for the thrush to feed for seven minutes. For three consecutive years now he has shown. We have had him present in other winters but he never stayed for the count - it was so frustrating! He tends to come in more when the weather is rough. If it's mild we're unlikely to see him.



Northern Hawk Owl MH

**American Robin (10=)** equals our record count. Who would believe eight would be in Alex & Luanne Coffey's yard! Orie & Gloria Kolenchuk supplied the other two. A bit surprising was their absence downtown.

**Eurasian Starling (424)** numbers remain low. From regular annual returns of 2500 at the Municipal Dump, they crashed to only 308 and have now reached 424 birds. Is this connected to the 'cleaning-up' of the dump?

**Bohemian Waxwing (237)** numbers were extremely low. Everyone agreed that they arrived early, feasted, then departed early.

**Song Sparrow (14)**

An adult **White-crowned Sparrow (1=)** was hanging-out in a thick spruce hedge in Roger & Linda North's yard in Bernard Sub. This bird was associating with a small number of Dark-eyed Juncos. There was another sparrow calling from the same hedge but I never did get a look at it. It just made the classic 'lisp' sound of a sparrow. Credit to Dennis Asher for spotting the initial bird movement in the hedge! I would have driven by otherwise.

**Dark-eyed Junco (49)** numbers were low so anyone that had a junco, don't take it so much for granted - "Birds of dignity" as Kathy Wrath calls them.

A decent return for **Red-winged Blackbird (109)**. We usually locate one or two flocks.

A great count for **Brewer's Blackbird (344)** though double counting could be responsible as flocks from the dump move around other zones. I have heard reports of c.200 at the dump regularly.

**Rusty Blackbird (4^)** was a welcome surprise and beat last year's record of three from Richbar. These birds were at a location near Bouchie Lake outlet which is known for a winter flock of blackbirds and where Manfred Roschitz recorded a Rusty years ago.

Many folks have been enjoying the sight and sound of **Pine Grosbeak (299)**.

A steady count for **House Finch (145)**. They have branched-out from their original stronghold in Johnston Sub, but numbers seem fairly predictable.

Another bad year for crossbills. No Red Crossbill at all! Very unusual for Q! Only five **White-winged Crossbill (5)** were along 500 Rd., the boundary of NE Zone. Dennis Asher and myself

watched them busily feeding through my scope. They were throwing spruce-cone debris off the tree which you could hear hitting the snow below. One guy looked quite amusing with a whole cone in his bill. Crossbills are an irruptive species that respond to spruce cone crops in a cyclical fashion. Some years we have lots of them, others they can be almost absent, even completely absent.

Great count for **Common Redpoll (1596^)**, a new record count for Q.

**Pine Siskin (76)** numbers are usually very low in winter. We normally only locate one or two flocks, especially in Schemenaur Sub (absent this year) or Blueridge (Mo Jackman had seventeen). Others are in Uplands or are in mixed finch flocks in other zones. So any Pine Siskins were a good bird!

**American Goldfinch (16)** has been visiting Q in winter for at least ten years. Numbers were low this year. If you found any, you did well!

Nice count of **Evening Grosbeak (530)**!

**House Sparrow (53)** numbers seem to have crashed by 100%. Or was it that regular flocks on Walkem, Doherty, and downtown, e.g. at Safeway, were unseen/heard and uncounted?

The usual electric atmosphere at tally-up! Broad smiles, pink and red faces from the outdoors, some folks keeping quiet about their special finds, others who couldn't keep quiet over theirs. An awesome selection of potluck items.

It really was a terrific day - I think my favourite Q-CBC so far! I hope everyone else had as much fun!

(Count week species: **Grey Jay, Belted Kingfisher, Short-eared Owl.**)

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## **ONE PERSON'S VIEW OF THE UPS AND DOWNS OF A MOSTLY ENJOYABLE DAY THE NARCOSLI CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

*by Adrian Leather*

*Narcosli CBC covers an area of fairly open country south of Quesnel. It is organized by Tracy Bond of Quesnel Birding Club.*

Again, a CBC is hampered by a lack of active birders. Were folks grieving over Josh or Chris not winning 'The X Factor'? Were they vacuuming the house, having their carpets and ducts cleaned, or attaching labels to presents? Not more shopping, please!? This could have been a new record species count for Narcosli CBC but there just weren't enough birders out there. Thankfully, the spirit of the locals was evident, folks such as Ruby Johnston, Trudie Wootten and Roy Moffat, who all keenly kept their eyes and ears open. Deep snow, a bright blue sunny sky, slight breeze, and temperature ranging from -8 to 2°C. Narcosli CBC was up-and-running!

Sally Hofmeier and myself headed out to Ruby Johnston's birdy yard on Kersley Rd. As first light broke, Common Redpolls were already chattering in the nearby hedgerow ready for breakfast. Then some American Goldfinches flew in from woods across the road and we started to tally. American Crows and Common Ravens were heading south then, curiously, later heading north,

doubtless responding to some signals of awaiting opportunity. Where were Ruby's Rock Pigeons, and where were the two remaining Mourning Doves? Ruby emerged from the house and politely suggested, "Adrian, you might be a little too early". Sally and myself knew we would have to return if we wanted to see the Mourning Doves, and that would eat-up valuable time covering this eastern corridor. We headed south along Kersley Rd., then a bird flying over a neighbor's yard caught my attention and I slowed the vehicle right down. Sally cried out "the doves", and sure enough, there hiding in a spruce hedge were the two Mourning Doves!

Next stop was Fridlington Ranch, where Alan and family made us feel most welcome. A bedraggled Bald Eagle perched behind the ranch, we added a number of House Sparrows and European Starlings, and a Pine Grosbeak alighted nearby, its short sweet warble announcing its presence.



Kersley Village was next on the menu. On Leflar, we were ambushed by Project FeederWatcher Donna Koning who tucked her vehicle in behind ours and proceeded to scold a cat that was stalking her birds, mostly Common Redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks. We were hoping for a flock of Bohemian Waxwings on Grimm, but instead were pleasantly surprised to see first one, then a second, then a third Eurasian Collared-Dove! On last year's Narcosli CBC Jerry McFetridge had the first Cariboo winter record of Eurasian Collared-Dove. We tried the good feeder spot on Parr but it was somewhat lack-lustre. No Golden-crowned Kinglets or Brown Creepers were heard in the nearby woods, and we moved-on. We tried the peek-a-boo views of the Fraser from the end of Arnoldus but could see no Common Mergansers. The multitude of ice-floes certainly made viewing a challenge. We ran into a flock of c.200 Common Redpolls in a weedy field by a house with several feeders on Otter Rd., where I also heard a Brown Creeper. Kersley always strikes me as one of those spots that would be really birdy if only more folks had feeders out.

Time to hit the ranchland south of Kersley. W7 Ranch on Kersley-Dale Landing was our first destination. Trudie and Dave Wooten informed us that they'd had a regular Northern Shrike around and two Red-tailed Hawks, neither of which we could locate. Trudie's yard had its reliable Dark-eyed Juncos, American Goldfinches, and Song Sparrow. Freeman Rd. and Callis Rd. were totally dead so we went to Fox Dairy Farm, a good source for House Sparrows, European Starlings and Rock Pigeons. What was that bird across the field? It seemed to be moving from the fence to some sort of container on the ground. We couldn't move-in closer due to the deep snow on the track ahead, but we could watch it for a while and saw it was another Eurasian Collared-Dove.

