

B_C BIRDING

Newsletter of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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A subscription to this quarterly is a benefit of membership in the society. Members will also receive a copy of the annual journal, *British Columbia Birds*. Membership in BCFO is open to anyone interested in the study and enjoyment of wild birds in British Columbia.

BCFO objectives include fostering cooperation between amateur and professional ornithologists, promoting cooperative bird surveys and research projects, and supporting conservation organizations in their efforts to preserve birds and their habitats.

Since November, 2003, BCFO has maintained an official partnership with the Changhua Wild Bird Society, Changhua, Taiwan.

Membership Dues

Please send membership requests or requests for further information to:

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

Annual Membership Dues:

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

Newsletter Submissions

Send material to the Editors at 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 15th of the month preceding the March, June, September and December issues.

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.

BCFO Website: www.bcfo.ca

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COVER STORY

Western Screech-Owl (Megascops kennicotti macfarlanei) in nest cavity in living Ponderosa Pine. Photo by Ian Routley.

This picture was taken April 10, 2012 near Lillooet. The site fledged four young last year. Both last year and this year there have been ongoing studies to determine the number and range of the Western Screech-Owl in our area. These studies have pushed the range of this subspecies to the Big Bar area, about 70 km north of Lillooet.

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

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

As my term as President comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BCFO Board and all committee members for their support and participation as we have worked to accomplish our Strategic Planning objectives.

George Clulow has spent many volunteer hours designing, from scratch, our new BCFO website. I think that members are going to be very pleased with the result when we officially open the site – which will be very soon. (There will be a sneak preview at the AGM!!!) George also started the very popular Two-day Field Trips program, and this continues to attract both members and non-members (who become members in order to attend) to some of the best birding areas throughout the province.

June Ryder and Mark Habdas stepped up to the plate regarding our newsletter, *BC Birding*, when the former editor retired on short notice. We hope that you enjoy the newsletter, and find it informative and interesting. We strongly encourage members to contribute by submitting articles and notes about sightings and other birding activities.

Art Martell continues as editor of BCFO's journal, *British Columbia Birds*, which consists mostly of scientific articles about current ornithological research.

Our Membership Chair, Larry Cowan, has been working hard to grow the membership, to remind folks when memberships are due for renewal, and to track down former members who have let their membership lapse.

Our Treasurer Mike Fung is always on top of our financial situation -- keeping us in the in the black; and our Secretary, Mary Taitt, does a great job of recording board meeting minutes. The board has been able to cut the cost of our regular meetings to almost nothing by using Skype instead of telephone conference calls; we also use e-mail to discuss issues.

And of course I can't forget Wayne Diakow and Les Gyug who have worked hard to organize our annual conference and AGM. It takes a lot of coordination, phone calls, follow up and time to get all the details together – and then provide information to members in the newsletter and on the website – hoping that YOU will make the choice to attend.

Thank you to members who serve on the various BCFO committees or who represent BCFO to other organizations; these volunteers often waive expenses to attend these meetings on our behalf. They include George Clulow (BC Breeding Bird Atlas), Jo Ann MacKenzie (Changhua Wild Bird Society), and Wayne Weber (Canadian International Join Venture). Wayne also chairs the BCFO Awards Committee.

And in closing I would like to encourage all BCFO members to help our membership grow. Please talk to all your birding friends about BCFO and our objectives of “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 habitat.” The more we grow, the more effectively BCFO can meet these objectives.

Good Birding

Jude Grass



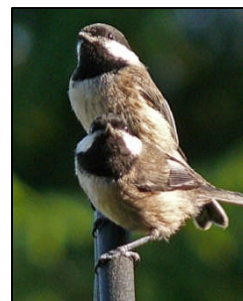
EDITORS' NOTES

Many thanks to those Members who sent in the articles and photographs that comprise this issue. As a result, I think (and hope) that we have managed to put together another interesting newsletter. But we need the contributions to keep coming. So please see the Box on page 8 for suggestions, and contribute whatever you can. We're also encouraging birdy news items from or about the far-flung corners of the province – Haida Gwai, Peace River, Fort Nelson, and the Kootenays. Also, be aware that for each issue, we need photos for both front and back covers, as well as an appropriate photo for the 'welcome new birders' section.

Probably, you will wonder why we have included two articles about the same pelagic trip. Well, the answer is simply that two articles were contributed. They do overlap in places, but were written from different perspectives – and it was such an interesting trip (I witnessed it first-hand) that I think it deserves two write-ups. This also provides more space for Peter Candido's remarkable images of distant birds shot from the randomly-heaving deck of a ship in a choppy sea. Quite a few BCFO members participated in the pelagic trip – including a quorum of your Directors!

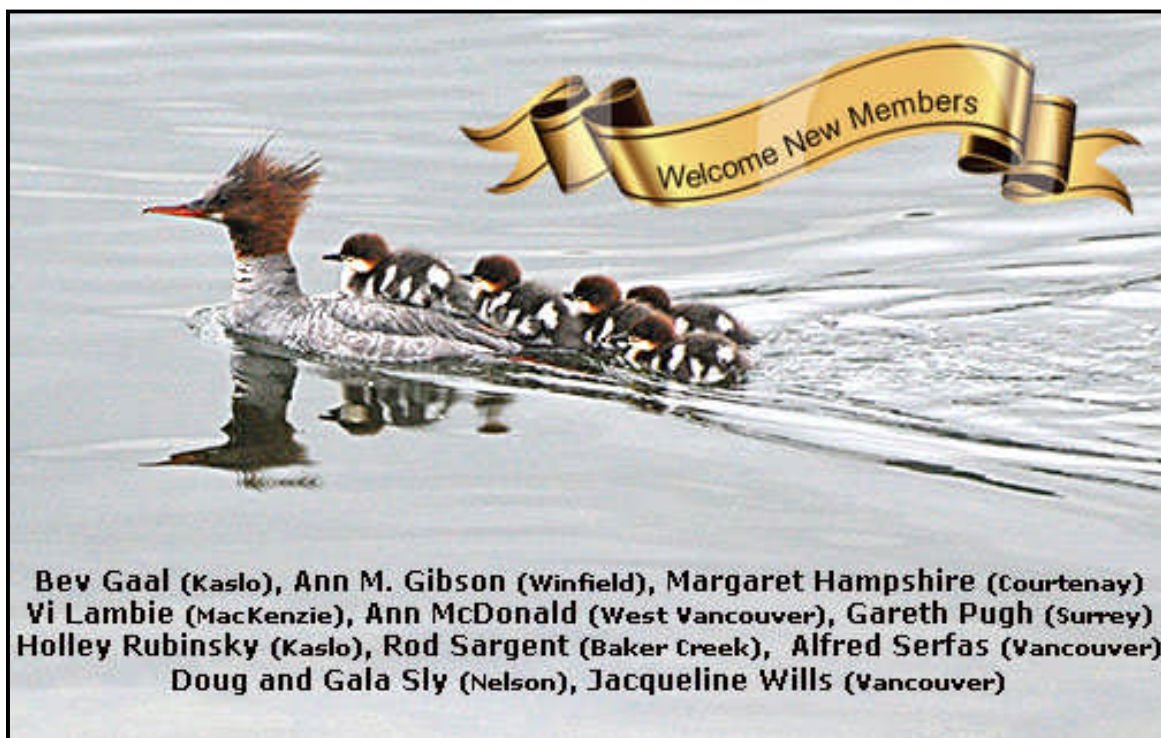
I was recently handed 10 heavy boxes containing back issues of *BC Birding* – going all the way back to #1, Vol.1 in 1991. Since we are unlikely to be able to dispose of these through unsolicited requests, I will be taking multiple copies to the Princeton conference to pass on to members who are interested in collecting of back issues. Members not attending the conference can request (from me) copies be sent to them for the cost of postage.

When compiling this issue, we ended up with two blank pages (26, 27), so I have included, for information, the ABA's code of birding ethics. Especially for people new to birding, it can be useful to have answers to some of the "should I do this?" or "should they be doing that?" questions that sometimes arise. Page 27 presents the species list for the April Two-Day Field Trip. (see p.11). In future, I'm planning to post most such lists as an appendix (separate file) to each issue of *BC Birding*; but there was space available to include this one here.



Enjoy the spring birding, whether it comes early, middle or late to you, depending on where you are.
Hope to see you at Princeton.

June Ryder, Editor



**Bev Gaal (Kaslo), Ann M. Gibson (Winfield), Margaret Hampshire (Courtenay)
Vi Lambie (MacKenzie), Ann McDonald (West Vancouver), Gareth Pugh (Surrey)
Holley Rubinsky (Kaslo), Rod Sargent (Baker Creek), Alfred Serfas (Vancouver)
Doug and Gala Sly (Nelson), Jacqueline Wills (Vancouver)**

Common Merganser (female) with chicks

MH

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 those 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/ornithol/birdmeet.html. Thanks to Jude Grass for contributions to this issue of this compilation.

EVENTS IN 2012:

June 1-3 - - B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Princeton, B.C.

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.

June 8-10 - - VANCOUVER AVIAN RESEARCH CENTRE BIRD MONITORING & BANDING WORKSHOP. Contact [no address, phone number or e-mail announced], web-site: <http://www.birdvancouver.com/testimonials.html>.

