

# BC BIRDING

Newsmagazine of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

ISSN 1206-1611

BCFO.ca

Volume 29 Number 1 / March 2019



*Nashville Warbler at the Chiba Gardens in Waterfront Park, North Vancouver, January 2019. Photo by John Gordon.*

**Publisher**

*BC Birding* is published four times a year by the British Columbia Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 61670, RPO Brookwood, Langley, BC V3A 1K0.

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*.

**About the BCFO**

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.

**Membership**

See the website (<http://bcfo.ca>) for details, or write to the BCFO address given above under "Publisher."

**Annual Membership Dues**

General Membership (Canada): \$30

Junior Membership (Canada): \$20

U.S. and International Membership: \$35

**Newsmagazine Submissions**

To submit material to this publication, contact the Editor by email ([clive\\_keen@hotmail.com](mailto:clive_keen@hotmail.com)). Books for review should be sent to 10790 Grassland Road, Prince George, BC V2K 5E8.

Photographs should be in mid-resolution jpg (preferably 1–4 mb), and articles should be in plain text, either as the content of an email, or as an attachment (preferably Word). Topics may include birding experiences, casual observations about bird behaviour, site guides, birding equipment, trip reports (including overseas trips), and other subjects of broad interest to birders. Brief items are always welcome, and for longer submissions the normal maximum length is 1,500 words, with a limit of 2,000 words in special cases. Note that this is a newsmagazine rather than an academic journal, and thus formal reference lists are not needful.

Deadlines (i.e. final dates for submission of material) are as follows. Material received after the deadline will be held over to the subsequent edition.

- March edition: February 15
- June edition: May 15
- September edition: August 15
- December edition: November 15

**Advertising Rates**

Full page: \$125 per issue or \$112.50 each for four or more issues.

Half page: \$75 per issue or \$67.50 each for four or more issues.

Quarter page: \$40 per issue or \$36 each for four or more issues.

BCFO members are welcome to include classified ads, of up to 25 words, at no cost.

# BCFO Officers & Directors

**Directors**

*President:* Marian Porter, Salt Spring Island, 250-653-2043,

[marianmporter@gmail.com](mailto:marianmporter@gmail.com)

*Vice-President:* Gary Davidson, Nakusp, 250-265-4456,

[gsd37@yahoo.ca](mailto:gsd37@yahoo.ca)

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

*Secretary:* Mike McGrenere, Victoria, 250-658-8624,

[mi8624@telus.net](mailto:mi8624@telus.net)

*Treasurer:* Josh Inman, Langley, 604-532-0455,

[joshbirder@gmail.com](mailto:joshbirder@gmail.com)

Jude Grass, Surrey, 604 219 2043, [judegrass@shaw.ca](mailto:judegrass@shaw.ca)

Clive Keen, Prince George, 250-963-9520,

[clive\\_keen@hotmail.com](mailto:clive_keen@hotmail.com)

Adrian Leather, Quesnel, 250-249-5561,

[q-birds@xplornet.com](mailto:q-birds@xplornet.com)

Art Martell, Courtenay, 250-334-2979,

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

Monica Nugent, New Westminster, 604-220-8816,

[monica\\_nugent@telus.net](mailto:monica_nugent@telus.net)

**Responsibilities**

*Archivist/ Librarian:* Les Gyug

*BC Birding (Newsmagazine) Editor:* Clive Keen; *Associate*

*Editor:* Virginia Rasch. *Print Distribution:* June Ryder

*British Columbia Birds (Journal) Editor:* Art Martell. *Production Editor:* Neil Dawe

*Canadian International Joint Venture:* Wayne Weber

*Featured Photographer:* Carlo Giovanella

*Membership Secretary:* Larry Cowan

*Two-day Trips:* Adrian Leather

*Website:* George Clulow, Neil Dawe

*Young Birders Program:* Melissa Hafting

**Committees**

*BC Bird Records Committee:* Nathan Hentze (Chair), Peter Candido, Chris Charlesworth, Catherine Craig, Michael Force, Guy Monty, Mike Toochin.

*Cannings Award Committee:* Wayne Weber (Chair), Art Martell, Dick Cannings.

*Conservation and Education Committee:* Gary Davidson (Chair), Art Martell, Gerald McKeating, Stephen Partington, Marian Porter.

*Young Birder Awards Committee:* Carlo Giovanella (Chair), George Clulow, Melissa Hafting.

Note the vacancies on



## Contents

### Notices & Notes

President's Message .....	4
Notices & Notes .....	5
Welcome New Members .....	6
BCFO 29th AGM & Conference	
Schedule of Events .....	8
Registration .....	9
Pre-conference Trip .....	9
Accommodation .....	10
BCFO Two-day Trips	
Spences Bridge, May 25–26, 2019 .....	11
Port Alberni, September 14–15, 2019 .....	11
Upcoming Meetings & Events .....	11

### Young Birders Program

Young Birders Award .....	13
An Important Cautionary Tale .....	13

### Avian Encounters

Unpredictable Birding .....	15
The Dusky Thrush .....	16

### International Birding

Backyard Birding in Southeast Arizona .....	17
Birding the Amazon .....	18

### Briefings

Escalator to Extinction .....	10
Spiders Can Fly? .....	25
Climate Clobbers Shorebirds.....	28
Kittiwakes and the PDO .....	29

### Features

Close Encounters of the Bird Kind.....	21
It Should Not Need to Be Said .....	23

### Book Review

<i>Gulls Simplified</i> , by Pete Dunne and Kevin T. Karlson .....	22
--	----

### Regular Columns

Featured Species: Western Screech-Owl .....	24
Gone Fishing: Of Grey Pigs and Party Pies .....	26
The Reflective Birder: Recruitment 101 .....	30

### Listers' Corner

Tables and commentary.....	31
----------------------------	----

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### GOLDEN CONFERENCE & AGM 2019

#### REGISTRATION

##### April 1

Online registration opens for Conference & AGM and pre-conference trip.

#### EVENT DATES

##### June 18 – 21

Pre-conference extension trip to Southern Alberta area (see page 9).  
*Details to be confirmed by email.*

##### June 21 – 23

Golden Conference & AGM.

#### CLOSING DEADLINES

##### June 1

Registration for the pre-conference extension trip.

##### June 10

Registration for Golden Conference and AGM.



# President's Message

Marian Porter

I recently travelled to a birding and nature festival in Southeast Arizona: *Wings Over Willcox*. I have enjoyed attending many birding festivals in California over the past sixteen years and found it an ideal way to meet some of North America's top birders, educate myself with their workshops, find great birds, see special areas, and make friends. I was hoping this would be a good introduction to the Arizona birding world.

The recent government shutdown had made life very challenging for the Willcox event organizers, with national park closures and state Fish and Game field-trip leaders cancelling at the last minute. I will be thinking of them when I am dealing with chaotic situations at our own meetings. Scheduling efforts failed on several occasions and one predawn morning I found myself half-asleep in a van with field-trip participants speaking photographic technical jargon that I could not comprehend. I desperately wanted to know where I could find the coffee bar that served the high-test brew that enabled people to engage in this kind of conversation at 6:30 AM. The van finally fell silent when the trip leader asked what kind of camera I had, and we realized I was on the wrong bus – on the photography field trip! It had left the community center so late it overlapped with my own birding group. A frantic cell-phone call to HQ alerted the event organizer who agreed to meet us at our second stop to retrieve me and reconnect with my field trip.

Dawn skies, filled with thousands of Sandhill Cranes flying to agricultural fields, led us to the Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area, where over 20,000 cranes roost at night. The sound they made was like a grand symphonic cacophony, which one photographer found so unbearable she refused to come out of the van. I enjoyed the Cranes and Vermilion Flycatchers at Whitewater Draw while waiting for my ride to take me about 65 km, past Tombstone and the OK Corral, to arrive at the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area.

I was delighted to connect with the birders and our leader, Vince, bird-and-nature guide, and survival-expert extraordinaire, underneath a sleeping Western Screech-Owl. The event organizer probably logged about 250 km to remedy my situation, and I really appreciated the effort and dedication to making the Willcox experience a positive one. I would recommend the festival and I plan to attend other Arizona birding events in the future.

The photography group was a diverse group of people, some interested and knowledgeable about their subjects, others barely able to tolerate them. Wildlife photography through the eye of a true naturalist reaches me in a way pure technology cannot. I would encourage all photographers to spend as much time as possible learning, listening to and understanding their subjects, and not just getting the shot.