We seemed to be falling behind time so I floored-it to Yorston Ranch. The Yorstons have an ideal natural bird garden which tends to turn-up the unexpected or at least good birds. We certainly had no expectation of seeing a Yellow-rumped Warbler, but there it was, 'chip'-chipping away, feeding on insects on the roof, which was partially exposed from the deep snow, and feeding voraciously on the various suet feeders dangling across the yard. Lenore came out to greet us with "Are you the guy that called me?" We happily talked and watched birds. Lenore has a real passion for birds, you can feel it. She gave us a great tip about two ponds down by the Fraser that have natural springs which remain open during the winter! It sounded very intriguing. Just prior to heading for the ponds, of which we knew nothing during the previous eight years of Narcosli CBCs, we continued to enjoy watching some of the ground-feeding birds in the yard. Two sparrows were under a thick tangle of scrub and spruce hedge. Were they Song Sparrows? No, a closer look revealed two immature White-crowned Sparrows very busily feeding! Wow! The quality birding was making it difficult to leave the yard - what else might be here?

A track had been ploughed through the deep snow so we had no trouble accessing the ponds. I tramped through the snow and looked over the edge of an overhang. I could see two small ponds connected by a wildly meandering stream. A water pump clicked. A thorough scan found a small bird kicking in the faster running water. Are you thinking American Dipper? Well, it was a Song Sparrow working very hard for its food. I stood there



*Northern Shrike by Doreen Gurnett, Quesnel Birding Club*

hopefully, conscious of the fact that we still had some good places to visit. We discussed CBC approaches and tactics, and as Sally summed-it-up nicely, it's really about achieving that balance between good coverage of your zone but leaving enough time at stops to really listen and watch for birds. Of course, so much is luck and timing, and ultimately we realize only too well that our efforts represent a mere sampling of what is really out there. Hang on! What the..? That sounded like a Killdeer!? Just one very brief note. Oh no, will it call again or is that it? Sally approached through the snow. We started to chat and as if the birds disapproved of our 'noise' suddenly a Killdeer and a Mallard were in-the-air flying away from us toward the second pond. Then we heard a high-pitched whistle and very briefly saw a bird drop off the snow into the stream. Oh no! This was tantalizing stuff. Would it just stay put and we'll never know, or will it ... ? ... And there it was, a second Killdeer, running across the snow and serenading us with its high-pitched manic notes.

Onward to the Baur Ranch feedlots, which contained a flock of Rock Pigeons, at least eight Song Sparrows, 20 Common Redpoll, a female Red-winged Blackbird and an American Tree Sparrow. All were hanging-out in a weedy central lot with no animals. A Black-billed Magpie alighted on a nearby tree to compliment the other heard across the river. Two for joy! Time was now seriously against us and the morning sunny blue sky had departed leaving an overcast sky with rapidly deteriorating light conditions. I think we really do need two teams on each side of the river.

A quick stop at a feeder didn't produce anything other than a few



extra chickadees and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. I zipped down the highway to a river-scanning spot near Alexandria Cairn, but again, nothing but ice-floes. We worked our way back north along the Cariboo Hwy. No action at the old carcass pit. Nothing on the hillside opposite. All quiet down Alexandria Ferry Rd.

Sally and myself discussed what we still hadn't found - quite a number of possibilities, including Pileated Woodpecker and Northern Shrike, and also should we try likely spots for owls? Decisions, decisions! Well usually it's straight forward - you just drive straight back to Ruby Johnston's yard on Kersley Rd! As Phil Ranson once stated, "If I had a yard like this I'd never want to leave it". However, Yorston Ranch had been so rewarding that we decided to give things a try there. I'd barely stopped for a bite to eat, so there I was tucking into a ham and cheese sandwich when Sally gleefully pointed skyward and called out "There's a

Pileated Woodpecker isn't it"? And it was!

What a feeling, what a day this had been! The only minor items that had cramped my style were a binocular diopter that jammed for hours and steadfastly refused to move, then suddenly just did, and the loss of a binocular cap, which I later relocated at Fridlington Ranch. Slightly earlier I was retracing my steps around Ruby Johnston's oddly hushed front yard. As I rounded the corner to the side of the property, I heard a quiet but disturbed babbling sound and looked-up into a tree to see a Northern Shrike staring straight back at me! It was difficult not to laugh out loud!

Quality winter birding in the North Cariboo! – who would have thought it?

(We tallied 31 species in the Kersley Zone of Narcosli. The count total was 33 species, the record being 35 set last year).

### **SONG SPARROWS DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTS OF PERCEIVED PREDATION**

Scientists from the University of Western Ontario and the University of Victoria, working on several of BC's Gulf Islands, have studied the effect on songbird breeding success of the perceived risk of predation. Previously, it has been thought that only actual predation influenced breeding success.

The researchers isolated song sparrow nests using nets and fences so that no actual predation could occur, then played calls of predators (or non-predators in the case of the control group) in the vicinity of the nests throughout the breeding season. The birds subjected to predatory calls (of corvid, hawk, raccoon, owl) produced 40% fewer offspring than birds in the control group. They laid fewer eggs, were less successful in hatching them (because they spent more time off the nest), made fewer feeding trips to the nest and so lost more nestlings. In a second clutch, the difference in laying success narrowed but the 'threatened' birds lost an increased number of their nestlings. Altogether, the losses approach the estimated 50% or more loss to actual predation in natural conditions.

*From Science, 2011, vol.334, p.1398-1401. "Perceived predation risk reduces the number of offspring songbirds produce per year" by L.Y.Zanette & 3 other authors. See perspective on this work on p. 1353-5*  
Summary by M.Church



Song Sparrow

MH

### **DECLINE OF PREY IMPACTS SEABIRD BREEDING SUCCESS**

Scientists studying seabird populations discovered that when their marine prey population (typically small pelagic fishes such as anchovies, sardines, capelin, sandeels, or krill – a crustacean) falls below about one-third of maximum population size, then the birds' breeding success falls sharply. The study combined surveys from the Gulf of Alaska, California Current, North Sea, Norwegian Sea, Benguela Current (off South Africa), Scotia Sea (southeast of the Falkland Islands) and New Zealand, so the phenomenon is global.

The researchers studied 14 bird species, including Arctic Tern, Great Skua, Common Murre, Black-legged Kittiwake, Rhinoceros Auklet and Pigeon Guillemot, so the phenomenon appears to be general. Indeed, it may apply rather widely to higher level predators of all types.

For most species breeding success (absent other stresses, such as unfavourable weather) is constant until prey supply approaches 33% of maximum, then declines sharply.. Interestingly, the phenomenon is repeated when one combines all species and studies the effect for each study area. Although the underlying data, comprising surveys of 15 to 47 colony breeding years, remain widely variable, the stability of the emerging pattern lends confidence to the conclusion.

Curiously, Atlantic puffins and the Norwegian Sea appear somewhat anomalous, with a rather more continuous pattern of variation – the two outcomes probably are closely related.

Whilst the response of the prey fish to changing marine climate (moving away from the vicinity of traditional nesting colonies) might be implicated in the observations, it appears much more likely that increasing fishing pressure on small pelagic fish is the real culprit -- a consequence of the insatiable demand of human societies for protein sources. The lesson appears to be that if you would sustain ecosystems with top predators, be sure that prey populations do not decline below 30% of their maximum.

*From Science, 9 Dec, 2011, vol.334, p.1703-06. "Global seabird response to forage fish depletion – one-third for the birds" by P.M.Cury + 13 other authors.*  
Summary by M.Church

## **2011 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS: A NEW GENERATION OF YOUNG BIRDERS TAKES FLIGHT!**

*by Karen Barry, Bird Studies Canada*

Flocks of young birders are participating in "Christmas Bird Count for Kids" events (CBC4Kids) across the country! In 2011, Bird Studies Canada organized and hosted two events, one in Port Rowan Ontario on December 3 and another in Vancouver on December 4, in addition to supporting several CBC4Kids in other locations. A CBC4Kids event was also held in Kamloops on December 18th, hosted by the local Young Naturalists Club.