June 8-11 - - WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Spokane, WA. Contact [no mailing address, phone number or contact individual announced]; e-mail: information@wos.org; web-site: <http://www.wos.org/2012conferencehome.html>.

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.

June 15-17 - - MANNING PARK BIRD BLITZ. Contact: Kelly Pearce, B.C. phone (604) 869-1274; e-mail: info@hopemountain.org web-site: www.hopemountain.org.

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 number indicated; e-mail: howard_browers@fws.gov; web-site: <http://www.westernbirdbanding.org/next-meetings.html>

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 11 - - ROCKY POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY SEMI-PELAGIC TRIP, Strait of Juan de Fuca. Contact: Jeremy Kimm [no address, phone number or e-mail announced]; web-site: www.rpbo.org/trips.php.

August 14-18 - - 5TH 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 Estudio 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; web-site: <http://www.naoc-v2012.com/>.

August 25 - - ROCKY POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY PELAGIC TRIP, Sooke to Swiftsure Bank, B.C. Contact Jeremy Kimm [no address, phone number or e-mail announced]; web-site: www.rpbo.org/trips.php.

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 (250) 468-7475; e-mail: bcnaturefgm12@gmail.com web-site: <http://www.arrowsmithnats.org>

Sept. 29 - - ROCKY POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY SEMI-PELAGIC TRIP, Strait of Juan de Fuca. Contact: Jeremy Kimm [no address, phone number or e-mail announced]; web-site: www.rpbo.org/trips/php.

Oct. 1-6 - - B.C. NATURE LILLOOET CAMP, Contact: Vivian Birch-Jones, Box 1065, Lillooet, B.C. V0K 1V0; phone (250) 256-4062; e-mail: vivianbj@telus.net web-site: <http://www.lilooetnaturalistsociety.org>

Oct. 16-18 - - THIRD INTERNATIONAL RUSTY BLACKBIRD WORKING GROUP, Plymouth, MA. Contact details not yet announced.

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.

B.C. BIRDING NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

Dog Creek Tree Swallow at East Didsbury, Alberta

For the second year in a row, a Tree Swallow banded as a young on Russ Dawson's Dog Creek, B.C. study area was recovered in the Calgary area. The swallow was banded in 2008 and recovered in 2011 about 586 km to the southeast in a nest-box about 2.4 km south of DeWinton, Alberta. This bird, and a 2007-hatched Prince George swallow recovered in 2010 at Didsbury, Alberta (see *B.C. Birding* 21(1):9-11, 2011), were both included in a review of recoveries of Alberta, B.C. and Saskatchewan-banded Tree Swallows. The review also provides details of an adult male banded near Prince George in 2003 and shot in October 2003 at Spring Lake, Texas, and a 16-day old nestling banded in 2006 near Prince George and recaptured alive in July 2009 as the parent of three young at a nest-box about 3325 km east near Nanticoke, Ontario

-- based on B. Taylor and D. Stiles. 2011, Calgary area nest-box monitors annual report 2011, privately published, Calgary; and D. J. Stiles and R. D. Dawson. 2011. *Blue Jay* 69:157-160).

Harold King

On Christmas Day 2011, the South Okanagan lost one of its most prominent naturalists and conservationists. For many years, Harold King was active in numerous Okanagan conservation and naturalist organizations and issues, resulting in his being awarded a B.C. Nature Club Service Award in 2000, and B.C. Nature's highest honour, the Elton Anderson Award, in 2010. His specifically bird-oriented contributions included co-ordinating the Oliver-Osoyoos Christmas Bird Count with his late wife, Joan, for ten years

. --based on E. Durance. 2012. *B.C. Nature* 51(1):11.

Record Count of Ancient Murrelets

John Hodges, Jan McConnell, Doug Rogers, Sheila Rogers and former B.C.F.O. director Russ Tkachuk shattered the former Canadian record count of 6278 Ancient Murrelets on a Christmas Bird Count and the former highest CBC count anywhere of 6996 when they counted 21,420 birds flying by one site at Roberts Creek (on the "Sunshine Coast") during the 17 December 2011 CBC.

--based on R. Tkachuk. 2012. *B.C. Nature* 51(1):12.

BC BIRDING NEEDS YOUR 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 of the kinds of items you can contribute:

- short note (e.g. 1 – 2 paragraphs) 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 with a short text);
- if you have recently discovered an interesting book (preferably about birds) that you would like to bring to the attention of other birders, send in a paragraph saying why you like it.
- description of a special day's birding or 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 to 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;
- description of a BCFO field trip (conference and/or "two-day field trips"). We like to include a report from every BCFO field trip. It can be done by a participant or by the leader.

NOTE: 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 a life-long birder or new to birding, we will be happy to hear from you.

Coming soon....

MANNING PARK
BIRD BLITZ
June 15, 16 & 17, 2012

30th Anniversary
Mountain Bluebird

*A spectacular weekend of birding in a beautiful park!
Open to novices and experts alike.*

\$50 Per Birder Children Are FREE **Birding Fee Includes....**

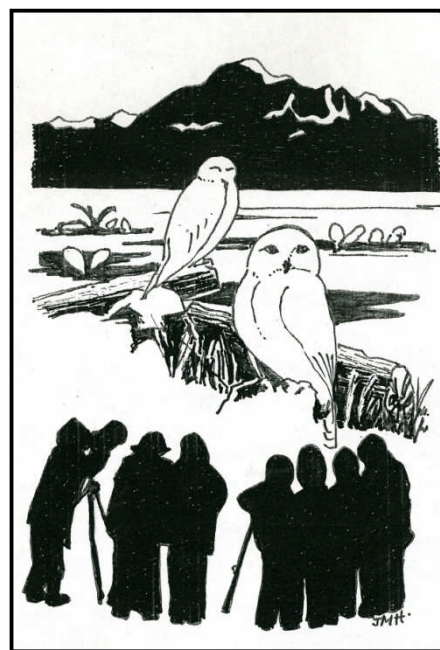
- Two nights camping at Lone Duck Campground on Lightning Lake — noon Friday, to Sunday.*
- Guest speaker and barbecue, with salads, buns, and drinks provided (bring your own protein!).*
- Manning Park boasts over 200 bird species, including coastal, mountain, and interior birds.*

**To register: Ph: (604) 869-1274 E-mail: info@hopemountain.org
Web: www.hopemountain.org**

Hotel • Cabins Manning Park Lodge — Ph: 250-840-8822
Rooms, cabins, and chalets are available, but book early!

Sponsored by: **BCnature** FEDERATION OF BC NATURALISTS  **HOPEMOUNTAINCENTRE** for outdoor learning

The lighter side....



"Wow, Last time we didn't have this audience!"

AVIAN INTER-SPECIES RIVALRY

Clive Keen – text and photos

I've been interested in the relationships between bird species ever since watching a Lewis's Woodpecker in Prince George. The city is well outside the Lewis's normal range, and the Prince George resident species sure knew it. While I watched, at least five



Sulking Bananaquit

species of local birds made it clear that the woodpecker did not belong there and was not welcome in their back yard. That, at least, was my anthropomorphic explanation, and I've every intention of sticking with it.

A photographic trip to Brazil strengthened the interpretation. My usual long lens had been returned to the makers for repair, so I was using a fairly short lens, and needed to get close to the birds I was seeking. I soon found that one of the best ways of getting really close was to concentrate on birds that were distracted by bickering. A Bananaquit having a row with his wife, for instance, finally sat still long enough (it started sulking) for me to get a good shot.



Ringed Kingfisher

Even more handy though, were the cases of inter-species rivalry. I'd despaired of getting a good shot of a Ringed Kingfisher until I saw it in the midst of a spat with a rail. The kingfisher remained so agitated that I could sneak up unnoticed. It was a strange sight: the kingfisher would pump its tail and head in a synchronized fashion while delivering itself of a heart-felt squawk, and it repeated this until the rail could be left in no doubt about its meaning. Roughly interpreted, it was saying "Gerrorrf out of here you pathetic excuse for a Gruiforme."

The most intriguing examples of bickering though, came when two species started ganging up on each other, and twice I saw a very strange sight: several members of one species forming a posse, and slowly creeping up on a member of a different species. On one occasion, the posse was made up of three Smooth-billed Ani, creeping menacingly along the top of a wall. I'd hardly have believed this, but I'd previously seen, and photographed, Guira Cuckoos doing something very similar.



Guira Cuckoo getting ready for a fight

I'd been walking across a piece of waste ground when I saw that half a dozen Burrowing Owls were standing around, each looking very tense and alert. Then, I realized that another half-dozen Guira Cuckoos were closing in on them. Three formed a posse, just like the Smooth-billed Ani, and crept in a menacing fashion toward one of the owls. Just as the cuckoos were about to reach the owl, it flew off, and for a while there was a lot of one-on-one verbal dueling between the cuckoos and owls. No blood was drawn, but if I could speak Cuckoo and Owl, I suspect that I'd have had to cover my ears.

Continued.....

What exactly was going on in this and other such instances? Traditional explanations would no doubt come up with rational explanations: competition for limited resources, predation avoidance, or whatever. I gained a quite different impression. It looked to me all very much like a meeting of The Jets and The Sharks - and was as pointless, and meaningless, as all gang warfare. A bunch of teenagers were bored, had a surfeit of testosterone, and a punch-up fitted the bill nicely. We might be separated from birds by 150 million years of evolution, but I bet we can still understand one another.