The spirit and enthusiasm of bird-watchers are something I hope to discover as well as the birds when I travel to find them. I first experienced this phenomenon while joining many members of the local and international birding community when seeing my first rare bird, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, at the Iona sewage lagoons. A woman who embodied this spirit and the pure joy of birding was my long-time friend Kathleen Ward. She had her first and last Christmas Bird Count with me, helping me start the Cranbrook CBC in 1983 and sharing a beautiful day on the Sooke CBC on December 30, 2018. Soon afterwards she returned to the hospital until succumbing to her illness on February 12, 2019. I will think of her when I do future counts, especially if conditions seem difficult, and it will make finding that next bird easier and more rewarding.

I would like to congratulate everyone who participated in Christmas Bird Counts this season, and give a special thank-you to the compilers who sent in their CBC dates to be posted on the BCFO website. Larry Cowan has organized this information on a spreadsheet so it may be updated and continued in the future. I hope to compile the 2018-2019 CBC highlights throughout the province and of

course, see some of you on counts in the next CBC season.

Maintaining seed, suet and nectar feeding stations while being snowed in on Salt Spring Island during this extreme winter season has brought the birds to me when I cannot easily get to them. I hope you are helping the birds out as well, and are participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada.

The spring breeding season seems far away but do not forget to make plans for the annual general meeting in Golden June 21, 22 and 23 and the extension trip to Southern Alberta that follows the meeting. Brian Murland and Adrian Leather will also be leading a two-day field trip in the Spences Bridge area May 25 to 26. I can hardly wait until a new season brings warm weather and singing birds again.

## A Christmas Bird Count Moment

*Six Snow Buntings were present on the BC Ferry jetty at Tsawwassen before and after the Ladner Christmas Bird Count.*

*John Gordon photograph.*



## Notices and Notes

### Education & Conservation Committee

Last year the BCFO established a committee for the purpose of administering the funds set aside for research and conservation grants. The committee consists of: Gary Davidson (Chair), Marian Porter, Art Martell, Gerald McKeating and Stephen Partington.

Since its inception, five applications for funds have been received. Two were declined because they did not meet BCFO criteria, and three have been approved – these are:

- \$2,000 to the Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation for the purpose of studying Golden Eagle breeding populations in BC's Rocky Mountains.
- \$795 to BC Nature for the purpose of conducting swan surveys at the Stuart, Tachie and Middle Rivers IBA.
- \$1,600 to BC Nature for the purpose of conducting inventories in the newly formed Kilpoola Lake IBA.

The grant application procedure and criteria can be found on the BCFO website at [bcfo.ca/bcfo-research-grants](http://bcfo.ca/bcfo-research-grants). Questions from members about the grants should be sent to Gary Davidson at [gds37@yahoo.ca](mailto:gds37@yahoo.ca).

### Bird of the Year 2018

The annual competition by Kevin Neill (Victoria) to choose the *BC Bird of the Year* saw eleven different birds voted for this time round – the most ever. In the running were:

- Summer Tanager – Vancouver – Jan to April
- Cardinal – Cranbrook – Jan to Feb – BC first
- Short-tailed Albatross – off Tofino – March

*Continued on page 6*

### Membership Vacancies BRC – BCFO Bird Records Committee

#### Invitation to Apply

#### Duration

We are seeking two individuals who are willing to commit to a three-year term, beginning April/May 2019. As per BRC operating guidelines, up to two consecutive terms may be served, for a total of six years. Renewal for a second term is optional and subject to BRC approval. Members may not sit for more than two consecutive terms before taking a mandatory one-year absence. Following this absence, individuals may be re-nominated for additional terms, and placed in the candidate pool for available positions. Monthly time commitments vary, but candidates should be willing to put in approximately ten (non-consecutive) hours.

#### Qualifications

Candidates should be knowledgeable on bird identification and distribution of all bird species in the province, as well as familiar with the identification and distribution of avian taxa from the remainder of North America, and ideally also Eurasia and Mexico. Preferred candidates will have first-hand experience with the majority of species that may be reported (see the current Review List). In addition to field experience, candidates should have access to sufficient resources (e.g., books, web resources) to provide critical, independent commentary and evaluations of bird records by set deadlines. Knowledge of aging and sexing of birds is a plus.

Candidates must be courteous and respectful of fellow committee members and to individuals whose records are being reviewed, including confidentiality of observer names and committee discussions. Previous experience with committees is beneficial, but not mandatory; however, candidates must be able to work effectively in a committee operating under a consensus framework.

In addition to birding experience, candidates must be able to reliably communicate electronically. This in-

cludes frequent and reliable access to the internet and the ability to email, Skype, and send/receive files in MS Word and MS Excel formats.

Prior membership to BCFO is not a requirement, but non-members are expected to join the organization upon appointment to the committee. All BRC members are expected to maintain their membership to BCFO in good standing for the duration of their tenure. Candidates should reside in British Columbia for the majority of each calendar year for which they are serving.

#### Selection

The committee strives to maintain representation of the entire provincial birding community by selecting members from varied regions of the province. To further ensure that the committee is representative of the provincial birding community, women are strongly encouraged to apply.

The BRC is a committee of the BCFO. Applicants, or a short-list of applicants, will be discussed by the current BRC membership for nomination to the committee. Final appointments are made by the BCFO Board of Directors.

#### How to apply

You may nominate yourself or someone else who you believe is qualified. All nominations should be sent electronically to Nathan Hentze, Chairperson of the BRC, at [bcbrc.chair@gmail.com](mailto:bcbrc.chair@gmail.com). In the email include a brief description of your qualifications, or, if nominating someone else, highlight why you think that person would fit well on the committee. Make sure to include your full name and contact information (email address and/or phone number), or the full name and contact information of the nominee. All information should appear in the body of the email; formal cover letters, CVs, etc., are not required.

Please apply as soon as possible, and no later than March 22. The positions will remain open until filled.

BCFO Bird Records Committee,  
12 February, 2019

- Parakeet Auklet – off Tofino – March
- Great-tailed Grackle – Vancouver/Williams Lake – May
- Prothonotary Warbler – Princeton – May
- Wood Thrush – Nanaimo – May
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – Nelson – May
- Crested Caracara – Bella Coola – May
- Common Cuckoo – Haida Gwaii – June – BC first
- Golden-winged Warbler – Quesnel – June – BC first
- White Wagtail – Kimberley – July
- Guadalupe Murrelet – off Vancouver Island (VI) – July
- Curve-billed Thrasher – Canal Flats – July
- Black-tailed Gull – Lund – Sept
- Red-footed Booby – off Haida Gwaii & VI – Sept – BC first
- Common-ringed Plover – Campbell River – Sept – BC first

- Pine Bunting/Yellowhammer – Victoria – Oct – BC first
- Vermillion Flycatcher – White Rock – Oct – BC first
- Fieldfare – Salmon Arm – Dec

From this spectacular list, the Fieldfare garnered 38% of the votes cast, making it the runaway winner. The Cardinal and Common Cuckoo each received 11%, and in fourth place, with 8% of the votes was the Golden-winged Warbler.

Kevin noted that lots of people had gone to see the Fieldfare, and it was spotted near the end of the year, so was still top-of-mind for voters.

Let's hope that 2019 offers an equally rich list of candidates.

### Heavyweight Bird Names

The last edition of this newsmagazine included a challenge to name a bird with more than the nine syllables of *Montezuma Oropendola*. Gary Davidson of Nakusp responded immedi-

ately with *King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise*, which has ten. Janice Arndt of Nelson followed up with *Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper*, which also has ten. Thinking about it later, she added *New Caledonian Owlet-Nightjar* and *Cerulean Paradise Flycatcher*, and reminded us of Andy Buhler's "crowning glory of a name" – Superciliaried Hemispingus – which gloriously crams ten syllables into two words.

For a while it looked as though the challenge for multiple-syllabic bird names would conclude with victory for *Himalayan Golden-backed Three-toed Woodpecker*, which would not have been too satisfactory as some spoilsport has renamed it *Himalayan Flameback*. Eric Tull of Sidney, though, came to the rescue. After finding several more names with ten syllables, he forwarded the eleven-syllabic *Ethiopian Black-headed Oriole*, and then capped things with the twelve syllables of *New Caledonian Imperial-Pigeon*. Well done he.