*Finding birds with George Clulow*

CBC4Kids was initiated in the Sonoma Valley, California in 2007 by Tom Rusert and Darren Peterie [http://www.sonomabirding.com/cbc4kids\\_history.html](http://www.sonomabirding.com/cbc4kids_history.html). They found that traditional Christmas Bird Counts were geared mainly towards adults, and young children and families were often not included in this important Citizen Science effort. So they created the CBC 4 Kids and families - a stand alone half-day event for the younger set (6-15 years old) highlighting the important basics of this traditional count. CBC4Kids has proven to be an exciting way to engage youth and their families in a traditional bird-watching event, promoting nature appreciation and skills for monitoring birds, while contributing to citizen-science focused on birds.

The first Vancouver CBC4Kids event took place in Stanley Park, fittingly located within the English Bay-Burrard Inlet Important Bird Area. The event was co-hosted by the Stanley Park Ecology Society and the Young Naturalists Club of BC. After a brief introduction about the history of Christmas Bird Counts, we reviewed ways to identify birds and practiced using binoculars indoors. Then our intrepid birding teams headed outside to do a count.

Nine enthusiastic young birders participated with their parents to make up 3 teams. The morning dawned crisp and dry and a beautiful sunny day followed. Teams birded for a little over 2 hours in different parts of Stanley Park covering a mixture of habitat types. Our volunteer team leaders, Russell Cannings, George Clulow, Julian Hudson and Anne Murray, provided fun and expert guidance for the children and their accompanying parents. Following the bird walk, we met again to tally up our counts as a group. The children really enjoyed comparing sightings from each team. The grand total for the day was 1874 birds and 53 species, and highlights included: 4 Anna's Hummingbird, 150 Barrow's Goldeneye, 5 Black Oystercatcher, 12 Red Crossbill and 307 Surf Scoter!

This is a true Citizen Science effort. The count data have been entered in eBird ([www.ebird.ca](http://www.ebird.ca)) to be available for future research and conservation projects, and for other birders to know what has been sighted in the area. The data have also been submitted to the Stanley Park Ecology Society for inclusion in their bird monitoring database.

Many thanks to the volunteer leaders, partners and participants for making the first CBC4Kids in Vancouver a great success and a fun, bird-filled day. We are already planning next year's event and hope to see more families out in December 2012. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Karen Barry at (604) 940-4688 or [.BCprograms@birdscanada.org](mailto:BCprograms@birdscanada.org)



*Fox sparrow*

*JMR*



# Two-day Field Trips for Members – 2012

After a very successful start in 2011, you are invited to join us this year to bird a whole new set of bird-rich locations around BC led by BCFO's expert, local leaders.

## Trips in Brief

2012

### South Okanagan April 7-8, 2012

A premier destination for birds and birders, the South Okanagan in early spring offers chances to see some of its rarer breeding birds including Williamson's Sapsucker and Boreal Owl.

#### Dick Canning – leader

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

250 493 3393

### Merritt Area

May 31 to June 1, 2012

Explore one of the Interior's most under-birded areas. Day 1: Nicola Lake, Nicola Valley, and the Douglas Lake Grasslands. Day 2: Kane Valley, Otter Lake, and on to Princeton for the AGM.

#### Les Gyug – leader

[les\\_gyug@shaw.ca](mailto:les_gyug@shaw.ca)

250 769 5907

### Salmon Arm

September 1-2, 2012

Salmon Arm on Shuswap Lake is interior BC's shorebird hotspot. Join us for a great weekend of Fall birding: shorebirds, gulls, grebes, and waterfowl. Clark's Grebe anyone?

#### Ted Hillary – leader

[thillary@sunwave.net](mailto:thillary@sunwave.net)

250 832 4755

### Victoria & P. Angeles Ferry

November 3-4, 2012

Our first waterborne two-day field trip will be a unique event. Day 1, pelagic birds from the "Coho" Ferry in Juan de Fuca Strait. Day 2, rocky coast shorebirds and other Victoria specialties.

#### Mike McGrenere – leader

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

250 658 8624



For additional information about the Two-Day Field Trip program, contact George Clulow: [gclulow@shaw.ca](mailto:gclulow@shaw.ca)

## How to participate

These two-day field trips are BCFO led, but participants make their own arrangements for accommodation, food, and travel. **Day 1:** am birding; pm birding, evening get together (see below). **Day 2:** am birding, pm *optional* birding. Carpooling for birding will be arranged on the morning of Day 1.

### Cost per two-day event

Members: \$10.00 per person

Non-members: \$40.00\* incl. BCFO membership

\* Note: BCFO general memberships are family memberships



### Register in advance

**Important:** Register at least two weeks in advance. Email or phone the trip leader, advising the names and numbers of participants. The leader will advise specifically when and where to meet.

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



### The Social Side

At the end of Day 1, where possible, leaders will make arrangements for participants to meet for dinner at a nearby restaurant to recap the day, tally species seen, and confirm arrangements for Day 2.

### Things to Think About

Invite a birding friend or two to join you, and build BCFO membership at the same time.

Get a group together from your local club and carpool to the event.

Dress for all conditions, and bring plenty of food and drink.

Make suggestions to BCFO Directors for 2013 destinations.



## MISCELLANY.....

(short notes and photos)

### Congratulations to BCFO member

#### Laure Wilson Neish

Laure's book: *Wing Nut: passions of a bird photographer*, received a "Highly recommended" rating in a recent review in *Wildlife Afield*, the journal of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies (Vol.7 #1, p.136). Reviewer Chris Siddle writes that this "...collection of photographs is a cause for celebration. The composition and arresting quality of so many of Neish's images makes *Wing Nut* a joy to review, and a must-have publication for anyone interested in British Columbia's birds.....Neish has mastered light, using her lens to take the viewer into a world of detail most birders haven't glimpsed before."

I thoroughly enjoyed Laure's book when I first read it last year, and have picked it up several times since then to take 'second looks' at the photos. In her narrative, Laure describes how she achieved many of the images, providing ideas that could benefit many amateur photographers. The book is available from Blurb Publications: go to [www.blurb.com/bookstore](http://www.blurb.com/bookstore) and type *Wing Nut* in the search box. See back cover for another of Laure's images. (Ed.)



Common Redpoll by Laure Neish

### Juvenile Cooper's Hawk Succumbs to Hummingbird, Cat, Starvation

Notes and photos by Barry Price.



The first photo shows the young hawk in the cedar hedge (the bird's head is turned 180° toward the camera.) where it was hit in the shoulder by an Anna's Hummingbird. The hawk fell into the hedge and then flew to the apple tree in my neighbours' yard (photo (2)). Not much later, the hawk returned to the laurel part of my hedge where it was attacked by a cat. It ended up on the ground on its back. I took the bird immediately to the Wildlife Rescue Association of BC in Burnaby. It died on the way. They mentioned blood at the cloaca, probably indicating internal injuries, but also the keel was prominent and the bird was emaciated.

(1)

(2)



We tend to think of records like this as isolated incidents, but in reality, many young birds succumb to similar circumstances each winter -- but without any human witnesses. (Ed.)



## British Columbia

From North American Birds

by Chris Charlesworth



The common lament across British Columbia this summer was: "What summer?" A deep upper trough resided over the Region through much of the season, providing cool and wet weather to almost all areas. Northeastern British Columbia was particularly wet, as an easterly flow produced copious precipitation and widespread flooding, especially during the last ten days of June. Probably because of the unseasonable weather, many observers claimed that birds were late to return for breeding.

### WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

Unusual in the s. interior during summer months were 2 ad. Tundra Swans at Vaseux L. 17 Jun–12 Jul (CC). Up to 4 Mute Swans were also noted at 12 Jul at Vaseux L. in the Okanagan, where this species is of casual status (BL). Four Mute Swans spotted over Kamloops 12 Jul (Ralph Ritcey, Mike Hanry) were possibly the same birds. Rare in the s. interior of the province, especially in summer, a Long-tailed Duck was at Invermere in the W. Kootenay 3-18 Jul (Howard Heffler, Randy Hopkins). At Island View Beach in Saanichton on Vancouver I., a Great Egret was present 8-13 Jun (MR, m.ob.); another was in the W. Kootenay at Duck L., Creston 30 Jul (Carolee

Colter). Three Double-crested Cormorants were at Otter L., near Vernon 3 Jun (DC et al.). Very rare for midsummer, a Roughlegged Hawk was at Creston 21 Jul (LvD). The sole report of a Ferruginous Hawk came 27 Jul from the Okanagan Valley, the source of most reports of the species in British Columbia (TM). Furnishing one of very few reports for Canada, a Crested Caracara was seen in flight at Revelstoke 30 Jun (RC). In the ne. part of the province at Pine Pass, 7 Yellow Rails were heard in a marsh 11 Jul (Guy Monty). A male Bar-tailed Godwit in breeding plumage entertained birders at Boundary Bay, s. of Vancouver, 14 Jun–17 Jul (MT, m.ob.). On the w. side of Vancouver I., an Upland Sandpiper was a fantastic find at the Long Beach Airport n. of Ucluelet 29 Jun (AD). Rare but almost annual in the Okanagan, a Short-billed Dowitcher was at Robert L., Kelowna 24 Jul (CC). Delighting numerous birders in the Vancouver area, a Sabine's Gull was along Boundary Bay 14-15 Jun (MT et al.). In the Okanagan, where Caspian Terns are of rare but annual appearance, 2 were at Jim Grant I. 4 Jun (DC); another was in the W. Kootenay at Edgewood 10 Jun (JF). A very rare summer visitor to the Okanagan was a Forster's Tern seen near Vernon at Otter L. 1-3 Jun (RC et al.).

### DOVES THROUGH BUNTINGS

Eurasian Collared-Doves have executed their invasion of British Columbia quite swiftly. They are now very common in two areas of the province, the Ladner/Delta area and the Okanagan Valley, especially in the s. and around Kelowna, and they are making inroads in the n. part of the province in many towns. A singing male Alder Flycatcher along the Salmon R. near Salmon Arm 31 Jul (DC) was at the s. limit of the species' range in the s. interior. Also somewhat out of range was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Donald in the Columbia R. Valley 12 Jul (RC); this species is usually seen only in boreal forest areas of the Peace R. and at scattered areas across n.-cen. British Columbia. A Black Phoebe



*This male Chestnut-sided Warbler entertained birders at Camosun Bog near Vancouver, British Columbia on 27 June 2011. Photograph by Peter Candido.*

was a rare find along the beach at Sidney, Vancouver I. 27 Jun (Kerry Kinley, m.ob.); another at Richmond Community Gardens 16 Jul (Wayne Diakow) was in the Lower Mainland area, where this species has become almost annual. Ash-throated Flycatcher has also become a nearly annual visitor in

the Lower Mainland, with one seen at the Maplewood Sanctuary in N. Vancouver 29-30 Jun (Quentin Brown et al.). A female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen at the Carmanah Lighthouse on the s. end of Vancouver I. 28 Jun (Jerry Etzkorn). The Western Scrub-Jay at Maple Ridge, found several years ago, continued through 3 Jun but was not reported thereafter (Roger Craik). Northern Mockingbird reports came in from all around the province: the Allan Brooks Nature Centre in Vernon 8 Jun (Lloyd & Vicki Atkins); Logan Lake 23 Jun (JF); near Giscome 5 Jun (Jack Bowling, Brien Mc-Gaughey); near Chetwynd 13 Jun (Cathy Antoniazzi, Nancy Krueger); at Cranbrook 6 Jun (PD); and at Harrison Hot Springs, near Chilliwack, 18 Jun (Murray Brown). In the nw. section of the province, a Brown Thrasher was observed at New Hazelton 5 Jun (Ray Sturney). After a several bumper years for Sage Thrashers in the S. Okanagan, they became frustratingly hard to find this year, with just one report at the Chopaka Border Crossing near Osoyoos 12 Jul (fide RCa). Delighting many birders in Vancouver was a male Chestnut-sided Warbler at Camosun Bog 26 Jun–3 Jul (Christine Adkins, m.ob.). Interestingly, a male Chestnut-sided Warbler was in this very location in 2004. A singing male Magnolia Warbler at Swan L., Victoria 1 Jun (CS) was a superb find. Also near Victoria at Prospect L., a Yellow-breasted Chat caused some excitement 13 Jun–7 Jul (Laura Cox, m.ob.). Rare on Vancouver I., a Brewer's Sparrow was noted singing on Mt. Douglas, Victoria 3 Jun (IC). A Lark Sparrow at Port Alberni 7 Jun was unexpected (SM), as was a White-throated Sparrow in Art Mann Park on Quamichan L., in the Cowichan Valley 9 Jun (DM). One of the more outstanding finds of the season, a female Chestnut-collared Longspur was observed at the Hope Airport 20 Jun (RT), perhaps a refugee from drought to the east. At the Cranbrook Sewage Ponds, a male Indigo Bunting was discovered 4 Jul(PD).

Observers: Richard Cannings (RCa), Russell Cannings, Don Cecile, Chris Charlesworth, Ian Cruikshank, Pete Davidson, Adrian Dorst, Jess Findlay, Jamie Fenneman(JFe), Barry Lancaster, Thor Manson, Derrick Marven, Sandy McRuer, Mike Tabak, Rick Toochin, chin, Linda Van Damme.

[c\\_charlesworth23@hotmail.com](mailto:c_charlesworth23@hotmail.com)

## CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT ALL BAD NEWS.....(?)

.....at least, not if you are a Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*). The albatrosses of the Crozet Islands (approximately 46.7°S, 53.0°E in the southern Indian Ocean, mid-way between the southern tip of Africa and Antarctica) have experienced increased westerly wind speeds in recent years, allowing these gliding pelagic birds to travel farther, faster, thereby finding and capturing more food on foraging trips of shorter duration. This, in turn, has produced heavier, healthier birds that enjoy increased nesting success. Albatross foraging trips may last up to 35 days and cover as much as 3500 km. Wind speeds have increased by about 10% from the 1990s to the 2000s, and maximum winds have shifted to the south (coincidentally, away from waters where the birds are apt to become fouled in tuna longline fishing gear). The birds' flight speed has increased by as much as 20% and trip distances and durations have been reduced. It seems that time elapsed between prey encounters is the key variable, and this has been reduced by the more favourable flight conditions. Increased nesting success is attributed to reduced fasting on the nest and increased attention to incubation.

*Comment:* The scientists who carried out this study have attributed the change in albatross distribution and life history success to "climate change". But in the writer's opinion, a decade-to-decade difference hardly signals a definitive change of climate. It is well-known that distinctive weather patterns may persist for periods of a decade or more, especially over the oceans where ocean surface temperature – a highly conservative quantity – has a profound influence on weather. In fact, the last year of the study (2010) witnessed a significant drop in wind speed and, accordingly, in bird flight statistics.