Burrowing Owl cooling off



The Posse

LOST: BIRD COMPASS

Migratory birds perform prodigious feats of navigation. It has been known for some time that they achieve their unerringly accurate journeys, at least in part, by sensing Earth's magnetic field. Place a migratory bird in an artificially contrived magnetic field and it will respond consistently to arbitrary changes. Current thinking is that field inclination is detected by a light-based system in the retina of the bird's eye, while field intensity and declination are sensed by nerve tissue (trigeminal nerves, for the cognoscenti) associated with micro-deposits of magnetically susceptible minerals (magnetite and maghaematite) in the bird's body. Trigeminal nerve activity was first associated with magnetoreception in Bobolinks but the exact stimulative mechanism was not detected.

However, a 2003 paper reported that deposits of magnetic minerals at specific locations in the beak of a Rock Pigeon (*Columbia livia*) were indeed nerve-connected and a logical candidate for the primary magnetic sensor. The matter appeared to be settled. But now an exhaustive study of many more pigeons has called into question this result. The present

investigation identifies the iron-containing features as macrophages (specialized cells associated with the immune system and with cell-level defence against infections, which contain ferritin, an iron-storage protein). These features were, further, found to be widely distributed in the beak and the birds' bodies, not localized as a specific sensory organ would be.

So back to square one. How do the birds do it?

Comment: There are a couple of odd twists to this entire story. Rock pigeons are not migratory, though they do have a famous homing instinct. More curiously, Earth's magnetic field undergoes a reversal every few hundred thousand years. Would this not create havoc amongst long-distance migrants? Not an immediate concern, but on an evolutionary time scale rather disturbing. There may be more to bird navigation than just the compass.

From Nature, 2012, 484: 320-321. "Search for the compass needles" by H. Mouritsen. . (This is a commentary on a technical article that appears in the same number).

Summary and Comment by M.Church

BCFO TWO-DAY FIELD TRIP – SOUTH OKANAGAN - April 7-8, 2012

Dick Cannings

A small but keen group signed up for BCFO's first two-day field trip of 2012: Doug and Gala Sly from Nelson, Bev Gaal and Holley Rubinsky from Kaslo, and June Ryder and Mike Church from Vancouver. I met the gang at my house in Penticton at 7 a.m., happy to see that a lovely day was in store for us - a rarity during this cold, blustery spring. We decided to head directly to Vaseux Lake, hoping to hear Chukar cackling from the cliffs. We were greeted by the cascading song of a Canyon Wren, and eventually got superb views of this handsome bird, but the Chukar were silent. A Say's Phoebe sang near the base of the cliffs and a few Violet-green Swallows chirped overhead, but it was apparently too chilly for White-throated Swifts to be out and about. Out on the lake was a huge flock of coots mixed in with American Wigeon, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck and other waterfowl.

Happy with that start, we continued south through Oliver, then drove along the river dykes toward Road 22. We hiked into The Juniper, famous for its roosting owls, hoping to see the Long-eared Owl that was there a couple of weeks ago. Instead we flushed a Barn Owl -- a very good species for the Okanagan and another of the Juniper's regular visitors. Farther south we checked a Long-eared Owl nest; the female was sitting so tightly we could only see her "ear" tufts, but they were definitely long enough to clinch identification. A Bewick's Wren sang nearby, another good bird for the Okanagan, but one that is becoming increasingly widespread in valley bottom thickets.



Dick and the gang searching for Bewick's Wren JMR

By now it was almost lunch time, so we drove up to the top of Meadowlark Lane and ate our sandwiches below The Throne. A Western Bluebird flew from post to post in the vineyard, joined by a silent -- obviously migrating -- Vesper Sparrow, my first of the year. After lunch we drove through Osoyoos and up Anarchist

Mountain to the east, one of the traditional spots for Williamson's Sapsucker in the Okanagan. We weren't disappointed; the male was drumming and calling as we opened the car doors. As we worked around to get a good look at him, a series of deep hoots came out of the forest to the east. Great Gray? We eventually heard the owl four more times, each one a classic Great Gray hoot series, but the bird went silent as we hiked towards it. Frustrating but fascinating! Driving on, we stopped at a junction where I'd seen a Hoary Redpoll a couple of weeks ago, but were quickly distracted by a wheeling flock of finches higher up the hill. We drove up to meet them, and found 200 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches swirling over a gravel quarry, the sun setting off their pinks, browns and greys to perfection.



Mountain Bluebird

MH

We stopped in at one of the Regal Ridge subdivisions on the way back to Osoyoos, where the ponderosa pines were alive with Pygmy, White-breasted and Red-breasted nuthatches, and a small flock of Cassin's Finches. Once through Osoyoos, we continued west over Richter Pass. While stopping to scan the ducks on Richter Lake (mostly Ring-necked with a smattering of Redhead, scaup and goldeneye) a pair of Chukar flew by us!

After a delicious meal at Benji's Thai Restaurant in Keremeos (who knew Keremeos had such cuisine!) we drove up to Twin Lakes and down to White Lake in the gathering dusk. A couple of late Northern Shrike were on the wires and then a Rough-legged Hawk (our second of the day). In a narrow valley south of the lake we called up a Northern Pygmy-Owl, and then heard a Western Screech-Owl respond to the whistles as well! At Mahoney Lake we stopped in the darkness to call for a Northern Saw-whet Owl, and one soon responded, serenading us with its tooting song and cat-like wails. A great end to a great day!

The next morning we started with some gull-watching on the Okanagan Lake beach, where a small mixed

flock of Ring-billed, California, Herring and Glaucous-winged gulls provided a good opportunity to study this challenging group. A flock of moulting Horned Grebes was offshore and a Merlin flew overhead. At Okanagan Falls we quickly found the resident pair of American Dippers and a migrant Townsend's Solitaire.



American Dipper

MH

Determined to find White-throated Swifts, we stopped at Vaseux Lake again and soon heard them chattering overhead, offering good flight and pattern comparisons with Violet-green Swallows. A careful search through the wigeon produced a single male Eurasian Wigeon, then Rock Wren—another spring arrival—sang from the cliffs, offering brief looks.

We drove up McKinney Road east of Oliver, enjoying great views of Western Bluebirds, Mountain Bluebirds, and Red Crossbills. We walked the roads at the Mount Baldy ski village, hoping to find Boreal Chickadees and Pine Grosbeaks, but had to be satisfied with a single Gray Jay and a fly-by Northern Goshawk. On our return through the Fairview-White Lake Road, the pine forests were quiet on this warm spring afternoon, so we capped the trip off with a visit to a very urban Great Horned Owl nest in downtown Penticton.

During the two days, we recorded a total of 99 species. The complete list can be found in *Appendix A* on page 27.

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.

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.

BIRD SURVEYS ON VANCOUVER CITY GOLF COURSES

Dave Boyd

In 2002, Nature Vancouver Birding Section was approached by the management of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation ('Parks Board') public golf courses to undertake bird surveys on Fraserview Golf Course. Course management wished to acquire certification from the "Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses" and required greater knowledge of the wildlife present on the course.

We commenced surveys at Fraserview in April 2002, and in February- March 2003 surveys were started at Langara and McCleery golf courses.

The Audubon program requires applicants to develop and implement an environmental management plan in six key areas:

- Environmental planning
- Wildlife and habitat management
- Chemical use reduction and safety
- Water conservation
- Water quality management
- Outreach and education,

and then document the results. It took Fraserview about two years to obtain certification. Eventually all three courses became certified. Recertification is required every two years; Langara is currently undergoing recertification.

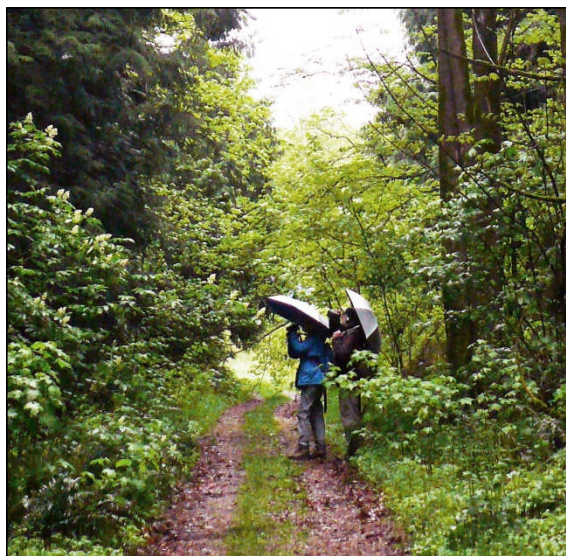
Each of the three courses has a distinct mix of habitats. Fraserview, in southeast Vancouver, is the second largest 'park' in the city. The course has a number of gullies with large conifers and dense undergrowth. The fairways are separated by relatively extensive tracts of second-growth forest, primarily, native conifers, maple and alder, and there are substantial areas of brambles. There is one small pond. Adjacent to the east is a large undeveloped park.

Langara, by contrast, is in the centre of an urban residential area. The local parks are predominately mowed curb to curb. On the course, there are small areas of uncut grass, brambles and deciduous trees.