*Below: An adult Bald Eagle drifting over Iona Island. CNK photo.*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

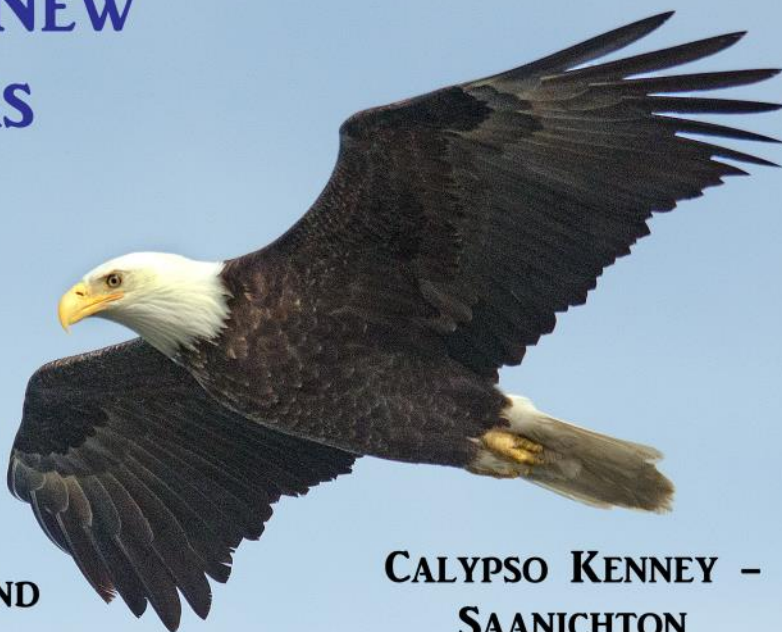
**CLAIRE CHRISTENSEN**  
– VERNON

**MARGARET GORHAM**  
– VANCOUVER

**BRIAN AVENT – RICHMOND**

**JAMES ROURKE – VANCOUVER**

**GEOFFREY NEWELL – VICTORIA**

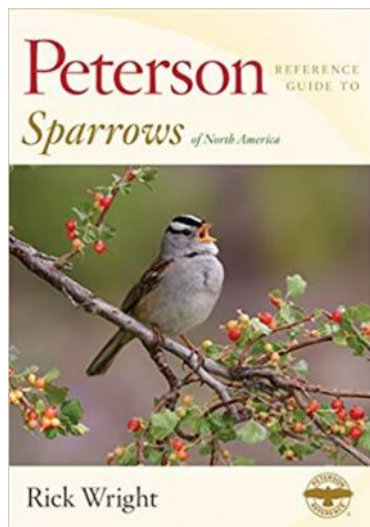


**CALYPSO KENNEY –**  
**SAANICHTON**



## Rick Wright's Sparrows

The March 2018 edition of this news-magazine carried a correction, provided by a certain Rick Wright, to a misidentified sparrow. (An alleged Clay-colored Sparrow was, he pointed out, a Brewer's). At the time, it was noted that Rick should certainly know his sparrows, as he was busy writing a book on them. That book is nearly with us. *The Peterson Reference Guide to Sparrows of North America* will be appearing in hardcover on March 19, 2019.



Amazon.ca has it listed at \$44.12 with the comment "Sparrows are as complicated as they are common. This is an essential guide to identifying 76 kinds, along with a fascinating history of human interactions with them."

## Spreading Wings

BCFO Young Birder Joshua Brown is heading to Montreal, having been accepted into a specialized wildlife biology program at McGill University.

## Good Homes Wanted For Bird Books

John Sprague (Salt Spring Island) writes to say that he is thinning out his collection of bird books. Anyone interested in any of the following – perhaps a young birder – should contact him at 250-537-0760 or sssprague@shaw.ca.

- *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. 2nd edition, 1987.
- *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. 3rd edition, 1999.
- *Peterson Field Guides: Western Birds*. 3rd edition, 1990.
- *Stokes Field Guide To Birds, Western region*. 1st edition, 1996.
- *Kaufman Focus Guide: Birds of North America*. 1st edition, 2000. signed by Ken Kaufman.
- *Golden Field Guide. Birds of North America*. 2001.
- *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*. Peter Harrison. 1983.\*
- *The Bird Almanac*, David M. Bird. 1999. (now a bit outdated)

- *Bird Finding in British Columbia*. Russell and Richard Cannings. 2013.

\*Harrison's seabird guide (John Sprague writes) is remarkable: 320 species from the open oceans with several paintings of each, and detailed notes on taxonomy, distribution, etc.

## Muggles' Corner?

An email from Chris Siddle (Vernon) raised the idea that "Muggles' Corner" might be worth adding to regular *BC Birding* features. He was reassuring his contacts that the CBC Radio report about the appearance of a very rare "Fair Field" in the Okanagan was not some utterly obscure bird, but made some sort of sense when you reversed the words.

We mustn't get too smug about errors made by those with limited knowledge of birds, but CBC reporters should know enough to check their facts, so this one was fair game.

It reminded the Editor of the time he received an excited call from someone who had an exotic bird in her garden and was worried that it would freeze to death in the Prince George winter. Should we do something urgent to rescue the poor thing and send it south? Not really, since it proved to be a not-so-very-exotic Northern Flicker.

But in future, if you have anything suitable for Muggles' Corner, don't hesitate to send it in, so we can all feel superior for a while.

## Winter Warbler Reprised

This Nashville Warbler, spotted by Rob Lyske on Jan. 27, 2019 at Waterfront Park in North Vancouver, and subsequently photographed by John Gordon, is probably the same bird spotted earlier, and mentioned in John's article on page 15. It reconfirms his comment:

"One lesson a birder can take away ... is that if a vagrant bird ends up in unfamiliar territory it will need a food source to survive. Where no insects are emerging it would make sense for the bird to find flowering plants. Good birders know to check these areas...."



## BCFO 29<sup>th</sup> AGM & CONFERENCE, June 21 – 23, 2019, Golden, BC

### Schedule of Events

**Location:** Golden Civic Centre, 806 10th Avenue South, Golden, situated in downtown Golden on Highway 95 South, adjacent to the Kicking Horse River.

#### Friday, June 21

**Registration and Social:** 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM, at the Golden Civic Centre, Great Hall. Pick up your conference package, socialize with fellow birders and confirm your trip selections. There will be appetizers and a cash bar.

#### Saturday & Sunday, June 22–23

**Location:** Golden Civic Centre, 806 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

**Breakfast:** 5:15 AM to 5:45 AM, prior to field trips.

**Conference Field Trips:** 6:00 AM departures from the Golden Civic Centre.

There will be a varied selection of field trips encompassing the rich habitats of the Columbia Valley Wetlands and three merging biogeoclimatic zones: Interior Douglas Fir, Interior Cedar-Hemlock and Engelmann Spruce–Subalpine Fir.

The lower Blaeberry River Valley is a crossroads for two migration routes: the Rocky Mountain Trench, channelling migrating birds from south to north from Montana to Mount Robson, and the Blaeberry and Howse Pass, leading long-distance migrants northeast to southwest across the Rocky Mountains to and from prairie regions. 237 species of birds have been recorded from the lower Blaeberry region, including field-trip destinations such as Moberly Marsh and the Blaeberry River Valley.

Higher-elevation field trips will be in nearby scenic Yoho National Park. A five-year waterbird-survey project is being conducted to support the designation of the Columbia Valley Wetlands as an Important Bird Area. This region should provide an abundance of bird species in field trips along the valley bottom.

Rachel Darvill of the Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey will guide a trip to Edelweiss Slough and Reflection Lake near Golden, and explore wetlands near Parson. The Wilmer Unit of the Columbia National Wildlife Area will be a destination for conference participants travelling the southern route back to western areas of the province on Sunday.

**Lunch:** 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

#### Saturday, June 22

**Afternoon Speakers:** 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

- Rachel Darvill: The Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey and Marsh Bird Monitoring Project.
- Vance Mattson: Breeding Population of Golden Eagles in the Southern BC Rockies.

**Annual General Meeting:** 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM.

**Social Cash Bar:** 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

**Banquet:** 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

**Banquet Keynote Speaker:** To be from the Resource Conservation Management Department of Glacier and Mount Revelstoke National Park.



## BCFO 29<sup>th</sup> AGM & CONFERENCE, June 21 – 23, 2019, Golden, BC

### To Register for the AGM & Conference

#### Via Regular Mail

Complete the registration form below and mail it along with your cheque for payment to: P.O. Box 61670, RPO Brookswood, Langley, BC V3A 1K0.

#### Via the BCFO Website (PayPal)

Go to the AGM/Extension Payments tab under the Events > Annual Conference drop-downs.

A fillable registration form is available for completion. To pay for more than one registration, simply make sufficient single payments for each person you wish to register.

### Field Trip Selection and Waiver Forms

Field trip selections for the mornings of June 22 and June 23 will be made when checking in on Friday, June 21. At the same time, you will be asked to complete your conference waiver form.

### Pre-Conference Extension Trip to Southern Alberta

Dan Arndt of Bow Valley Tours will be leading the trip with Adrian Leather. Vans will be rented in Calgary so car pooling will not be necessary during the extension.

We will initially head west of Calgary to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains searching for eastern boreal birds.