*From Science, 2012, vol.335, p.211-214. "Changes in wind pattern alter albatross distribution and life-history traits" by H.Weimerskirch, M.Louzao, S.de Grissac, & K.DeLord, K., 2012.*  
Summary and comment by M.Church



Bewick's Wren

Clive Keen

## TOURS FOR NATURALISTS

### \*\*\*SOUTHERN UTAH & DEATH VALLEY\*\*\*

17-27 April 2012 (11 days)

Cost \$2500 (dbl occup) from Las Vegas

Planet Earth contains an infinite variety of landscapes, but in southern Utah random geologic events have conspired to create rare, unexpected and beautiful consequences. The mighty Colorado River, aided by the arid erosion cycle, has waged battle across the eons with the sandstone strata and fashioned landscapes so unique and bizarre that they are more redolent of an extra-terrestrial origin. We visit **Bryce Canyon, Valley of the Gods, Arches NP, Canyonlands NP, Monument Valley, Zion Canyon** and more. **Death Valley** has been added to the itinerary this year.

### \*\*\*YUKON & DEMPSTER HIGHWAY\*\*\*

Land of the Midnight Sun

Tour I, 18-29 June 2012 (12 days)

Tour II, 1-12 July 2012 (12 days)

Cost \$3500 (dbl occup) + GST from Whitehorse

The Yukon is a fabled land whose very name evokes archetypal images of wilderness and a frontier populated by colourful characters. On this tour we will experience both the natural and human landscapes of this fascinating and beautiful land, visiting **the Klondike, the Dempster Highway, and the Mackenzie Delta**. The Dempster is renowned as a naturalist's paradise with its varied and beautiful landscapes, sought-after bird species, large mammals and we visit at the peak of the wildflower display. **At latitude 66N we cross the Arctic Circle and enter the Land of the Midnight Sun. We also fly across the Mackenzie Delta to Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic Ocean.**

### \*\*\*THE SUNSHINE COAST FOR NATURALISTS\*\*\*

23-27 July 2012 (5 days) Cost \$1550 (dbl occup) + HST from Vancouver

The Sunshine Coast exemplifies the best of coastal British Columbia as the temperate rainforest meets the blue of the Salish Sea in a confusion of magnificent fjords and green islands. We visit the Sunshine Coast's scenic highlights, including **a full day cruise to world famous Princess Louisa Inlet**. We also visit Jedediah Island and take a sunset cruise. Our base is the Rockwater Secret Cove Resort. **The Sunshine Coast's culinary offerings are an important part of this tour and we will sample the best available. All meals are included, except for 4 dinners.**

### \*\*\*OTTERS, ORCAS & GRIZZLIES\*\*\*

10-14 September 2012 (5 days)

Cost \$1825 (dbl occup) + HST from Vancouver

In an increasingly crowded world British Columbia is a wilderness bastion renowned for its wildlife & scenery. **On this tour to Vancouver Island we expect to encounter three of BC's most charismatic species, Sea Otters, Orcas & Grizzly Bears.** The tour includes three separate boat excursions, all set against a backdrop of stunning ocean & mountain scenery.

Leader: Tony Greenfield

WHISKEYJACK NATURE TOURS

BOX 319, SECHLT, BC, V0N 3A0

Tel: 604-885-5539, E-m: [tony@whiskeyjacknaturetours.com](mailto:tony@whiskeyjacknaturetours.com)

Full details & itineraries at website: [www.whiskeyjacknaturetours.com](http://www.whiskeyjacknaturetours.com)

BC reg #34425



***Request for Nominations***  
***THE STEVE CANNINGS AWARD FOR B.C. ORNITHOLOGY***

In 2007, B.C.F.O. presented its first award for contributions to B.C. ornithology, now named *The Steve Cannings Award for B.C. Ornithology*, to Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan. Subsequent awards have been presented to David Stirling (2008), Madelon Schouten (2010), Dr. Jeremy Tatum (2010), and .Ralph Ritcey (2011).

The award recognizes contributions over a long period of time to ornithology in British Columbia in one or more of the following three categories: (1) research on bird biology and/or ecology, or detailed documentation of the avifauna of a portion of B.C.; (2) conservation of birds and/or bird habitats in B.C.; (3) public education about birds in B.C. The award is to be announced and, if possible, presented to the recipient annually during the banquet at the B.C.F.O. annual meeting.

We request nominations from any B.C.F.O. member for candidates for future Steve Cannings Awards. Nominations should include at least a brief statement as to why the nominator(s) believe that the nominee is deserving of the award. Nominations should be sent in writing to Dr. Wayne C. Weber, Chair of the Steve Cannings Award Committee, either by mail to 51-6712 Baker Rd., Delta, B.C. V4E 2V3, or by e-mail to [contopus@telus.net](mailto:contopus@telus.net).

The recipient of a given year's award is recommended by a three-person Awards Committee (Richard J. Cannings, Martin K. McNicholl and Wayne C. Weber) and approved by the B.C.F.O. board. All nominees not chosen in a given year will be considered automatically in future years without requiring another nomination, but updates or expansions to previous nominations are welcome. All nominations for the award will be gratefully received.



*Clive Keen's prize-winning photo of a Yellow-headed Blackbird, Scout Island Nature Centre, Williams Lake*

## Bird Listers' Corner 2011 Lists

Welcome to the 2011 Listers' Corner. To familiarize everyone with how the tables are set up the number under the "%" represents the percentage of that individual's total compared to the total species in that particular area/list. The "incr" column indicates an increase, if any, from their 2010 figure. An "asterisk" preceding a total indicates a number wasn't submitted for 2011. As in the past if a member does not supply a submission for two consecutive years the listing will be dropped on subsequent reports. An individual in bold print indicates a person who had the largest increase from the previous year or reached a significant plateau.

It should be noted only BCFO members from 2011 are included in this report. Submissions were received from 54 members and totals were brought forward for two participants from 2010. The total of 54 submitters was one more than in 2010. There were three members new to Listers' Corner from 2010, Art Martell, Bob McKay, & Ken Wright. All email and mailed submissions, provided an email address was known, were personally acknowledged. If you didn't get an acknowledgement, I didn't get your totals. A friendly reminder email was sent out mid January to previous submitters and a tardy few were sent additional harassing emails to jog their memories.

We will again start with the BC list for which most participants submitted a total. Kevin Neill continued to improve his list with an increase of 15 species but tops this year was Lee Harding with 16. Mike Tootchin again remains number one with Jo Anne MacKenzie again retaining second spot. Mike & Sharon Tootchin should be mentioned for their additions of 6 and 7 respectively. A tough task to add species when you're already at 85% of the listed species. Mike McGrenere surpassed the 400 plateau.