Fraserview Golf Course

The conifers that line the fairways are all non-native. There are two ponds, both deeper and larger than those on other courses



Fraserview Golf Course

JMR

McCleery is one of several golf courses adjacent to the North Arm of Fraser River. Like Langara, there are multiple compact 'natural' areas with a mix of conifers and deciduous trees. There are many shallow ponds, two of which are large enough to support a diversity of waterfowl, and a small marsh.

By the end of 2011, we had completed 144 surveys at Fraserview and recorded 103 species, while 111 surveys at Langara had produced a list of 102 species and 136 surveys at McCleery had produced a list of 123 species. The combined species total was 135.

We conduct surveys at varying intervals throughout the year, with some emphasis on spring and fall. Standardized routes were established after initial exploratory surveys, but the duration of each survey varies according to the amount of bird activity, ranging from two to more than four hours. Nine birders take part in the golf course surveys, with most survey parties consisting of two to five individuals.

We now April 2012) have 10 years of continuous records for Fraserview. To date, little analysis of the data has been done (see references), but some observation can be made.

JMR



Langara Golf Course: many waterfowl species use this pond in winter - mostly dabbling ducks but including Ruddy and Ring-billed ducks, and occasional Pied-billed Grebe. JMR

The courses provide good habitat for over-wintering species, both waterfowl and songbirds. Each course has its specialities: Fraserview -- forest birds, Langara -- diving ducks, and McCleery -- dabbling ducks. Both Langara and McCleery support large numbers of American Wigeon.

All three courses are heavily utilized by migrant song birds. Langara, perhaps because it is an isolated green island, can be a great warbler trap.

A bird common to all courses is the Northwestern Crow. At Langara it is the most numerous species, with occasional counts exceeding 200 individuals. This may be a factor in the low number of breeding birds recorded here. Interestingly, course management is not too dismayed because the combination of crows and starlings is an effective control for grass grubs.

Perhaps the most difficult of the above 'key areas' for the golf courses to address is 'outreach and education'. We have found that players are tolerant of interloping birders, but only a few express an interest in the local wildlife. With the assistance of Parks Board staff, we produced a wall-mounted display which outlines the requirements for certification and includes a checklist of birds recorded on the course. It also includes four photos of seasonally appropriate birds, which are changed regularly to reflect the current birdlife and to maintain interest. The course managers also post our annual summaries in the club newsletters.

The golf course survey program has been an interesting and enlightening project for the participating birders, who initially had no appreciation of the degree of avian diversity on these courses. There have been occasions when the birders have

been upset at the removal of brambles, the dredging of cattails and the cutting of deciduous trees, which in at least two cases have had a noticeable impact on certain bird species. One must, however, acknowledge that the courses exist to serve the golfing public, and without that sector, the courses would not exist and the areas would likely be urban development.

Further, you only have to look across the fence to the adjacent private course to appreciate that the Audubon certification program has had a positive impact on the maintenance of some good bird habitat. We have also found that the course managers are receptive to our input, but that input usually comes after the damage is done.

The surveys demonstrate that these courses are helping to maintain viable and varied bird life (and other wildlife) in urban Vancouver. Perhaps the next step is to encourage the Parks Board to follow the golf courses in committing to the enhancement of habitat in parks

Participating birders: Dave Boyd & Colin Clark (leaders), Meg Brown, Peter Candido, Marian Coope, Mike Fung, Janet and Bryan King June Ryder. Display photos were contributed by Peter Candido and Mark Haddas.



McCleery Golf Course: the 'large pond'. JMR

References

Colin Clark, 2006. Fraserview Golf Course Bird Surveys 2002 – 2006. *Discovery* vol.35#2, Nature Vancouver.

David Boyd, 2007. Langara and McCleery Golf Course Bird Surveys 2003-2006. *Discovery* vol.36#1, Nature Vancouver

TWO-DAY FIELD TRIPS FOR MEMBERS – 2012

Only two trips remaining for the 2012 season!

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 email: thillary@sunwave.net **phone:** 250 832 5755

Victoria and Port 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 email: mmgrenere@shaw.ca **phone:** 250 658 8624

Two-day field trips for members are **BCFO** led, but participants make their own arrangements for accommodation, food, and travel.

Day 1: am birding; pm birding, and evening get together (see below).

Day 2: am birding; pm optional birding.

Carpooling for birding will be arranged on the morning of Day 1.

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.

Cost per two-day event

Members: \$10.00 per person

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

* Note: BCFO general memberships are family memberships

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.

Two-day Field Trip,
Parksville, March 2011
JMR



PELAGIC BIRDING FROM UCLUELET

Brian Self

Over 80 birders, many of them BCFO members from the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, took to the seas on 29th April 2012 on board the M.V. Frances Barkley out of Ucluelet. This is the second pelagic birding trip organized by WildResearch, the first being a Fall run in 2011.

The Frances Barkley is well suited as a pelagic birding platform, being 128 ft (39 m) long overall with a 24 ft (7.3 m) beam and three viewing decks. The ship was built in 1958 in Norway and served there as a coastal ferry and freighter before crossing the Atlantic to arrive in Port Alberni in August 1990. She has now replaced the venerable and much loved Lady Rose on the run from Port Alberni to Ucluelet and the Broken Islands.



Black-footed Albatross

We left the Ucluelet dock promptly at 7 a.m. on a chilly Sunday morning with some drizzle to dampen our enthusiasm a bit, and headed WSW towards La Peruse Bank through 2 meter swells with a few breaking tops and a 10 km. wind. Despite the coastal drizzle, visibility was pretty good to the horizon.

In the first 5 km. we saw all three species of cormorant, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet and Rhinoceros Auklet. At the 10 km. mark we encountered our first Sooty Shearwater, a Black-footed Albatross unusually close to shore, and a few Sabine's Gull flights, so the first-time pelagic birders were getting an early reward. Somewhere around this mark the rain stopped and the skies brightened a bit, birders were acquiring their sea-legs and everyone felt a lot more cheerful, partly due to the number of birds we were seeing.

After another 5 km Dave Aldcroft found the bird of the day, a Manx Shearwater which quickly disappeared away over the port bow and seen by very few birders on board. GPS co-ordinates were noted on the bridge. In his time in Britain, Dave has probably seen hundreds if not thousands of Manx Shearwaters when he served as deckhand on fishing boats off the Irish coast. Sooty Shearwaters were now being seen in rafts of 100-200 birds sitting on the surface, I counted 6 Black-footed Albatross around the boat at one time and flocks of Bonaparte's and Sabine's gulls were wheeling back and forward across the bow and stern.

At our furthest point out from the coast, La Peruse Bank at 25 nautical miles (37 km), we saw a few Pink-footed Shearwater and many more Sooties. All of these birds were quite confusing in flight. This is their winter season, since they breed in southern oceans, and many of them were in heavy moult: wings looked ragged with missing primaries and secondaries, and wildly divergent underwing patterns.

Also out here we noticed a few Cassin's Auklet, Red and Red-necked phalarope, the latter two species always in flight so not easy to pick-up with binoculars. The seas had moderated a lot by now and it was developing into quite a nice day, birders were peeling off layers of outer clothing, and discarding gloves and hats. There were Orcas blowing and breaching off to the horizon and Humpback Whales much closer in.

On our run back to the coast we revisited the co-ordinates where the Manx Shearwater was found and



Manx Shearwater (white belly) with two Sooty Shearwaters

Quickly relocated the bird as it sat on the surface with Sooties. Everyone got great looks at it this time as it picked up off the surface and wheeled around us on the port side and off the stern High fives all over the decks. On the approach to the Barkley Sound someone spotted a Sea Otter lying on its back on the surface and we quietly sailed past it with camera shutters madly clicking. The animal ignored us completely. We had seen a River Otter in Ucluelet Harbour prior to sailing, so we finished with a nice tally of marine mammals: two otter species, two whale species, a sea-lion and seal. On the birding side I tallied 23 species, my highlights being the Manx Shearwater (a B.C. bird), the many Black-footed Albatross (always a highlight on any pelagic trip no

matter how many times I have seen them before), and Cassin's Auklet which I just enjoy watching get airborne, its such a labour for them.

A few oddities in the day for me were three Brant Geese out at La Perouse Bank 37 km. offshore, ditto a pair of Mallard flying by, and the lack of Fulmars, Kittiwakes and Jaegers -- none seen during in the day by anyone on board.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the trip and a couple of first-time "pelagicers" I spoke to said they would do it all again. It can be come addictive.....



Peter Candido
April 29, 2012

Sabine's Gull

/

WILDRESEARCH SPRING PELAGIC TRIP

Ucluelet, Vancouver Island, Sunday 29th April, 2012

Paul Levesque

On the 29th April, 2012 86 WildResearch members boarded the M. V. Frances Barkley in Ucluelet for WildResearch's spring pelagic trip to La Perouse Bank. The weather looked promising, with low cloud cover, a 10 knot wind and 2 m swells. The first 5-7 km were a bit rough, but most of the people on board had experienced worse sea conditions.

Four Orcas saluted the ship once we were in open water. Birding was relatively slow until the 10 km mark, where we started to see small rafts of Sooty Shearwater and our first Black-footed Albatross and Sabine's Gull. The frequency and size of Sooty Shearwater rafts peaked at 15 km out, with a number of rafts of 200 birds. Past the 30 km mark, we started to have regular visits from Black-footed Albatross that flew in and circled the ship repeatedly before landing and feeding on fish scraps.