Highlights will include Yellow Rail, Sedge Wren, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, LeConte's Sparrow and Great Gray Owl. Moving east to the prairies and native grassland around Hanna and Brooks we will be birding for species such as Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared and McCowan's Longspur, Piping Plover, Burrowing Owl and Baird's Sparrow. Finally, we will return to the Calgary area for Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon and Sharp-tailed Grouse.

Cost and registration procedure will be announced by email.

## Registration Form

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Phone ..... Email .....

#### Conference Registration

Full conference fee includes: Friday night Meet & Greet, Saturday & Sunday breakfasts, lunches and Saturday evening Banquet plus all field trips and talks.

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$175 /person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BCFO Young Birders \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$87.50 /person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Social events ONLY (Meet & Greet, and Banquet) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75 /person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Membership fee for non-members (see BCFO website for membership details) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 – single/family = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total registration fee(s) for the Conference = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be attending the Friday evening reception: Yes ..... No .....

Do you have any dietary requirements: Yes .... Requirement .....

#### Waiver

All registrants for the conference and extension trip are required to complete the WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS form. Forms will be made available at the AGM at the time of registering for the field trips.

Participation in the AGM is not possible without payment of applicable fee(s) by the registration date.

All fees are payable upon submission of this registration form. Please make cheque or money order payable to BC Field Ornithologists. If registering by mail, send your registration and payment to BC Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 61670, RPO Brookswood, Langley, BC V3A 1K0. Please submit AGM registrations by June 10, 2019.

## BCFO 29<sup>th</sup> AGM & CONFERENCE, June 21 – 23, 2019, Golden, BC

### Accommodation

#### Hotels

##### **Ramada Golden**

(250) 439-1888, 1311 12th St., Golden. [info@ramadagolden.com](mailto:info@ramadagolden.com).

##### **Best Western Mountainview Inn**

(250) 344-2333, 1024 11th St., Golden.  
[62085@hotel.bestwestern.com](mailto:62085@hotel.bestwestern.com).

##### **Prestige Inn Golden**

(250) 344-7990, 1049 TransCanada Hwy North, Golden.  
[Golden@PrestigeHotels.ca](mailto:Golden@PrestigeHotels.ca)

##### **Mary's Motel**

(250) 344-7111, 603 8th Ave North, Golden. [info@marysmotel.com](mailto:info@marysmotel.com)

##### **Ponderosa Motor Inn**

1 800 881-4233, 1206 TransCanada Hwy, Golden.  
[en.info@ponderosamotorinn.bc.ca](mailto:en.info@ponderosamotorinn.bc.ca).

##### **The Brookside Motel**

1 (250) 344-2359, 1301 11th Ave North, Golden. [info@brooksidemotel.ca](mailto:info@brooksidemotel.ca).

##### **Holiday Inn Express Golden-Kicking Horse**

1 (250) 344-4664, 1120 14th St North, Golden. [hiexgolden.gm@gmail.com](mailto:hiexgolden.gm@gmail.com).

#### Campgrounds

##### **Golden Municipal Campground and RV Park**

1 (886) 538-6625, 1411 9th St. South, Golden  
[info@goldenmunicipalcampground.com](mailto:info@goldenmunicipalcampground.com)

##### **Goldenwood Lodge and Campground**

1 (250) 344-7685, 2493 Holmes Deakin Road, Golden  
[info@goldenwoodlodge.ca](mailto:info@goldenwoodlodge.ca)

##### **Golden Golf Club RV Park**

1 (250) 344-2700, 576 Golf Course Drive, Golden  
[teeoff@golfgolden.com](mailto:teeoff@golfgolden.com)

### Briefing 1

*Summary by M. Church*

#### Escalator to Extinction

With global warming now an established fact, the question arises of the response of animals and plants to a changing climate. The issue is particularly critical for species that inhabit narrow elevation zones on mountains. In response to warming they may move upslope to regain their customary thermal comfort zone, and this has been widely observed. But the prospect is dire for inhabitants of the mountaintop. A rigorous demonstration of the problem is now provided by researchers from UBC and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Thirty-four years ago investigators from the Field Museum of Chicago conducted a survey of bird species and abundance on the Cerro de Pantiacolla, an isolated foreland ridge of the Andes Mountains in southeastern Peru. The transect extended from 470 m (valley level) to 1,415 m at the ridgetop. Mean temperature declines by 0.55°C per 100-metre rise in elevation, so just over 5°C on the transect. In 2017 the UBC inves-

tigators repeated the survey using the same field methods (mist netting at seven elevations, supplemented by audio and visual observations) and conducted paired comparisons with the 1985 data for each observation site. During the intervening period mean temperature in the region has risen by 0.42°C, leading to the expectation of detectable range rises of about 75 metres.

Of the more than 500 bird species detected, attention was focused on 114 that were commonly observed. Amongst these, 65 commonly mist-netted species have shifted upslope by an average of 40 metres (but with a large standard deviation of  $\pm 98$  m, indicating that an individual species may have shifted up by much more than 40 m, or even downslope). In fact, 43 species moved uphill and 15 apparently extended their range downhill, while seven stayed put. Forty-eight commonly netted species moved uphill by  $117 \pm 170$  m (32 moved up; 8 moved down) at the lower limit of their range, while 68 such species moved up by  $68 \pm 152$  m at the upper limit of their range. (The numbers of species in each sample vary because different numbers of species were detected at different altitudes on the ridge.) For lowland birds this has yielded range increases of up to 71

metres vertically, substantially increasing their habitable area. But of 16 ridgetop specialists (found only above 1,200 m) detected in 1985, eight were absent in 2017. Of those eight, five were sufficiently common in 1985 to have been repeatedly detected.

So while lowland birds appear to face a favourable future, as long as the forest remains undisturbed (but see *BC Birding*, September 2015, p.31: "The Tropical Forest Blues"), ridgetop specialists face local extirpation as climate warming continues. This issue appears to be particularly dire for tropical species. Latitudinal temperature gradients in the tropics are negligible, so birds cannot find viable habitat by moving a reasonable distance north or south. (This is a possibility in the temperate zones, where significant latitudinal temperature gradients do occur.) In any case, most tropical species are sedentary – they do not habitually engage in significant migrations, which may even limit the propensity for local ridgetop inhabitants to find a higher mountain. It appears that populations of ridgetop birds inevitably will decline as fewer and fewer mountains with sufficient elevation to afford them viable habitat

*...continued on page 16*

# BCFO Two-day Trips

## Spences Bridge May 25–26, 2019

### Leaders

Brian Murland, Adrian Leather.

### Registration

Adrian Leather, 250-249-5561,  
[q-birds@xplornet.com](mailto:q-birds@xplornet.com).

### Itinerary

*Saturday AM:* Spences Bridge, Oregon Jack. Lunch at Ashcroft Bakery.

*Saturday PM:* The Slough, Nicola Valley. Tally-up at The Inn at Spences Bridge (two dinner choices, plus a vegetarian option; please inform the inn of any food restrictions).

*Sunday AM:* Venables Valley. Lunch at Horsting's Farm, Cache Creek.

*Sunday PM:* Optional birding at Pavilion or Upper Hat Creek.

### Possible Species

Say's Phoebe, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, Clark's Nutcracker, Chukar, Lewis's Woodpecker, Harlequin Duck, Lark Sparrow, Nashville Warbler.

### Accommodation

- The Inn at Spences Bridge, 3649 Hwy 8, Spences Bridge, 1-877-354-1997. Please call the inn direct when booking, and mention BCFO to receive a discount.
- Acacia Grove RV Park, 3814 River-view Ave., Spences Bridge, 250-458-2227.

## Port Alberni, September 14–15, 2019

### Leaders

Daryl Henderson, Annette Bailey.

### Registration

Adrian Leather, 250-249-5561,  
[q-birds@xplornet.com](mailto:q-birds@xplornet.com).

### Itinerary

*Saturday:* Road trip for coastal birding between Ucluelet and Tofino. Possible stops include Amphitrite Point, Pacific Rim NPR, Kwisis Visitor Centre, Florencia Bay, Combers Beach, Tofino Airport, and an IBA. Bag lunch.

Tally-up 6:30 PM at Starboard Grill, 5440 Argyle St, Port Alberni, 778-421-2826.

*Sunday morning:* Somass Estuary and sewage lagoons, Stamp River PP. Bag lunch.

*Sunday afternoon:* optional birding

### Accommodation

- Best Western Plus Barclay Hotel, 4277 Stamp Ave, Port Alberni, 250-724-7171. The trip leaders will meet with birders here on Friday evening.
- RV/Camping: Arrowvale Campground & Farm, 5955 Hector Rd, Port Alberni. 250-723-7948.

## How the Trips Work

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

- Day 1: all-day birding and then evening get-together at a restaurant to recap the day and tally species.
- Day 2: morning birding, afternoon optional birding.