BRITISH COLUMBIA - 505					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	462	Mike Tootchin	91.5	6	456
2	439	Jo Ann MacKenzie	86.9	1	438
3	437	Dale Jensen	86.5		437
4	429	Sharon Tootchin	85.0	7	422

BRITISH COLUMBIA - 505					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
5	426	Wayne Weber	84.4	1	425
6	422	Roger Foxall	83.6	3	419
6	422	David Sterling	83.6	1	421
8	420	Tony Greenfield	83.2		420
9	418	Lloyd Esralson	82.8	3	415
10	410	Murray Brown	81.2	2	408
11	407	Brian Stech	80.6	2	405
12	406	Dick Cannings	80.4	1	405
13	404	Val George	80.0	3	401
14	401	Mike McGrenere	79.4	6	395
15	399	Bryan Gates	79.0		399
15	399	Thor Manson	79.0	3	396
17	398	Keith Riding	78.8	2	396
18	396	Russ Tkachuk	78.4		396
19	394	Hank Vanderpol	78.0		394
20	392	Russell Cannings	77.6	6	386
21	391	Brian Scott	77.4		391
22	390	Barbara Begg	77.2	1	389
23	386	Larry Cowan	76.4		386
23	386	John Voos	76.4	3	383
25	380	Kevin Neill	75.2	15	365
26	378	Gary Davidson	74.9	1	377
27	377	Len Jellicoe	74.7		377
28	367	Ken Morgan	72.7		367
28	367	Don Wilson	72.7		367
30	364	Bruce Whittington	72.1	2	362
31	356	Laird Law	70.5	2	354
31	356	Martin McNicholl	70.5		356
33	353	Rand Rudland	69.9		355
34	352	Gwynneth Wilson	69.7	2	350
35	351	Art Martell	69.5		
36	350	Peter Blokker	69.3	1	349
37	349	Andy Buhler	69.1	1	348
37	349	Marilyn Buhler	69.1	1	348
39	326	John Sprague	64.6		326
40	322	Ken Taylor	63.8		322
41	317	Dorothy Copp	62.8	6	311
42	313	Ted Goshulak	62.0	1	312
43	*308	Gwen Nicol	61.0		308
44	304	Bob McKay	60.2		
45	298	Peter McIver	59.0	14	284
46	294	Janice Amdt	58.2	3	291
47	*278	Laure Neish	55.0		278
48	276	Lee Harding	54.7	16	260
49	272	Mike Mulligan	53.9		272
50	*242	Rick Wright	47.9		242

ABA - 969					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	774	Roger Foxall	79.9	4	770
2	772	Mike Tootchin	79.7	3	769



ABA - 969					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
3	764	Mike Mulligan	78.8	2	762
4	755	Hank Vanderpol	77.9	4	751
5	734	Russ Tkachuk	75.7		734
6	730	Thor Manson	75.3	30	700
7	707	Art Martell	73.0		
8	706	Jo Ann MacKenzie	72.9		706
9	705	Dale Jensen	72.8		705
10	701	Dorothy Copp	72.3		701
11	691	Brian Stech	71.3	1	690
12	690	John Vooy	71.2	9	681
13	679	David Sterling	70.1		679
14	676	Wayne Weber	69.8	1	675
15	670	Sharon Toochin	69.1		664
16	653	John Sprague	67.4		653
17	647	Gary Davidson	66.8	4	643
18	641	Brian Scott	66.2		641
19	638	Dick Cannings	65.8		635
20	637	Andy Buhler	65.7		635
20	637	Marilyn Buhler	65.7	2	635
22	627	Gwynneth Wilson	64.7	1	626
23	619	Kevin Neill	63.9	35	584
23	619	Don Wilson	63.9		619
25	614	Keith Riding	63.4		614
26	606	Tony Greenfield	62.5		606
27	605	Barbara Begg	62.4		605
28	599	Lloyd Esralson	61.8	2	597
29	588	Sandra Eadie	60.7		588
30	585	Peter McIver	60.4	4	581
30	585	Bill Heybroek	60.4	19	566
32	584	Ken Morgan	60.3		584
33	567	Russell Cannings	58.5		563
34	566	Bryan Gates	58.4		566
35	559	Larry Cowan	57.7	47	512
36	535	Rand Rudland	55.2		535
37	534	Laure Neish	55.1		520
38	527	Murray Brown	54.4	13	514
39	526	Martin McNicholl	54.3		526
40	524	Mike McGrenere	54.1	4	520
41	*520	Gwen Nicol	53.7		520
42	500	Laird Law	51.6	15	485
43	484	Bob McKay	49.9		
44	470	Ken Taylor	48.5	2	468
45	467	Ted Goshulak	48.2	3	464
46	455	Lee Harding	47.0	2	453
47	418	Janice Arndt	43.1	8	410
48	412	Peter Blokker	42.5		412

For the ABA area Kevin Neill passed the 600 milestone and Laird Law the 500 mark. I had the largest increase with 47. Thor Manson, already at the 700 mark, added an impressive 30 to his total.

Keith Riding remained at the top of the World standings. The highest increase was by Gary Davidson adding an impressive 455 to his list. Nigel Mathews added 253 to move him within 65 of the 5,000 plateau.

WORLD - 10,070					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	5,593	Keith Riding	55.5	86	5,507
2	4,935	Nigel Mathews	49.0	253	4,682
3	4,634	Roger Foxall	46.0	217	4,417
4	4,550	Jo Ann MacKenzie	45.2	2	4,548
5	4,485	Mike Toochin	44.5	82	4,403
6	4,256	Art Martell	42.3		
7	3,987	David Sterling	39.6	47	3,940
8	3,646	Sharon Toochin	36.2	82	3,564
9	3,473	Peter McIver	34.5	30	3,443
10	3,300	Mike Mulligan	32.8	24	3,276
11	3,297	Ken Taylor	32.7	7	3,290
12	3,146	Dick Cannings	31.2	104	3,042
13	3,069	Barbara Begg	30.5		3,112
14	3,058	Dale Jensen	30.4		3,058
15	2,845	Hank Vanderpol	28.3	175	2,670
16	2,841	Laird Law	28.2	19	2,822
17	2,352	Don Wilson	23.4	254	2,098
18	2,116	Val George	21.0	65	2,051
19	2,054	Brian Scott	20.4		
20	2,007	Rand Rudland	19.9	7	2,000
21	1,984	Lee Harding	19.7	173	1,811
22	1,966	Dorothy Copp	19.5	346	1,620
23	1,899	Brian Stech	18.9	378	1,521
24	1,831	Ken Morgan	18.2	93	1,738
25	1,740	Gary Davidson	17.3	455	1,285
26	1,597	Sandra Eadie	15.9		1,597
27	1,588	Bryan Gates	15.8		1,588
28	*1,425	Tony Greenfield	14.2		1,425
29	1,297	Larry Cowan	12.9	294	1,003

Canada is the next major list. There were few changes in the top 10. Sharon Toochin gained a position moving to 6<sup>th</sup> from 7<sup>th</sup>. Roger Foxall retained first place. Murray Brown had the highest increase with 14 and Mike Toochin moved over the 500 mark.

CANADA - 667					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	540	Roger Foxall	81.0	2	538
2	518	Jo Ann MacKenzie	77.7		518
3	501	Mike Toochin	75.1	3	498
4	489	David Sterling	73.3	1	488
5	482	Dale Jensen	72.3		482
6	475	Sharon Toochin	71.2	4	471
7	474	Russ Tkachuk	71.1		474



CANADA - 667					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
8	468	Wayne Weber	70.2		468
9	467	Dick Cannings	70.0	1	466
10	460	Hank Vanderpol	69.0	2	458
11	453	Thor Manson	67.9	3	450
11	453	Mike McGrenere	67.9	5	448
13	450	Barbara Begg	67.5	1	449
14	449	Murray Brown	67.3	14	435
14	449	Keith Riding	67.3	2	447
16	448	Kevin Neill	67.2	12	436
17	444	Martin McNicholl	66.6		444
17	444	Brian Scott	66.6		444
19	443	Art Martell	66.4		
20	441	Mike Mulligan	66.1	3	438
20	441	Lloyd Esralson	66.1	3	438
21	439	Larry Cowan	65.8		439
21	439	Brian Stech	65.8	1	438
24	436	Len Jellicoe	65.4	2	434
25	434	John Vooy	65.1	2	432
26	432	Ken Morgan	64.8		432
27	431	Tony Greenfield	64.6		431
28	422	Russell Cannings	63.3	5	417
29	418	Bryan Gates	62.7		418
30	413	Gwynneth Wilson	61.9	1	412
31	412	Sandra Eadie	61.8		412
32	410	Peter Blokker	61.5		410
33	408	Gary Davidson	61.2	1	407
34	407	John Sprague	61.0		407
35	407	Don Wilson	61.0		407
36	401	Rand Rudland	60.1		403
37	398	Marilyn Buhler	59.7	1	397
38	398	Andy Buhler	59.7	1	397
39	391	Janice Arndt	58.6	1	390
40	386	Bob McKay	57.9		
41	383	Laird Law	57.4	3	380
42	378	Ted Goshulak	56.7	3	375
43	374	Dorothy Copp	56.1	3	371
44	368	Peter Mciver	55.2		368
45	*363	Gwen Nicol	54.4		363
46	328	Lee Harding	49.2		

The Okanagan List top three managed minor improvements. Laure Neish gained the most in 2011 adding 8 to her total.