Spring pelagic trips generally tend to encounter fewer numbers of birds and lower species diversity, but the real draw is the chance of finding rare seabirds,



Peter Candido
April 29, 2012

Manx Shearwater (white underside) with Sooties

species that birders dream of seeing. We had an impressive number of Black-footed Albatross and good numbers of Sooty Shearwater, but Pink-footed Shearwater was scarce, and unfortunately we did not see any terns, jaegers or fulmars.

The highlight of the trip was a Manx Shearwater that was first spotted at 15 km on the way out but was seen by only a handful of people before it disappeared between the waves as it flew away from the ship. On the way back, likely the same bird was sighted near the original location, but this time most people on the ship were able to see it and some managed to take good photographs. This was the 22nd occurrence of Manx Shearwater in BC, but these sightings were the first time the species was seen by a large number of observers. It was a very exciting find for the end of the trip.

Tom Plath, Russell Cannings and Jeremiah Kennedy did a great job of spotting birds and relaying that information to the other decks of the ship. Once again we had many great birders on board that were really helpful about calling out sightings and helping others find what was being seen - there was some exceptional teamwork happening! Pablo Jost worked hard getting the chum into the water, while WildResearch Directors Paul Levesque, Christine Rock, Emily McAuley, Jay Brogan, and Kala Harris made sure that the trip ran smoothly. Special thanks to Christine Rock who did the bulk of the trip organization. The crew of the Frances Barkley was once again very helpful and a pleasure to work with.



Sabine's Gull

Offshore Sightings

Tufted Puffin – 3 (one sat on the water close to the ship giving great looks; the two others were flybys)
 Ancient Murrelet – 7
 Marbled Murrelet – 5
 Common Murre – 30
 Pigeon Guillemot – 5 (near shore)
 Cassin's Auklet – 40 (mostly small flocks)
 Rhinoceros Auklet – 40 (most were within 15 km of shore)
 Sooty Shearwater – 2000 (the first were seen within 5 km of shore and they became abundant more than 10 km out)
 Pink-footed Shearwater – 8
 Manx Shearwater – 1 (YES!)
 Black-footed Albatross – 20
 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel – 5
 Red-necked Phalarope – 15
 Red Phalarope – 75 (individuals and a flock of 10-20)
 Sabine's Gull – 20
 Bonaparte's Gull – 20 (often with Sabine's Gulls)
 Northern Pintail – 40 (2 different flocks flying 37 km out)
 Green-winged Teal – 2 (37 km out)
 Brant – 8 (37 km out)
 Pacific Loon – 200 (most were in breeding plumage)

Marine Mammals

Humpback Whale – 70 (great views of a number of Humpbacks close to the ship and many could be seen blowing in the distance)
 Grey Whale – 3 (near shore)
 Orca – 4 (2 males and 2 female near shore)
 Harbor Porpoise – 2 (near shore)
 Fur Seal – 1

www.WildResearch.ca/



...Red Phalaropes

TOURS FOR NATURALISTS



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 Jeddedia 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.



BC FALL COLOURS/WATERFALLS

6-9th October 2012 (4 days) Cost \$725 (dbl occup) + HST from Vancouver

This tour has the dual objective of visiting 15 of BC's greatest waterfalls at the time of year when the interior landscape is ablaze with the golden foliage of maples, cottonwoods, aspen and birch. We visit Wells Gray PP, "the waterfall park", and admire some of its great waterfalls including Helmcken, Spahats & Dawson. The itinerary also takes in the Cariboo, the Duffley Lake Road & the Sea to Sky Highway. Participants will receive a signed copy of tour leader Tony Greenfield's book "The Waterfalls of BC".



ARIZONA IN FEBRUARY

20 Feb. - 3 March 2013 (12 days) Cost \$2600 (dbl occup) from Phoenix

Arizona is home to some of the most unique, famous and unforgettable landscapes in the world. The Grand Canyon, the mesas and buttes of Monument Valley and the silhouette of a saguaro against a golden sunset are images so famous that we have grown up with them since childhood. The tour includes The Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Canyon de Chelly, Sedona, and the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts. Join us for a midwinter tour to the blue skies and fascinating deserts of this famous state.



SOUTHERN UTAH & DEATH VALLEY

19-30 April 2013 (12 days)

Cost \$2750 (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 recalcitrant 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.**



Leader: Tony Greenfield

WHISKEYJACK NATURE TOURS

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Tel: 604-885-5539, E-m: tony@whiskeyjacknaturetours.com

Details & itineraries at website: www.whiskeyjacknaturetours.com

BC reg #34425



COUNTING EMPERORS

(Penguins that is, not the rulers of countries -- of whom there are hardly any left to count.)

This task has not been easy. Emperors live in the most remote and severe environment on Earth – the Antarctic mainland. They are circumpolar, occurring on the coast of East Antarctica at about 66°S and extending to 77°S in the Ross Sea embayment and in West Antarctica. They are the largest of the penguins, growing up to 120 cm in height and weighing up to 45 kg. They may live from 20 to as much as 50 years.



Emperor censuses have been carried out by visiting their colonies on the ground (like most penguins, they are colonial, and that probably is the only reason they have been countable at all), or by air, and estimating the numbers of birds present. Air intrusion is known to be disturb them.

Now, satellite images have been enhanced to the point that individual penguins can be distinguished from shadows and from penguin poop (a significant factor in the colonies). Their size is no doubt an important factor in this achievement. A satellite-based census has found that there are about 595 000 birds – twice as many as were formerly thought to exist – and apparently about 238 000 breeding pairs. Seven new colonies were found, bringing the total to 44. (These figures indicate that the average size of a colony is more than 13 000 birds! The largest colonies exceed 20 000.)

The population is considered to be vulnerable due to declining food resources (the consequence of both climate change and industrial fishing), and due to the direct threat from climate change. An unusually warm period on the Adélie coast (Long. 135°E) in the late 1970s led to high adult mortality. Conversely periods of unusually extensive sea ice may lead to high chick starvation due to the increased time required for adults to journey to the open sea and back with food. It is feared that, by the 22nd century, Emperors may have gone the way of their human namesakes.

From *"PLoS ONE 7 (4): e33751, 2012, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0033751e:*

"An Emperor Penguin Population Estimate: The First Global, Synoptic Survey of a Species from Space" by Fretwell PT+ nine other authors.

Photo: Wikipedia Summary by M.Church

EARTHWORMS 1, OVENBIRDS 0

Earthworms are not native to North America. They apparently arrived with European settlers, probably in the soil enclosing the roots of plants brought for intended cultivation, or perhaps in ships' ballast. Today they are widespread on the continent. Earthworms make a living by chewing up leaf litter and vegetable mould. For certain birds that dwell and forage on the forest floor – for example, Hermit Thrushes and Ovenbirds – this poses a problem.

A study conducted in sugar maple/basswood forests of the American northern Midwest has found that Ovenbird density is inversely correlated with earthworm biomass. There were fewer Ovenbirds in places invaded by earthworms than in places with few or no worms. No other landscape characteristic correlated so well with Ovenbird occurrence (except, of course, that there must be forests for there to be Ovenbirds). Hermit Thrushes were not affected in the same way.

Evidently, the earthworm activity reduces forest litter mass and, in the longer term, the percent cover and richness of understorey herbaceous (broad-leaved) plants, which are replaced by grasses and sedges. These effects create a type of ground cover and litter mass that is less useful than formerly existed for the Ovenbird to create and hide its nest effectively from predators.

Consequently, Ovenbirds are in decline in midwestern sugar maple/basswood forests, and that is the dominant forest over much of the region.



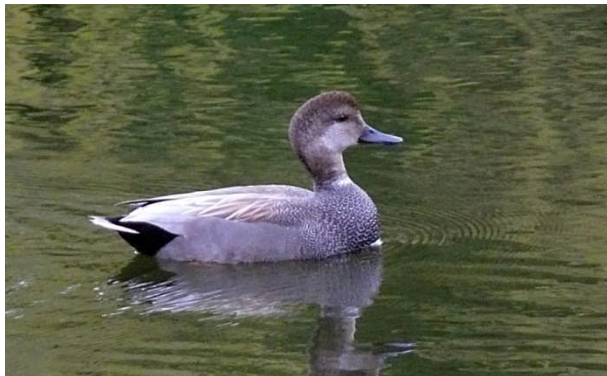
Ovenbirds create domed nests with a side entrance ("ovens"), on the ground, and typically within or beneath the leaf litter of the forest floor. (Photo: Google)

From *Landscape Ecology, 27(5)5 683-696, 2012. "Invasions of non-native earthworms related to population declines of ground-nesting songbirds across a regional extent in northern hardwood forests of North America"* by Loss, S., Niemi, G.J. and Blair, R.B Summary by M.Church

UNUSUAL GADWALL BEHAVIOUR

J.M.Ryder

While walking in Vancouver's Van Dusen Garden (April 4), I found several pairs of Gadwall on Heron Lake, and paused to examine a male's handsome plumage through binoculars. Recently, I have been reading Kenn Kauffman's new (and highly recommended) *Field Guide to Advanced Birding* (2011), which emphasizes the importance of *understanding* the features that we use for bird identification, such as plumage and moult, body structure, and behaviour -- rather than simply memorizing field marks. So, I thought OK, I'll try to pick out the various feather tracts on this bird. I had progressed to admiring his beautiful tertials (the ornate feathers which project backward over the wing-tips on most dabbling ducks), when I noticed that this duck was paddling furiously with both feet -- yet remaining stationary on the water! A closer look revealed that the bird's feet were stiff and being moved back and forth vigorously in opposite directions. Then he stopped paddling, plunged head and "shoulders" into the water, and came up swallowing food, then repeated this action, a few times, with the same result. Then the whole procedure -- paddling and plunging -- was repeated several times. At one point, the male Gadwall was joined by his mate, who also plunged head and shoulders and came up swallowing food, (although I didn't see her using her feet)



The male Gadwall's plumage appears, to some, as "greyish-brown drab", but it is well worth a closer look. See also p.27

It was clear that the male Gadwall was stirring up the water in order to bring food within reach, although the nature of the food (probably aquatic plants), was not clear. Gadwalls are reported to be capable of diving when necessary, more so than most dabbling ducks. So why was this bird not diving? I was reminded of the manner in which some other species generate up-currents that bring food within reach -- the spinning of phalaropes and the tight circles swum by Northern Shovelers. The Gadwall's foot movements would not have created a spiraling-up column of water, but would have created turbulent eddies that could have similar results. A brief search of readily available literature turned up no reference to this behaviour.

ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE

Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) exhibit regular population cycles. In Yukon Territory, their numbers peak on or near each decennial year (..2000. . 2010"). Data on ptarmigan numbers at several study sites extend back to the 1950s. Since 2000, however, the cycle has faltered: the most recent peak did not occur.



Young male Alaskan Willow Ptarmigan

Wikipedia

The ptarmigan population itself is in no imminent danger, but the changing population dynamics has important implications for other species. The ptarmigan are a 'keystone' species; that is, everyone else likes to eat them, especially the larger raptorial birds. The Gyrfalcon, a top predator, is particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in ptarmigan numbers. Their breeding success and adult numbers follow the ptarmigan cycle closely.

With the non-appearance of peak ptarmigan numbers, Gyrfalcon are breeding later (or not at all) and producing fewer young. Consequently, they are experiencing a population decline at a time when they should be undergoing expansion to carry the population through the subsequent off-peak years of the cycle. The long-range implications of the situation are not yet clear.

From "Long-term studies of Willow Ptarmigan and Gyrfalcon in the Yukon Territory: a collapsing 10-year cycle and its apparent effect on the top predator" by Mossop, D.H. In Watson + four others, Editors, Gyrfalcons and Ptarmigan in a Changing World. Boise, Idaho, 2011, The Peregrine Fund.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.4080/gpew.2011.0206> .

Summary by M.Church

Rare Bird report:
September - November 2011

British Columbia

From *North American Birds*

by Chris Charlesworth



WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A group of 4 adult Pacific Loons, rare in interior of BC, was a nice find on Okanagan Lk near Kelowna 3 Oct (CC,MF). Between Prince Rupert and Haida Gwaii in Hecate Strait, an impressive 19 Yellow-billed Loons were tallied 18 Oct (RC,RM,IP). Another Yellow-billed Loon was found at Gravelly Bay on Denman I in the Gulf Island chain, 8 Oct (Daniel Donnecke). Up to 4 Clark's Grebes remained on Shuswap Lk near Salmon Arm, where they breed in small numbers, 2 Oct (CC,CS,MF). In the Okanagan, where Clark's Grebes are casual, one seen on Okanagan Lk in Penticton 4 Oct was of note (LN). Also casual in coastal areas, single Clark's Grebes were noted at Whiffen Spit in Sooke on Vancouver I, 31 Oct to 1 Nov (RC,JK,AB, et al), and at the White Rock Pier S. of Vancouver 6 Oct (fide Gareth Pugh). Greater White-fronted Geese, while rare, are of annual occurrence in the interior of BC. An immature at Robert Lk in Kelowna 3 Oct was a nice find (CC,MF). A flock of 72 Gr. White-fronted Geese tallied over Vaseux Lk 11 Oct provided a high count for the Okanagan (RC,DB). In Creston, where the species occurs more regularly, a flock of 400 Gr. White-fronted Geese 18 Sep was an exceptionally high count (LVD). A rare but regular fall migrant in the interior, a juv. Snow Goose was at Trout Ck near Summerland 27 Nov

(LN). Three Mute Swans on Okanagan Lk in Penticton 15 Nov provided one of very few records in the valley in recent years (LN). While regular along the BC coast in fall, Eurasian Wigeon are fairly rare in the interior during that time of year. An eclipse male was at Robert Lk in Kelowna 3 Sep (CC). In Salmon Arm another eclipse male was seen along the foreshore 2 Oct (CC,CS,MF). In Creston a male was at Duck Lk 22 Oct (LVD). A female **Tufted Duck** at Cordova Bay in Victoria 16 Oct was a very nice find (MMc). While this species was found quite regularly throughout the 1980s and 90s in coastal BC, Tufted Duck records have become frustratingly few over the past decade. Interior records of migrant Long-tailed Ducks included one at Dorothy Lk near Invermere 19 Aug (Randy Hopkins), and one at Duck Lk in Creston 24 Nov (Marc-Andre Beaucher). Two adult and one juvenile Brown Pelican were nice to see near Victoria at Race Rocks 27 Sep (JG). On the West Coast of Vancouver I, 2 juv. Brown Pelicans were noted off Chesterman Beach near Tofino 19 Nov (AD). Providing an extremely late date for the W. Kootenay, a Swainson's Hawk was seen over the Castlegar Hawk Watch 29 Oct (MM). Coastal records of Swainson's Hawk included one at the Rocky Point Bird Observatory near Victoria 7 Oct (IC, et al), and an imm. light morph at Beechey Head, also near Victoria 8 Oct (DA). A Broad-winged Hawk over the Castlegar Hawk Watch 24 Sep was an exciting find (GD,MM et al). On Vancouver I, 3 Broad-winged Hawks were counted 21 Sep (JK). Three imm. Broad-winged Hawks were seen at the Beechey Head Hawk Watch in Sooke 8 Oct (DA). In South Surrey near Vancouver a Gyrfalcon was at Serpentine Fen 29 Nov (MTa). Fifteen Black-bellied Plovers counted on the mudflats at Salmon Arm 2 Oct provided a respectable total for this species at an interior location (CC,CS,MF). A juv. American Golden Plover was seen at Robert Lk in Kelowna 8 Sept (Janna Leslie et al). Most likely a different individual appeared at Robert Lk 21 Sep to 1 Oct and was seen by many (CC,m.ob). In West Kelowna, a group of 5 American Golden Plovers at the mouth of Power's Ck provided a local high count for this species 5 Oct (Scott Thomson). A juvenile American Golden Plover was on the mudflats at Salmon Arm 11 Sep (RC). Rare in late fall and winter, 2 Spotted Sandpipers at Cordova Bay in Victoria 16 Nov were of note (MMc). Along Boundary Bay near Vancouver, the godwit-fest continued this fall where a juv. Hudsonian Godwit was present 1 Sep (MTa). By 13 Sep, there were up to 4 Hudsonian Godwits present at Boundary Bay (MTa, m.ob). Two of the birds lingered until at least 8 Oct (fide RC). A juv. Bar-tailed Godwit was at Boundary Bay 4 to 13 Sep (John Tabak et al), providing the 5th record of the species for the Vancouver area this year alone! A juv. Ruddy Turnstone frequented the shores of Okanagan Lk at Kopje Park in Lake Country 11 to 13 Sep (MF, et al). Two juvenile Stilt Sandpipers were at Robert Lk in Kelowna 31 Aug to 5 Sep (CC,m.ob). Along the foreshore in Salmon Arm a juv. Sanderling was a good find 1 Sep (RC). Two juv. Sanderlings were along the beach in Penticton 6 Sep (DCa). On

Vancouver I., a juv. **Red-necked Stint** at Witty's Lagoon near Victoria 27 Aug was a one day wonder (NH,JG, et al). Along the coast, the usual smattering of juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers was seen, including one on mudflats in Tofino on Vancouver I, 14 Sep (AD), and two at Boundary Bay near Vancouver lingered from 5 to 16 Oct (Mark Wynja,RF, m.ob). In the interior, where the species is ultra-rare, a juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was at Pantage Lk NW. of Quesnel 26 Sep (Rod Sargent). A juv. Ruff at Witty's Lagoon near Victoria was present 26 & 27 Aug (JF,NH, et al), while another was at Boundary Bay near Vancouver 2 Sep (John Ireland & Brian Self). A tardy Long-billed Dowitcher was seen at Tofino Airport on the W. Coast of Vancouver I, 7 Nov (AD). Robert Lk, in Kelowna, hosted the Okanagan's only Short-billed Dowitcher of the fall, a juvenile seen 7 Sep (CC et al). Two Short-billed Dowitchers lingered at Boundary Bay until the late date of 29 Nov (MTa).