Carpooling is encouraged and will be arranged on the morning of Day 1.

Register at least two weeks in advance. The leader will give specific details of when and where to meet.

*Cost:* No cost to members; fee to non-members: \$30, which covers BCFO membership.

If you have ideas for a two-day trip, Adrian Leather would be pleased to hear from you at

[q-birds@xplornet.com](mailto:q-birds@xplornet.com).

# Upcoming Meetings & Events

*Compiled by Wayne C. Weber*

The following meetings and other events are those that take place in BC and immediately adjacent areas or that potentially include information on birds that occur in BC.

For most meetings, festivals and other events, the website is the main source of information, and registration can usually be accomplished online as well. Wherever information can be obtained through a phone number or e-mail address, we have included these as well; if no contact information is listed, it can be assumed that none was provided by the organization, at least not on the date when this listing was compiled. It is usually not necessary to contact a particular individual, except for scientific meetings when one is interested in making a presentation. Names and contact information for individuals

are listed whenever they are available.

For a detailed listing of birding festivals all over North America, please check the Cornell "All About Birds" website at this URL: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/birding-festivals>.

Feb. 27– Mar. 2– PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP, 46th ANNUAL MEETING, Kauai, Hawaii, USA. For information and to register, visit the conference website at <https://pacificseabirdgroup.org/annual-meeting>.

Mar. 15–17– 17th ANNUAL WINGS OVER WATER NORTHWEST BIRDING FESTIVAL, Blaine, WA. For information, please check the website at [www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com](http://www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com) or contact Debbie Harger (phone, (360) 332-8311; email, [dharger@cityofblaine.com](mailto:dharger@cityofblaine.com)).

Mar. 16– First WESTPORT SEABIRDS pelagic birding trip of the year from Westport, WA. Westport Seabirds operates about 20 trips per year from April through October. For the trip schedule and other information, please check the website (<http://westportseabirds.com>).



Mar. 22-24– 21st ANNUAL OTHELLO SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL, Othello, WA. For information, check the festival website at [www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org](http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org), or contact the Grant County Conservation District at 1107 South Juniper Way, Moses Lake, WA 98837 (phone 509-765-9618).

Mar. 23-Apr. 7– BRANT WILDLIFE FESTIVAL, Qualicum, BC. For information, phone Robin Rivers at 1-866-288-7878 (in Greater Vancouver, 604-924-9771), e-mail [rivers@naturetrust.bc.ca](mailto:rivers@naturetrust.bc.ca), or check the festival website at <http://brantfestival.bc.ca>.

Apr. 11-14– HARNEY COUNTY MIGRATORY BIRD FESTIVAL, Burns, Oregon (near Malheur National Wildlife Refuge). For further information, check the festival website at <http://www.migratorybirdfestival.com/>.

Apr. 12-14– OLYMPIC BIRD FESTIVAL, Sequim, WA. For information, visit the festival website at <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>, or contact the Dungeness River Audubon Center by phone (360-681-4076) or by e-mail ([info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org)).

Apr. 17-23– GODWIT DAYS, Arcata, California. It's a little way away, but Godwit Days is one of the premier birding festivals in North America. For information, check the festival website at <https://godwitdays.org>.

May 2-5– BC NATURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Duncan, BC, hosted by Cowichan Valley Naturalists. For information or to register, visit the BC Nature website at <http://www.bcnature.ca/agm-2019-cowichan-valley>.

May 3-5– GRAYS HARBOR SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL, Aberdeen, WA. For information, contact the festival office at PO Box 470, Montesano, WA 98563 (phone 360-289-5048) or check the website at <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com>.

May 3-5– TOFINO SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL, Tofino, BC. Events not all scheduled yet, but check the festival website at [raincoasteducation.org/events/tofino-shorebird-festival](http://raincoasteducation.org/events/tofino-shorebird-festival).

May 6-12– WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES FESTIVAL (22nd annual), Invermere, BC. For information, contact the Pynelogs Cultural Centre, PO Box 2633, Invermere, BC V0A 1K0, phone 1-855-342-2473, e-mail [info@wingsovertherockies.org](mailto:info@wingsovertherockies.org), or check [www.wingsovertherockies.org](http://www.wingsovertherockies.org).

May 9-10– Joint Meeting of the ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL BIOLOGISTS (APBBC) and COLLEGE OF APPLIED BIOLOGY, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC. For further information, please check the website at <https://professionalbiology.com/professional-development-networking/annual-conference>.

May 9-13– WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Moses Lake, WA. Check the WOS website (<http://wos.org/annual-conference/current-year>) for details. Registration begins on March 10th.

May 10-12– SKAGIT VALLEY BIRD BLITZ, Skagit Valley Provincial Park, BC. For information and to register, check the event website at <http://hopemountain.org/programs/skagit-valley-bird-blitz-may-10-12-2019>. Inquiries may be made by email to Ashley Tyler at [atyler@hopemountain.org](mailto:atyler@hopemountain.org) or by phone at 604-869-1274.

May 16-19– LEAVENWORTH SPRING BIRD FEST, Leavenworth, WA. For information, email [info@leavenworthspring-birdfest.com](mailto:info@leavenworthspring-birdfest.com) or check [www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com](http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com).

May 16-20– MEADOWLARK NATURE FESTIVAL, Penticton, BC. The schedule of events and registration should be available by early April. Please check the festival website at <http://meadowlarkfestival.ca>.

June 1-2– OREGON BIRDING ASSOCIATION annual meeting, Portland, OR. For details and to register, please check the OBA website at <https://oregonbirding.org>.

June 14-16– MANNING PARK BIRD BLITZ, Manning Provincial Park, BC (based at Loneduck Campground on Lightning Lake). For information and to register, check the website at [hopemountain.org/programs/manning-park-bird-blitz-june-14-16-2019](http://hopemountain.org/programs/manning-park-bird-blitz-june-14-16-2019). Inquiries may be made to Ashley Tyler at [atyler@hopemountain.org](mailto:atyler@hopemountain.org) or at 604-869-1274.

June 21-23– BC FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Golden, BC. For further information, please check the BCFO website at a later date (<https://bcfo.ca/2019-agm-golden-june-21-23>).

June 24-28– 137th STATED MEETING, AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Anchorage, Alaska. For further information, check the AOS website at <http://www.americanornithology.org/content/upcoming-meetings>.

Aug. 21-25– WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE (44th annual) at Albuquerque, New Mexico. For further details, check the WFO website at <http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php>.

Sept. 13-15– PUGET SOUND BIRD FESTIVAL, Edmonds, WA. For information and to register (starting Aug. 1), check the festival website at <http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org>, or contact Jennifer Leach at the City of Edmonds Parks Dept. (phone 425-771-0227), or email her at [jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov](mailto:jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov).

Sept. 29-Oct. 3– 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, Reno, Nevada. For information, check the TWS conference page at <http://wildlife.org/2019-conference>.

Oct. 27-30– Joint meeting of the WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY and ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, Cape May, New Jersey, USA, hosted by the Cape May Bird Observatory. For details, check the society websites (<http://www.wilsonociety.org> for WOS, [http://afonet.org/wp\\_english/meetings](http://afonet.org/wp_english/meetings) for AFO) closer to the conference date.

Nov. 5-9– RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION annual meeting, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA. For further details, visit the society website at [raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/upcoming-conferences](http://raptorresearchfoundation.org/conferences/upcoming-conferences).

Nov. 6-9– 43rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY, Salisbury, Maryland, USA at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore campus. For details, check the society website at <https://waterbirds.org/annual-meeting>.

Dec. 14 to Jan. 5 (2020)– CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS. For information on dates of counts and contact information for count organizers, check the BCFO website in November and December, or check the December issue of *BC Birding*.

# Young Birders Program

## Young Birders Award

Sasha Fairbairn, 16, is the latest recipient of a BCFO Young Birders Award (photo by Melissa Hafting below).

Sasha, who has been a participant in the Young Birders program, lived previously in New Zealand, where her love of birding developed. Last summer, she attended the Beaverhill Bird Observatory Young Ornithologist Workshop in Alberta, and now gives volunteer birding tours for Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society, a local urban forest near her home. She further strengthens her birding connection by working part-time at Wild Birds Unlimited.

An accomplished writer, she has a birding blog at [bcbackyardbirds.wordpress.com](http://bcbackyardbirds.wordpress.com), which includes a number of birding tips. One of her stories won a contest called "A Voice For Animals," and can be read at:

[www.hennet.org/docs/contest/winners/2017\\_Sasha\\_Fairbairn.pdf](http://www.hennet.org/docs/contest/winners/2017_Sasha_Fairbairn.pdf)



## THE YOUNG BIRDER AWARD

This award, inaugurated in 2014, is given to outstanding youth birders, aged 11 to 18, in recognition of their accomplishments, contributions, and engagement with birds and birding in the province. The award welcomes these talented young birders into the birding community. Nominations are sought annually for qualified young birders.