OKANAGAN VALLEY - 342					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	299	Dick Cannings	87.4	2	297
2	293	Gwynneth Wilson	85.7	1	292
3	289	Russell Cannings	84.5	3	286
4	288	Don Wilson	84.2		288
5	277	Laure Neish	81.0	8	269

OKANAGAN VALLEY - 342					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
6	272	Peter Blokker	79.5	1	271
7	269	Mike Toochin	78.7	1	268
8	262	Bob McKay	76.6		
9	259	Hank Vanderpol	75.7		259
10	258	Wayne Weber	75.4		258
11	*255	Gary Davidson	74.6		255
12	242	David Sterling	70.8		242
13	234	Jo Ann MacKenzie	68.4		234
14	232	Tony Greenfield	67.8		232
15	221	John Vooy	64.6		221
16	218	Laird Law	63.7		218
17	215	Lloyd Esralson	62.9		215
18	*208	Keith Riding	60.8		208
19	193	Bryan Gates	56.4		193
20	*181	Gwen Nicol	52.9		181
21	177	Brian Stech	51.8	2	175
22	*174	Rand Rudland	50.9		174
23	168	Larry Cowan	49.1		168
24	162	Dorothy Copp	47.4		

Brian Stech added 9 to his Washington State List while Wayne Weber retains top spot by a large margin. Bob McKay added his total joining the list in 12th position.

WASHINGTON STATE - 500					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	393	Wayne Weber	78.6	1	392
2	349	Jo Ann MacKenzie	69.8	0	349
3	317	Mike Toochin	63.4	2	315
4	275	Hank Vanderpol	55.0	0	275
5	268	Dick Cannings	53.6	1	267
6	262	John Vooy	52.4	1	261
7	257	Roger Foxall	51.4	0	257
8	254	David Sterling	50.8	0	254
9	251	Keith Riding	50.2	1	250
10	235	Lloyd Esralson	47.0	0	235
11	234	Dale Jensen	46.8	0	234
12	218	Bob McKay	43.6		
13	214	Dorothy Copp	42.8	3	211
14	212	Brian Stech	42.4	9	203

Mike Mulligan stills holds down top spot on the Alberta List while Hank Vanderpol had the highest increase adding 5 to his total.

ALBERTA - 417					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	349	Mike Mulligan	83.7	2	347
2	310	Hank Vanderpol	74.3	5	305
3	286	David Sterling	68.6		286



ALBERTA - 417					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
4	241	Roger Foxall	57.8		241
4	241	Martin McNicholl	57.8		241
6	240	Jo Ann MacKenzie	57.6		240
7	235	Wayne Weber	56.4		235
8	222	Bryan Gates	53.2		222
8	*222	Laure Neish	53.2		222
10	216	Gary Davidson	51.8	1	215
11	214	Dick Cannings	51.3		214
12	189	Len Jellicoe	45.3		

This list grew from 2 submitters to 7. David Sterling remains number 1 with Dick Cannings arriving on the scene at second place.

(Ticks) All Provinces & Territories					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	2,154	David Sterling		6	2,148
2	1,854	Dick Cannings			
3	1,262	Barabara Begg		1	1,261
4	1,185	Gary Davidson			
5	858	Brian Stech			
6	769	Larry Cowan			
7	752	Dorothy Copp			

This list consists of species seen or heard using self powered locomotion (walk, run, bicycle, canoe etc.) from your home. The list grew from 5 to 6 this year with Dick Cannings adding 23 to his total. Mike McGrenere still retains a commanding lead.

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORT					
#	2011	Name & location	%	incr	2010
1	257	Mike McGrenere, Victoria		14	243
2	215	Dick Cannings, Penticton		23	192
3	175	Bob McKay, Oliver			
4	157	Ken Wright, Lillooet			
5	148	Janice Arndt, Nelson		5	143
6	*134	Russell Cannings, Penticton			134

Tony Greenfield remained on top of the list but both Russ Tkachuk & Rand Rudland added to their totals. Rand had the biggest gain adding four to his total.

SUNSHINE COAST - 304					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	274	Tony Greenfield	90		274
2	250	Russ Tkachuk	82	3	247
3	233	Rand Rudland	77	4	229

Mike Toochin moved into second place in 2010 from the middle of the pack in 2009 and with the addition of 10 species in 2011 has moved into first place on North Pacific Waters List.

NORTH PACIFIC PELAGIC WATERS					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	106	Mike Toochin		10	96
2	100	Ken Morgan			100
3	77	Bruce Whittington			77
4	69	Russell Cannings			69
5	67	David Sterling			67
6	63	Lloyd Esralson			63
7	62	Kevin Neill		4	58
8	*60	Val George			60
9	58	Jo Ann MacKenzie		1	57

The BC Winter List includes period sightings from Dec/Jan/Feb with a total to Feb. 28, 2011.

B.C. Winter List - Dec / Jan / Feb					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	274	Mike Toochin			
2	*252	David Sterling			252
3	225	Russell Cannings		37	188
4	211	Larry Cowan		2	209
5	118	Janice Arndt			118
6	94	Lee Harding			

The Vancouver Island List saw Mike Toochin add 10 to his list and came one shy of the 300 plateau.

VANCOUVER ISLAND - 387					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	348	David Sterling	89.9	4	344
2	337	Barbara Begg	87.1	3	334
3	335	Mike McGrenere	86.6	4	331
4	332	Bryan Gates	85.8		332
4	322	Hank Vanderpol	83.2		322
6	314	Bruce Whittington	81.1	1	313
7	299	Mike Toochin	77.3	10	289
8	284	Ken Morgan	73.4		284
9	*283	Brian Stech	73.1		283
10	255	Wayne Weber	65.9		255
11	254	Roger Foxall	65.6		254
12	250	Jo Ann MacKenzie	64.6		250

Brian Stech had the highest increase of the year for the Vancouver Checklist Area at 4 moving past the 300 plateau. John Vooys also passed 300. Mike Toochin still is tops by a margin of 12 over Jo Ann Mackenzie.



VANCOUVER AREA - 397					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	364	Mike Toochin	91.7	2	362
2	352	Jo Ann MacKenzie	88.7	1	351
3	342	Wayne Weber	86.1	1	341
4	333	Lloyd Esralson	83.9		333
5	332	Keith Riding	83.6	2	330
6	320	Roger Foxall	80.6	2	318
7	312	Larry Cowan	78.6	1	311
8	301	Brian Stech	75.8	4	297
9	300	John Vooys	75.6	3	297
10	278	Dick Cannings	70.0		286
11	246	Russell Cannings	62.0		
12	242	David Sterling	61.0		242
13	235	Bryan Gates	59.2		235
14	234	Don Wilson	58.9		234

The Victoria Checklist Area saw little change with David Sterling still on top. Mike Toochin managed to improve his total by 5.