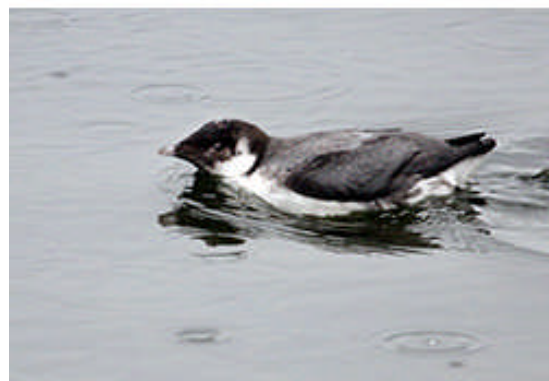


Sabine's Gull – More than usual turned up throughout the interior of BC this fall. Here, a juv. at Penticton 17 Sep was photographed by Laure Neish.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Franklin's Gulls are rare visitors to BC outside of the Peace Region where they occur regularly. An imm. Franklin's Gull was at Salmon Arm 2 Oct (CC,CS,MF). This fall was exceptional for Sabine's Gulls in the BC interior. A juv. was at the Arrow Lk Reservoir near Revelstoke 4 Sep (RC, James Bradley). In the Okanagan, a juv. Sabine's Gull was on a beach in Penticton 17 Sep (LN). Two juv. were seen on Okanagan Lk at Peachland 3 Oct (CC,MF), and another was at Skaha Lk near Penticton 8 Oct (RC,CC,MF). In Salmon Arm, another juv. Sabine's Gull was reported along the foreshore 6 Oct (Ted Hillary). In the W. Kootenay, an adult Glaucous Gull was at Duck Lk near Creston 25 Nov (LVD). The Okanagan Valley continues to be a hotbed of activity for Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A second-basic bird was photographed at the mouth of Mission Ck in Kelowna 3 Oct (CC,MF). Possibly the same bird was seen at Robert Lk in Kelowna 28 Nov (MF). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Penticton 21 Oct (LN) and exactly a month later, on 21 Nov, presumably the same bird was seen at the same location (Brandon Holden). Arctic Terns are normally very rare to casual migrants through the BC interior. This fall, Arctic Terns were reported in numbers with a juv. photographed at Allison Lk

near Princeton 3 Sep (Trish Reid). Three imm. Arctic Terns were feeding along the shore of Okanagan Lk in Kelowna 14 Sep (CC, m.ob), while two more were seen over Okanagan Lk from Peachland 29 Sep (CC). In the Vancouver area, an Arctic Tern was at the Iona South Jetty 3 Sept (Tak



Ancient Murrelet – One day wonder found by L.Neish on Okanagan Lake in Penticton, 3 Oct (Photo Chris Charlesworth).

Shibata). Parasitic Jaegers also turned up throughout the BC interior in greater numbers than usual, with an astonishing 21 counted flying S. on Okanagan Lake near Kelowna 28 Sep (CC, Jeff Reddekopp). A single ad. Parasitic Jaeger was seen over Okanagan Lk from Peachland 14 Sep (MF). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger provided the first record of this species for the Tatlayoko Bird Observatory 22 to 24 Aug (AB, et al). Extremely rare in the interior of BC, an adult Pomarine Jaeger was seen briefly on the foreshore at Salmon Arm 2 Oct (MF,CC). Surprising the few lucky observers who got to see it during its stay, an Ancient Murrelet graced the waters of Okanagan Lk for a few hours in the morning on 3 Oct in Penticton (LN et al).

DOVES THROUGH GRACKLES

Other than on the coast and in the southern Okanagan Valley, Barn Owls are a rarity in BC. Thus, one reported in the Kane Valley near Merritt 6 Nov was a fantastic find (ABu). The big story in BC this fall/winter was the Snowy Owl irruption, especially evident around Vancouver, where up to 50 individuals could be seen by the end of Nov. The first one appeared 12 Nov at Iona Island in Vancouver (RC,JK). Photographs of half a dozen or 8 birds in the same frame were taken by many along Boundary Bay dykes. Media coverage on the owl irruption was huge, and large crowds of people from far and wide visited the area to see the owls, which were mostly immature. Outside of the Vancouver area, Snowy Owls were more scarce, but still evident. Three Snowies were found in grasslands around Kamloops 20 Nov (Rick Howie). Near Merritt, a Snowy Owl was along the Pennask Lk Rd 23 Nov (ABu). In the W. Kootenay a Snowy Owl was at Waneta 22 Nov (Steve Arndt). Across the Strait of Georgia, on Vancouver I, a Snowy Owl could be seen from Victoria on Trial I, 9 & 10 Nov (fide Agnes Lynn, et al). Also in Victoria a single Snowy Owl visited the Gonzalez

neighbourhood where it was seen atop a house 21 Nov (Michael Shepard). Near Nanaimo, a Snowy Owl was at Nanoose Bay 13 Nov (Rhys Harrison). Northern Hawk-Owl reports were few this fall, with one seen on Frosty Mountain in Manning Provincial Park 29 Oct (Dave Beeke). A Boreal Owl was heard calling at the exceptionally low elevation of 700 meters at Johnson's Landing in the W. Kootenay 12 Sep (GS). This species usually inhabits boreal forests well above a thousand meters in the southern portions of BC. A young Anna's Hummingbird visited a feeder at 1000 m elevation on Silver Star Mountain in Vernon 15 Aug (DC). Present throughout the period was the long-staying male **Costa's Hummingbird** in the Dunbar area of Vancouver (Meg Brown, m.ob). A rare fall visitor to coastal regions of BC, Lewis's Woodpecker turned up at a number of locations. One was found in the Comox Valley on Vancouver I, 19 Sep (Art Morgan). Another was at Port Alberni, also on Vancouver I, 6 to 10 Nov (Nigel Jackett et al). In N. Vancouver, two Lewis's Woodpeckers were at Maplewood Flats 3 to 8 Sep (Sigal Blay et al). On Westham I near Ladner, a Lewis's Woodpecker was at the Alaksen Wildlife Refuge 28 Sep (Pablo Jost). Three **Chimney Swifts** reported near Tumbler Ridge in the NE. section of the province provided just the second sighting in BC (MT, GM). Just south of the species normal breeding range, an Alder Flycatcher was seen and heard near the mouth of the Salmon R in Salmon Arm 1 Aug (DC). Another Alder Flycatcher was seen in the Fraser Valley at Island 22 near Chilliwack 5 Sep (GG). Also at Island 22, a Black Phoebe was reported 8 Nov (GG). The only **Tropical Kingbird** reported this fall was on at the S tip of Vancouver I, at Jordan River, 3 Nov (JK). The Okanagan Valley's first Blue-headed Vireo was carefully described along Beaver Lk Rd near Lake Country 14 Sep (CC). Also a first for the Okanagan, a Philadelphia Vireo was a great find along Mill Ck in Kelowna 23 Sep (MF). Out of range Blue Jays included a bird at Coldstream near Vernon 19 Oct (Simone Runyan). Another was at Sardis in the Fraser Valley 30 Sep (fide GG). In Langley, a Blue Jay was observed 20 to 27 Oct (Rocky Hill). Western Scrub-Jays continue to trickle into the province's Lower Mainland with one in a woodlot along 72nd St in Burnaby 19 Sep (RC). Another was at Greendale near Chilliwack 24 Sep (GG), while yet another was in Neilson Park near Mission 8 Nov (GG). The latter bird has been present since 2010. The rapid spread of Bewick's Wrens into the Okanagan continues with one seen at Inkameep Provincial Park near Oliver 8 Oct (RC,MF,CC). Two more Bewick's Wrens were found along the oxbows at Road 22 near Osoyoos 8 Oct (CC,MF,RC). In the W. Kootenay, where there are very few records of Bewick's Wren, one was at Creston 22 Oct (LVD). An immature **Northern Wheatear** found at Iona Island, Vancouver 31 Aug was the first for the local checklist area (RF, m.ob). Unfortunately the bird was not seen the next morning. A Mountain Bluebird at Johnson's Landing in the W. Kootenay, 29 Nov provided a very late local date for this migratory species (GS). A Tennessee Warbler found at Island 22 in Chilliwack 13 Oct was the only

one reported out of range this fall (GG). At the Rocky Point Bird Observatory, a Nashville Warbler seen 10 Aug was exciting as this is a rare migrant on S. Vancouver I (IC).



Northern Wheatear imm at Iona on 31 August was a first for the Vancouver Checklist area (Photo Mike Tabak).