Each recipient of a Young Birder Award receives a plaque, a BCFO ballcap, and free BCFO membership (electronic) until age 19.

To be selected for a Young Birder Award, recipients must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be at least 11 years of age, and no more than 18 years of age as of January 1st of the year of the Award.
- Have demonstrated exceptional observational and birding skills well beyond the "novice" level.
- Have made significant contribution to activities in the birding community such as: posting to listserves, entering data to eBird, or participating in local surveys, bird counts, bird banding, and field trips.
- Be sponsored and nominated by a BCFO member who has direct knowledge of the candidate, their birding skills, and their contributions to the birding community.

For further information, go [bcfo.ca/bcfo-young-birder-program](http://bcfo.ca/bcfo-young-birder-program).

## An Important Cautionary Tale

*Kalin Ocana (aged 15), Kelowna*

Most birders have a patch, somewhere special to them, close to home where they can bird frequently. In my case, the Rose Valley Regional Park perfectly fits this description and was where I began my birding journey. Yearning to understand the natural world and the birds that inhabit it is a desire that has been with me since birth, and having an intact patch of forest full of logs to flip over and nest boxes to check was a perfect way to start me off on my journey.

This story took place on a warm sunny Saturday in late November that would have been assigned to English homework had the weather not been quite so ideal for a hike in the woods. I hastily packed up my gear, a half-eaten bag of trail mix, a water bottle, fully charged phone, fully charged camera and binoculars, ready to locate whatever birds decided to make an appearance. All set! Well, not exactly, as I was soon to learn. Unaware of my lack of supplies, I sprinted out the door, and into the mountains.

When I hike it's a lot different from when I bird a trail, and today I was

most certainly not just birding a trail. I would be starting off at the McDougal Road trailhead, and from there I would head off path and take the long steep climb along the sunbaked bluffs. If I continued along the edge I would eventually meet up with the McDougal Rim Trail, and I would loosely follow that. Then somewhere up top I could hopefully find a deer or elk trail in the snow that could get me down the cliffs through an old washed-out gully back to the reservoir. This plan, like most of my plans, was highly optimistic and could possibly get me in a lot more trouble than I was prepared for.

By about four hours into my hike, I had not gotten very far. Mixed flocks of Western Bluebirds, Red Crossbills, Cassin's Finches and Pine Siskins got the better of my attention and thoroughly distracted me from my climb up the mountain. It was time to pick up the pace. I went up into the sub-boreal forest that begins at approximately 1,000 metres. This forest is particularly interesting in the summer because of all the breeding birds, which have long-since migrated, but even still I got Ruffed Grouse and a rather late migrant Peregrine Falcon.

As I continued along, thoughts that it might be in my best interest to turn around instead of searching for a way



down began forming at the back of my head. My toes were already numb from the snow in my shoes, and the light was starting to fade. I pushed these thoughts to the back of my head and kept hiking. Since it was so sunny I hadn't really noticed that the light was fading. It was about two o'clock PM and it would be at least a five-hour hike back, meaning that I would have to hike a few hours in the black of night. Out of good options, I decided that my best bet was to start heading down the cliffs sooner rather than later.

The cliffs turned out to be significantly more cliff-like than I had anticipated. I ended up slipping down a lot of sketchier sections that I could not climb back up. In one part of my descent I squeezed through a long narrow gap between two boulders and the ground eroded away right beneath my feet, dropping me about six feet down right in front of the entrance to a cave surrounded by piles of bear scat. After this experience and many other slips on my climb I was no longer able to think rationally. I was shivering badly from both the cold and out of fear. If I had kept moving down the mountain in this state I could have gotten seriously injured or worse.

I realized this fact and sat down on a rocky ledge from where I could call 911. They told me they would send in a search-and-rescue team to get me out before morning, which came to me with a bit of a shock. Having been keeping

notes of all the birds I was seeing all day my phone only had seven percent battery. I made a few quick phone calls, one to my parents, and one to a good friend so we could enjoy a laugh before my phone died.

I was up on that ledge with no contact for a very long time. Every once in a while I would hear the distant trill of a Western Screech-Owl and it would wake me from a state of half sleep. Keeping warm was impossible: my feet were completely numb and my toes suffered frostbite. I was hypothermic. Staying at least partially awake was very difficult; if I gave in and fell asleep I might slide right off the cliff. I had been hiking all day and all I had eaten was a muffin for breakfast and half a bag of trail mix, but even so I didn't feel hungry. Eventually after six long hours I heard the static from a walkie-talkie way out in the distance. I yelled and yelled, but no response, though this was all the reassurance I needed to know that help was on the way. A little while later someone shouted, "Kalin?" Immediately I shouted back.

It was 11:00 PM by the time the first person got to me, but I was so happy. Being alone in this kind of situation is really scary, and the relief of having someone to talk to was immense. It was a long process for them to attach all of the necessary ropes and harnesses to lower us down the cliff, but while we waited we built a fire and dried off my

shoes with the heat and changed my socks for dry ones they had brought. Using a reflective blanket, I gained heat quickly and was soon mostly out of my hypothermic state.

Once we were off the actual cliff the rest of the hike back was long but not difficult. By 2:00 AM we were out of the park and I was reunited with my family, who were probably more shaken from the whole experience than I was.

These kinds of experiences are never enjoyable: isolation for that long in the dark, the cold, with no food in your stomach, and on a cliff is probably one of the last ways anyone would want to spend their Saturday. But this was a learning experience for me more than anything. I learned a lot from the time I spent up there on the ledge, most notably that you can never be too prepared for an adventure. Throwing a few extra snacks and some matches in your bag can go a long way. Also, if you do decide to bird off trail, analyze your surroundings more thoroughly. If you can, check in with yourself every thirty minutes to make sure you have more than enough time to get back. You never know what kinds of birds could pop up on your return trip. Of course some people are naturally more cautious, but these are all strategies I will try to implement on my future birding trips and this will hopefully allow me to avoid future misadventures such as this one.

### OPAL-CROWNED TANAGER

*One of the many exquisite birds photographed by Melissa Hafting on her recent trip to Ecuador.*

*See pages 18–20.*





# Avian Encounters

John Gordon, Langley/Cloverdale

## Unpredictable Birding

Birding can be so unpredictable. I had spent a fruitless and chilly January morning looking for the Great Egret in Aldergrove. Disappointed, I returned home to warm up and take care of a few chores. That afternoon I went on a second twitch at Abbotsford's Mill Lake where a vagrant Cape May Warbler was found on January 1 by Neal Doan.

Cape May Warblers breed in the Peace Country and east of the Rockies; they are rarely found on the South Coast. The Abbotsford bird is only the second on record for the southwest corner of the province.

The bird was an easy twitch and very confiding for those late to the party. The bird was attracted to a flowering Mahonia and ignored everyone and everything. At one point a dozen onlookers watched the diminutive warbler as it flitted flower to flower.

One lesson a birder can take away from this experience is that if a vagrant bird ends up in unfamiliar territory it will need a food source to survive. Where no insects are emerging it would make sense for the bird to find



flowering plants. Good birders know to check these areas as was the case last winter when a Nashville Warbler was found feeding on the same type of shrub at Lonsdale Quay.

On the way home from Abbotsford I decided to take a detour and look for the Great Egret which has been feeding in the same field since before Christmas. I think it may be only the second or third I've photographed in the Lower Mainland. It was feeding on large earthworms while some have photos of it catching voles. It was still present as of January 31, 2019.

*Cape May Warbler, Great Egret and  
Prairie Falcon photos by John Gordon.*

## Addendum

A separate January 2019 trip, this time to Pitt Meadows, netted this Prairie Falcon carrying a vole to a favourite tree on Sharpe Road. It was the only reported PRFA at the time in the Lower Mainland.



## Avian Encounters, Continued

John Gordon, Langley/Cloverdale

### The Dusky Thrush

The alarm went off at 5.45 AM, but I was already awake. The ferry from Tsawwassen to Vancouver Island would leave in a few hours. The plan was to meet fellow birder Mike Tabak, who comes from a birding background and has become an excellent bird photographer. Mike is a great one to have around, especially when trying to identify alcids and gulls from a fast-moving ferry. We had been on a few twitches before, and had spotted the Acorn Woodpecker in Victoria.

A long-time friend of mine had agreed to pick us up at Duke Point ferry terminal: it meant we wouldn't have to take a car. As a senior (still trying to get my head around that) I qualify for free BC ferry rides Monday through Thursday. Aside from a few cups of coffee, the whole twitch would cost me less than ten dollars.