VICTORIA AREA - 362					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	331	David Sterling	91.4	4	327
2	322	Barbara Begg	89.0	3	319
3	320	Mike McGrenere	88.4	3	317
4	316	Bryan Gates	87.3	1	315
5	313	Hank Vanderpol	86.5		313
6	303	Bruce Whittington	83.7	1	302
7	259	Mike Toochin	71.5	5	254
8	235	Wayne Weber	64.9		235
9	141	Lloyd Esralson	39.0		

Moving to the far north of the country the Yukon Territory List saw Gary Davidson move his total up by 23 species. Dick Cannings still holds top spot with 172.

YUKON TERRITORY - 310					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	172	Dick Cannings	55.5		172
2	158	Tony Greenfield	51.0	2	156
3	150	David Sterling	48.4		150
4	142	Roger Foxall	45.8		142
5	123	Gary Davidson	39.7	23	100
6	*112	Rand Rudland	36.1		112
7	109	John Sprague	35.2	5	104

The Northwest Territories List grew by 5 submitters resulting from a major lowering of the "threshold level". Laird Law added his total to the mix and takes over first place.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - 322					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	176	Laird Law	54.7		
2	151	Tony Greenfield	46.9		151
3	148	David Sterling	46.0		
4	133	Rand Rudland	41.3		
5	86	Mike Toochin	26.7		
6	*51	Lee Harding	15.8		51
7	40	Dick Cannings	12.4		

With the 2011 AGM held in Fort St. John the Peace River Area List was bound to see changes. Four submitters added two species to their totals, none a threat to Laird's hold on top spot.

PEACE RIVER AREA - 272					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	242	Laird Law	89.0	1	241
2	209	Tony Greenfield	76.8	2	207
3	208	Russell Cannings	76.5	2	206
4	203	Mike Toochin	74.6		
5	193	Jo Ann MacKenzie	71.0	2	191
6	184	Bryan Gates	67.6		184
7	164	Wayne Weber	60.3		164
8	163	David Sterling	59.9		163
9	153	Larry Cowan	56.3	2	151
11	144	Lloyd Esralson	52.9		
10	128	Brian Stech	47.1		

Gary Davidson widened the gap between him and Gwen Nicols by adding 4 species to his West Kootenay Area List.

WEST KOOTENAY AREA - 313					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	278	Gary Davidson	88.8	4	274
2	*242	Gwen Nicol	77.3		242
3	241	Peter McIver	77.0	2	239
4	232	Janice Arndt	74.1	3	229
5	185	Jo Ann MacKenzie	59.1	2	183
6	182	Wayne Weber	58.1	2	*180

Laird Law continues at top spot of the Prince George Area List with his addition of 2 to his total.

PRINCE GEORGE AREA - 297					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	270	Laird Law	91	2	268
2	266	Cathy Antoniazzi	90		266
3	190	Don Wilson	64		190
4	187	Russell Cannings	63	1	186
5	151	Peter Blokker	51		151



Gary Davidson added a health 57 to his Kamloops Area List.

KAMLOOPS AREA - 306					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	255	Wayne Weber	83		255
2	198	David Sterling	65		198
3	192	Gary Davidson	63	57	135

I will leave the analysis of the balance of the lists up to you the readers.

MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK - 206					
#	2011	Name	%	incr	2010
1	152	Mike McGrenere	74		152
2	125	Wayne Weber	61		125
3	123	Dick Cannings	60		
4	110	Jo Ann MacKenzie	53		110
5	101	David Sterling	49		103
6	97	Bob McKay	47		

SEA & IONA ISLANDS (VANC)					
#	2011	Name		incr	2010
1	272	Mike Toochn		2	270
2	*240	Keith Riding			240
3	233	Wayne Weber		1	232
4	204	Lloyd Esralson			204
5	177	Larry Cowan			177
6	165	Dick Cannings			

WESTHAM & REIFEL ISLANDS (VANC)					
#	2011	Name		incr	2010
1	222	Wayne Weber			222
2	194	Lloyd Esralson		1	193
3	155	Larry Cowan			155
4	142	Dick Cannings			
5	*139	Keith Riding			139

BLACKIE SPIT (VANC)					
#	2011	Name		incr	2010
1	192	Jo Ann MacKenzie			192
2	183	Wayne Weber			183
3	112	Larry Cowan			112
4	80	Dick Cannings			

CRESTON VALLEY AREA - 301					
#	2010	Name	%	incr	2009
1	208	Peter McIver	166		208
2	*185	Gwen Nicol	148		185
3	*169	Gary Davidson	135		169
4	142	Wayne Weber	114		142

Mt. Robson PP					
#	2011	Name		incr	2010
1	145	Dick Cannings			
2	133	Laird Law			133
3	120	David Sterling			120
4	85	Wayne Weber			

Haida Gwaii					
#	2011	Name		incr	2010
1	*133	Laird Law			133
2	103	Bruce Whittington			103

Pitt Meadows					
#	2011	Name		incr	2010
1	200	Wayne Weber			
2	186	Larry Cowan			

Revelstoke Area					
#	2011	Name		incr	2010
1	180	Russell Cannings		19	161
2	150	Wayne Weber		5	*145

With our AGM being held in Princeton, June 1 to 3, I would expect there will be a few more submitters for the Princeton Area List for 2012.

Princeton Area					
#	2011	Name		incr	2010
1	95	Lloyd Esralson			95
2	90	Bryan Gates			90

Salt Spring Island					
#	2011	Name		incr	2010
1	156	John Sprague		1	155
2	149	Karen Ferguson		2	147

The remaining listings are for areas with single submissions. This year I have changed the groupings to reflect the Tourism Zones as set out by BC Tourism. This should make it easier to consider lists to keep track of while travelling to destinations around the Province.

Northern BC					
	2011	Name		+	2010
Gwaii Haanas NP	76	Bruce Whittington			*76
Haines Triangle Area	88	David Sterling			88

Cariboo/Chilcotin					
	2011	Name		+	2010
Williams Lake Area	138	Bryan Gates			138

Thompson/Okanagan					
	2011	Name		+	2010
Nicola Watershed	251	Wayne Weber			
North Okanagan Area	251	Peter Blokker			251

Kootenay / Rockies	2011	Name	+	2010
Columbia Valley	123	Bryan Gates		*123
East Kootenay	94	Lee Harding		
Yoho NP	124	Wayne Weber		124

Vancouver Coast & Mnt.	2011	Name	+	2010
City of Abbotsford	195	John Vooys		
City of Richmond	282	Mike Toochin		
Colony Farm RP	159	Larry Cowan	1	158
Derby Reach RP	96	Ted Goshulak		96
Garibaldi PP	*73	Mike McGrenere		73
Mt. Seymour PP	*85	Wayne Weber		85
Trinity Westrn U Campus	149	Ted Goshulak		149

Vancouver Island	2011	Name	+	2010
Clover Point	199	David Sterling		199
Miracle Beach PP	*159	David Sterling		159
Mittenatch Island PP	110	David Sterling		110
Pacific Rim NP	175	David Sterling		175
Saturna Island	*102	Tony Greenfield		102

Other	2011	Name	+	2010
Above 1,500m	112	Mike McGrenere	1	111

Members are reminded there are other opportunities for listing their totals not encompassed by BCFO Listers' Corner. These include the American Birding Association and the NeilyWorld Canadian Listers' Corner.

I would like to thank all those who submitted their life totals for this article. In closing I hope to see many of you at the June BCFO Annual General Meeting in Princeton June 1 to 3. Continued good birding in 2012.

Larry Cowan



Clay-coloured Sparrow by Laure Wilson Neish