An imm. female Chestnut-sided Warbler was at the south end of Long Beach near Tofino 20 Sep (George Bradd et al). A Palm Warbler was banded at the Rocky Point Bird Observatory near Victoria 16 Sep (Jessie Fanucchi). A single Palm Warbler was at Iona near Vancouver 22 Sep (Wayne & Brent Diakow). Rare in the Okanagan, single Palm Warblers were reported twice in the valley with one along River Rd near Oliver 8 Oct (RC,MF,CC), and another at Haynes Point in Osoyoos 15 Nov (DB). A female Magnolia Warbler banded at Vaseux Lk Bird Observatory 10 Sep was exciting, as this is a casual migrant through the Okanagan (DB et al). On Haida Gwaii, a Cape May Warbler found at Sandspit 14 Oct, furnished the first record for the island chain (RC,RM,IP). Observers were surprised to find the third **Black-throated Blue Warbler** for the Okanagan Valley at the Winfield Ck Habitat Preserve in Lake Country 25 Sep (CS,MF et al). Another exciting find in the Okanagan was a **Prothonotary Warbler** seen in a backyard at the base of Silver Star Mountain in Vernon 10 Oct (CS). At the Rocky Point Bird Observatory near Victoria, a Northern Waterthrush was found 14 Aug (JK). Two Northern Waterthrushes were in Victoria area at Swan Lk, 29 Aug to 12 Sep (CSa, et al). An imm. male American Redstart surprised an observer in his back yard in Duncan 30 Aug (Derrick Marven). Late reports of single Wilson's Warblers came in from two W. Kootenay locations, with one at Nelson 22 Nov (Chris Drysdale) and another at Nakusp 28 Nov (GD). A Wilson's Warbler lingered at Jericho Park in Vancouver until the end of the period (RC et al). On the southern tip of Vancouver I, a female type **Lark Bunting** was an exceptional find 16 & 17 Oct (Louis Havilland et al). Rare on Vancouver I, a Clay-colored Sparrow visited Swan Lk in Victoria 31 Oct to 4 Nov (CSa, m.ob). In the Okanagan, a Swamp Sparrow was banded at the Vaseux Lk Bird Observatory 9 Oct (DB). Another Swamp Sparrow was in a marshy area along Vernon Ck in Vernon 8 Oct (CS,CC,MF). Several Swamp Sparrows turned up in the Victoria area this fall, including one at the Chinese Cemetery 10 Oct (Jon Carter). At Viaduct Flats, a Swamp Sparrow was found 16 Oct (JG,JK),



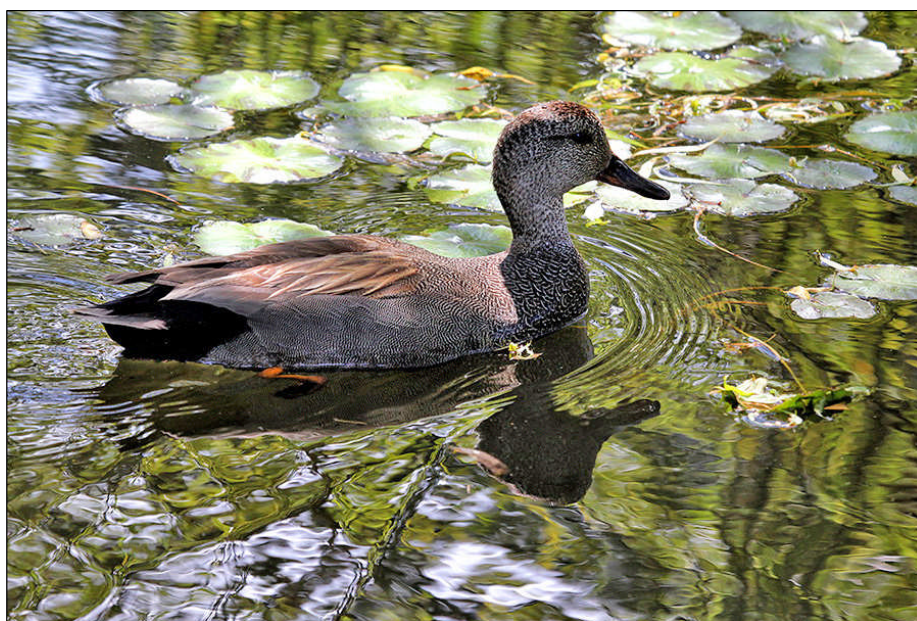
Painted Bunting – Stunning male visited a feeder in North Vancouver 17 to 23 November (Photo Paul Kusmin).



Summer Tanager – Seen sporadically from its discovery 19 Nov through into the winter period. Photo Guy Monty

while another was at Panama Flats 5 Nov (JK). One was at Swan Lk on 23 Nov (IC). Near Vancouver, a Swamp Sparrow was reported at Reifel Refuge 29 Sep (RC). White-throated Sparrows, while normally annual but rare fall migrants through the southern portions of BC, appeared in large numbers this year with up to 20 sightings in the Lower Mainland and a similar number in the Okanagan Valley. A male **Painted Bunting** visited a feeder in North Vancouver 17 to 23 Nov and was seen by many (Ann Neiwerth, m.ob). Another excellent find during this period was an imm. male **Summer Tanager** at a private residence in Parksville. The bird was found 19 Nov and remained through the period and into the winter period (Bashir El-Khalafawi, m.ob). This bird constitutes the third record of Summer Tanager for BC, all within the last 5 years. A Hoary Redpoll at Nelson, 28 Nov was the vanguard of its kind in the province, during what turned out to be an exceptional winter for this northern species (Paul Prappas).

OBSERVERS: DA – David Allinson; AB – Avery Bartels; ABu – Alan Burger; DB – Doug Brown; DCa – Dick Cannings; **RC – Russell Cannings**; **CC – Chris Charlesworth**; DC – Don Cecile; IC – Ian Cruickshank; **GD – Gary Davidson**; AD – Adrian Dorst; JF – Jaimie Fenneman; GG – Gord Gadsden; JG – Jeremy Gatten; MF – Michael Force; RF – Roger Foxall; NH – Nathan Hentze; JK – Jeremy Kimm; MM – Michael McMann; MMc – Mike McGrenere; RM – Ryan Merrill; GM – Guy Monty; LN – Laure Neish; IP – Ilya Povalyaev; CS – Chris Siddle; CSa – Chris Saunders; GS – Gail Spitler; MTa – Mike Tabak; MT – Mike Toochin; LVD – Linda Van Damme.



Male Gadwall

MH

American Birding Association

Principles of Birding Ethics

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first

Code of Birding Ethics

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

- 1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.
- 1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover. Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.
- 1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.
- 1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law and the rights of others.

- 2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
- 2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.
- 2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

- 3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.
- 3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.
- 3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

- 4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.
- 4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours]:

- 4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.
- 4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.
- 4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.
- 4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (eg, no tape recorders allowed).
- 4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

Please follow this code—distribute it and teach it to others.

Additional copies of the Code of Birding Ethics can be obtained from ABA. The ABA Code of Birding Ethics may be reprinted, reproduced, and distributed without restriction. Please acknowledge the role of ABA in developing and promoting this code.

<http://www.aba.org/about/ethics.html>

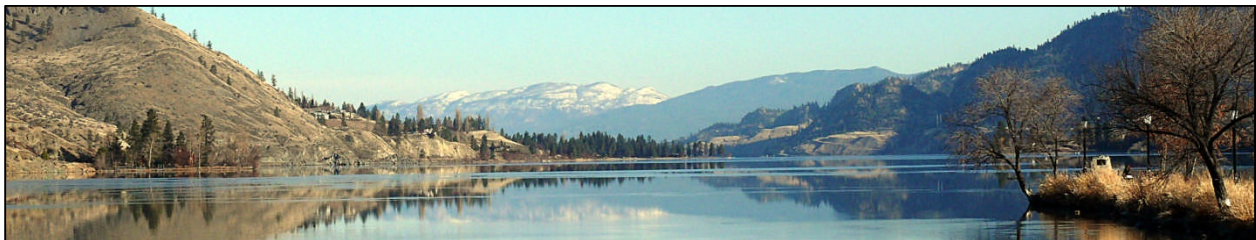
APPENDIX A

BCFO TWO-DAY FIELD TRIP: SOUTH OKANAGAN, APRIL 7 & 8, 2012

Leader: Dick Cannings

SPECIES LIST

Canada Goose	American Coot	Black-capped Chickadee
Gadwall	Killdeer	Mountain Chickadee
Eurasian Wigeon	Wilson's Snipe	Red-breasted Nuthatch
American Wigeon	Ring-billed Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch
Mallard	California Gull	Pygmy Nuthatch
Northern Pintail	Herring Gull	Brown Creeper
Green-winged Teal	Glaucous-winged Gull	Rock Wren
Canvasback	Rock Pigeon	Canyon Wren
Redhead	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Bewick's Wren
Ring-necked Duck	Barn Owl	Marsh Wren
Greater Scaup	Western Screech-Owl	American Dipper
Lesser Scaup	Great Horned Owl	Western Bluebird
Bufflehead	Northern Pygmy-Owl	Mountain Bluebird
Common Goldeneye	Great Gray Owl	Townsend's Solitaire
Barrow's Goldeneye	Long-eared Owl	American Robin
Common Merganser	Northern Saw-whet Owl	European Starling
Common Loon	White-throated Swift	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Williamson's Sapsucker	Spotted Towhee
Horned Grebe	Red-naped Sapsucker	Vesper Sparrow
Red-necked Grebe	Downy Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Hairy Woodpecker	White-crowned Sparrow
Chukar	Northern Flicker	Dark-eyed Junco
Ring-necked Pheasant	Pileated Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
California Quail	Say's Phoebe	Western Meadowlark
Osprey	Northern Shrike	Brewer's Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Gray Jay	Gray-crowned Rosy Finch
Northern Harrier	Steller's Jay	Cassin's Finch
Northern Goshawk	Black-billed Magpie	House Finch
Red-tailed Hawk	American Crow	Red Crossbill
Rough-legged Hawk	Common Raven	Common Redpoll
American Kestrel	Tree Swallow	Pine Siskin
Merlin	Violet-green Swallow	American Goldfinch
Virginia Rail	N.Rough-winged Swallow	House Sparrow





American Avocet by Hank Tseng