There's a certain kind of nervous energy that comes with chasing a bird. Some birders can't sleep in anticipation; others have problems waking up. On board we met up with other bleary-eyed twitchers. Most were perched around the bow peering off into the distance at Common Murres and Pelagic Cormorants.

I used my "super zoom" to ID birds on the ride across. Focus is hit-and-miss at hundreds of feet or more but occasionally everything works.

As we approached Nanaimo, the ship's captain announced a feeding frenzy off the port-side bow. Thirty or forty Bald Eagles joined a mixed flock of gulls as they fed on a herring ball. The skipper even changed course so as not to disturb the birds. Also joining in the feast, but out of picture, were Red-breasted Mergansers and Pacific Loons.

A short ride from the ferry is Gordon Road where the Dusky Thrush had been seen hanging out with a flock of American Robins. The thrush wasn't hard to find; there were already fifteen birders on site. It took less than two minutes to get on the bird. After taking a few snapshots I wanted to know from



*The Dusky Thrush, first spotted on January 19, 2019, by David Baird and Bryan Vroom near the Nanaimo River Estuary in Nanaimo. The bird was still being observed in mid-February as this publication was being put to bed.*

*Photograph by John Gordon.*

some of the veteran twitchers how significant this sighting ranked in the grand scheme of things. I honestly didn't know. One birder told me it was considered a Mega. The Dusky Thrush was a lifer for me (and Canadian bird #399) and for pretty well everyone else present.

- Mega – n. A very rare bird generally confined to a given region.
- Megatrick – n. An extremely good trick for novice birders to expert veterans.

Though the bird kept its distance, we stayed in the hope that it would perch somewhere in the open. It never did, though we both got a few frames of it flipping leaves in the meadow. The bird aside, it was great to see my dear friend who kindly drove us from the ferry to Gordon Road, and to meet up with fellow Island birders I hadn't seen in a long while.

Whenever the bird disappeared, us Brits talked football and Brexit and moaned about the state of the world. Brits are expert moaners: we'll moan about anything, especially the weather. Did I tell you how freaking cold my feet got?

Anyway, as soon as the thrush re-

appeared all the doom and gloom faded away and we were back to twitching.

It was a day well spent. May there be many more.

*...continued from page 10*

remain available. Under "business as usual" projections of future climate (which, so far, appear to herald the future in continued absence of serious social countermeasures), temperatures are expected to rise further by 1.6 to 3.8°C by 2100. This suggests a further rise of isotherms of 300 to 700 metres for the Cerro de Pantia colla birds – sufficient to extirpate a significant proportion of them.

#### References

Freeman, B.G., Scholer, M.N., Ruiz-Gutierrez, V., and Fitzpatrick, J.W. 2018. "Climate change causes upslope shifts and mountaintop extirpations in a tropical bird community." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (U.S.A.) 115: 11982-11987. doi: [pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1804224115](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1804224115).

Original summary in *Eos* (*Transactions of the American Geophysical Union*) 100(1): 4.



# Backyard Birding in Southeast Arizona

*Dave Manning, Pender Island*

Escaping the BC coastal damp this winter, my wife and I found ourselves in Arizona soaking in the dry sun, in areas where bird-crazed 16-year-young Kenn Kaufman once found himself. Most birders visiting this general area head for the birding hot spots, following eBird recommendations. I usually do not.

Although I do visit nearby trails, especially those with water sources, my favourite love is sitting on my back porch, watching. I throw out a little bird seed, plug in the bubbling bird fountain, and I'm all set for a pleasant few hours of birding. Being on the edge of the desert helps. My only neighbours beyond the backyard are flora, fauna, a rolling landscape of natural wonder – and silence.

So there I sit, binocular and camera at hand, with a favourite cup of tea. "If you wait, they will come," and come they do.

My wife is an S.O.B. (spouse of a birder) and not particular about what birds she sees: introduced House Sparrows, Eurasian Collared-Doves, Starlings, whatever, she enjoys them all. I lean towards the native species.



Some of my favourite visitors this winter included a Green-tailed Towhee, a pair of Canyon Towhees, the stunning male Cardinal and its cousin the Pyrrhuloxia (the record is nine at the same time!), Cactus Wren (comes only for sunflower seeds), Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, the astonishing male Vermillion Flycatcher, and Rufous-winged, Lark, Black-throated,

Brewer's, Lincoln's, and White-crowned Sparrows.



The entertaining and best-known desert bird, the Greater Roadrunner, comes only for water, as do the Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Flicker, Plumbeous Vireo, Lesser Goldfinch and Mockingbird. The Gila Woodpecker, Verdin and Hooded Oriole come for the Hummingbird sugar water. And my favourite hummingbird visitor, hands down, is the male Broad-billed. He's a true gem with colours delighting any eye!



Other yard visitors included the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Say's and Black Phoebes, White-winged Dove, Curve-billed Thrasher, Red-naped Sapsucker and Ladder-backed Woodpecker. Lurking in the wings are the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, looking for an easy snack. In the distance the occasional Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture (most go farther south) and a pair of Black



Vultures (one even sipped at our bird bath).

After dark there were other visitors. A Great Horned Owl perched on our power pole hooting away, and water-seeking mammals included White-tailed Deer, Coyotes, Gray Fox, Skunks, Raccoons, Javelina and who knows what else.

The only bird I intentionally sought out elsewhere was the Elegant Trogon. He was being seen regularly in a nearby canyon, a one-hour drive from my back porch. I went in search ... and found him! What a fellow he was, perched beside a creek.

From the above partial list of sightings from my winter porch, you might understand why I am content to quietly sit there and simply look.



*In order: Northern Cardinal, Greater Roadrunner, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Pyrrhuloxia, and Loggerhead Shrike.*

*All photos by Dave Manning.*



# Birding the Amazon

Melissa Hafting

In mid-January 2019, Ilya Povalyaev and I went on a trip to Ecuador, staying in birding lodges on the east slope of the Andes such as Guango, San Isidro and Wildsumaco. It is too long to write about our full 18-day trip here, so I decided to just write about our five-day adventure trip to the Amazon.

We boarded our plane at Quito airport on "Tame Airlines" and were en route to the Amazon via the city of Coca and a couple of boat rides, one motorized and one not. I was eagerly awaiting the more tropical birds, waterbirds and mammals. In all areas of Ecuador the birds vary so much by region and elevation and that's especially true of the Amazon.

The weather was 32 degrees C when we deplaned in Coca. The hot humid air hit us right away and was a nice change from the colder rainy days we had on the east slope. We left the airport with high hopes. My partner was most looking forward to this leg of the trip and so was I. It was very expensive but he and friends convinced me the Amazon was essential on any Ecuador visit.

We hopped in a motorized river boat for a two-hour boat ride on the river. There is no road access to Napo Wildlife Centre. When we got to the Kichwa Indigenous Community we met our guides and were put in canoes where we were paddled down a stream for over an hour to the lodge. The lodge is located on a lake deep within Yasuni National Park. The sounds of birds and insects and even frogs blew me away the moment I entered the jungle.

tered the jungle.

We met our birding guide, Marcelo Andy. He was an incredible ear-and-sight birder and would predict exactly where the bird would pop out accurately. He told us he learned all the calls of the 1,600+ species in Ecuador in two years! He showed us a Black-fronted Nunbird, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift, Scarlet-crowned Barbet, Rufous-headed Woodpecker, leaf-cutter ants (like you see on nature documentaries) and Dusky Titi Monkeys. I even saw a Tropical Screech-Owl! One of the coolest things was seeing nesting Chestnut-eared Aracaris. It was also cool walking through the jungle being serenaded by the ethereal calls of the Undulated Tinamous and White-shouldered Antbirds.

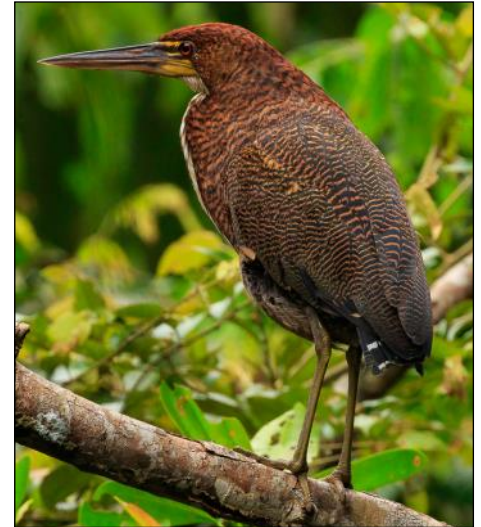
The next day we took a motor boat to a clay lick where we saw Yellow-crowned, Mealy and Blue-headed Parrots come down to eat. We then walked a trail to a 40-metre-high tower. It is not for the faint of heart. From almost every level, from midway to the top of the canopy different birds would occur. Here highlights were the Yellow-shouldered Grosbeak, Plumbeous Kite, the beautiful Lemon-throated Barbet, Yellow-browed Antbird, Long-billed Gnatwren, Purplish Jacamar and the amazing Opal-rumped and Opal-crowned Tanagers. One real highlight from the tower was seeing the brightly coloured and tiny Yellow-browed Tody-Flycatcher.

There was really something special about getting up before dawn and seeing the stunning sunrise on the Napo River. Maybe sunrises (I can only imagine) are only better on the Serengeti but I have yet to go there. I'd thought California sunrises and sunsets were the best; well they play second fiddle to the ones I saw at Yasuni National Park.

The weather was a sweltering 34 C and sunny and very humid. So you *really* sweated a lot. The mosquitoes were rampant and despite wearing 30% DEET repellent and long pants and shirts, I still got bitten a lot. I really should have worn my insect outfit but felt self-conscious since no one else wore those beekeeper-like suits. I won't be self-conscious next time! (Prior to my trip I was vaccinated with a yel-

low fever vaccine and was on anti-malaria pills.)

Later that afternoon, I visited the second clay lick in Yasuni National Park. It's the famous one you can walk to where Macaws come to. BC Young Birder Liron Gerstman had gone there a couple of years ago and got some incredible award-winning shots. It was fasci-



Above: Rufescent Tiger-Heron. Below left: Hoatzin. All photos in this section by Melissa Hafting.

nating and amazing to see the parrots come down to bathe and get their minerals. However, when we first arrived at the clay lick there was a deadly poisonous snake – a Fer-de Lance. It had caught a Cobalt-winged Parakeet and it delayed the parrots from returning to the lick. But 2.5 hours later when the snake had finally swallowed the parrot whole and slowly moved away, the birds began to come back.

Two days prior a Jaguar had visited the clay lick. BC Young Birders Liam Singh and Ian Harland had been lucky enough to photograph a Jaguar here last year. I had no such luck. However, seeing all the Cobalt-winged Parakeets, Orange-cheeked Parrots and Black-headed Parrots come in huge numbers was amazing. When they flew away after 40 minutes the giant Scarlet Macaws slowly came in. In Ecuador during our trip throughout the Andes and east slope we saw many parrots but mostly at a distance – nothing like this close! I took several photos of the Macaws and other Parrots and didn't leave until the last Macaw left the lick.

While travelling through the Amazon I realized even more how many diverse birds, wildlife, mammals, reptiles and



insects it held and why it is vital to conserve it. Just outside Yasuni National Park you will see oil exploration, extraction and deforestation of this sacred ecosystem. The indigenous peoples are working hard to put an end to this, but money talks. Sadly more and more species are becoming extirpated and extinct in the Amazon.

There is nothing like walking through the jungle and hearing all the sounds from the Howler Monkeys to the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls and insects. I couldn't imagine this place silent but with climate change, deforestation and oil and gas exploration causing contamination of waterbodies, it is a very real possibility.

This is a very physically demanding and tiring place but Napo Wildlife Centre does its best to assist and even has an elevator to take disabled people to the top of the canopy, which I believe is the only place in the world to do so. Anyway, needless to say I admire David Attenborough slugging it through the Amazon in his nineties and hope someday to be able to do the same at that age.

Though it's a long water trip to the Centre, it's a peaceful and serene ride and makes you want to cut off your Internet connection and just appreciate the really important things in life. It is on this side river channel with black water, where mosquito larvae can't hatch, that I saw my lifer Great Potoo. They really are big and completely blend into the tree bark.

At night we canoed down the small river channel and were met by streams of fish-eating bats flying fast by us. At times they almost hit us! We also saw a Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl down low. Fireflies guided our way back safely to our cabanas. It was something out of a fairytale, like the childhood tales of Forest Gully.

There was so much that intrigued me in the Amazon. For instance why were the eyes of the Tropical Screech-Owl yellow but those of the Tawny-bellied and others brown? And how did the tiny Zigzag Heron survive with all the larger predators around, like other Herons and Monkeys that could eat it? I also learned how hard it is to see hummingbirds in the Amazonian forest without a feeder. You have about a second and a half to make the ID – if you are lucky!

While being paddled to Napo Lodge

I also fell in love with the Blue Morpho Butterflies and the White-fronted Capuchin, Squirrel, Woolly and endemic Golden-mantled Tamarind Monkeys that called this place home.

The next day we paddled to and walked the "Tiputuni Trail." This trail is located near the Napo Wildlife Centre and here we found fresh Jaguar tracks. Apparently one was seen on the trail for 40 minutes two days prior. It was a little unnerving to be walking in the same direction as the Jaguar. I asked the guide what protection he had if we were to run into the cat with the strongest bite in the world.



The guide said, "Nothing. They only kill people in Brazil." In bear country here in Canada we at least have bear spray and maybe some bangers. The guide's radio was also broken so all we had was my survival whistle! Oh well, ever onwards in slippery thick clay mud. If the cat wanted to attack, there would be no outrunning it.

At the end of this trail we found a Black-necked Red-Cotinga lek. These cotingas are stunningly brilliant red and black birds. We also found a Golden-



Above: A pair of Black-capped Donacobius.  
Below: Collared Puffbird.

headed Manakin lek and got to watch them "moonwalk" for their females. This trail was good for manakins: we saw Dwarf-tyrant, White-crowned, Blue-crowned and Blue-backed Manakins. From the canoe we also saw White-bearded and Orange-crowned Manakins and Rufous-tailed Flatbills.

We paddled on to the lake in front of Napo Lodge and saw a large Black Caiman. We then had a tasty lunch at the lodge in the company of White-winged Swallows and Red-capped Cardinals. When we were back on the lake we saw some stunning Capped and Rufescent Tiger-Herons. Since first studying the *Birds of Ecuador* field guide I had really wanted to see a Capped Heron. They are so pretty as are all the herons there. We got to see a tiny Zigzag Heron on a nest and then a Rufescent Tiger-Heron similarly on a nest. We also saw some pretty Black-capped Donacobiuses.

We then paddled to the 36-m-high Forest Tower. It was amazing to see how hard the guides and paddlers work to make the experience special for the birders and wildlife enthusiasts. We climbed the tower in the heat and looked high above the canopy at all the birds and lovely landscape. We saw Howler Monkeys and White-necked Puffbird, Bat Falcon, Gilded Barbet, Red-throated Caracara, Ivory-billed Aracari, Bare-necked Fruitcrow, King Vulture, Cream-colored and Scale-breasted Woodpeckers, and the stunningly blue Plum-throated and Spangled Cotingas. We also saw the huge White-throated Toucan! We met a young birder up there from Quebec



with his family who was as keen as the kids I work with here in BC which was nice to see.

On the way back to the lodge from the canoe we ran into a family of Giant Otters. It was an animal I had wanted to see for many years. Giant Otters are endangered with less than 5,000 left in the wild. The otters we saw seemed more scared of us (even though they were huge) and we saw them and heard them scream (they make very loud vocalizations) and dive away with their pup before we could get any good photos. I can't get over how big their heads were! They can even kill large Caimans. A few minutes after this we saw a juvenile Snail Kite fly right over us, another bird I had always wanted to see.

As we kept travelling back to the lodge the sunny 32 C weather quickly turned to a torrential downpour with lightning and thunder, and we hurried back in our ponchos. All the while we were escorted in the dark by fish-eating bats and fireflies. It was cool and scary all at the same time as the boat rapidly filled with water and one of the paddlers was anxiously removing water while they both paddled on through the blinding monsoon rain in the darkness, as we huddled together.

On the second-to-last day we climbed up another tower near the Kichwa Anangu Village. This tower was 45 metres high and on the way up we got great views of Wire-tailed Manakin. At the top we saw Thrush-like Wren and close-ups of Opal-crowned and Opal-rumped Tanagers, Green-backed Trogons, Greater Yellow-headed Vultures, and Yellow-bellied and Blue Dacnis. We also saw uncommon Red-legged Honeycreepers and King Vultures. On the ground we saw a large-eyed Sooty Antbird.

After several hours here we decided to take the boat to the River Islands. Here we looked for the island specialties like Olive-spotted Hummingbird. We saw quite a few birds like the Lesser Wagtail-Tyrant, Parker's Spinetail and Orange-headed Tanager and Ruddy Ground-Dove. We were surprised to see a Burrowing Owl sitting on a log on a sandy beach! They are very uncommon in the Amazon. Behind him were two perched good-looking Yellow-headed Caracaras. We also saw a Little Woodpecker, Fuscous Flycatcher and Spotted Tody-Flycatcher and the very rare Bicolored Conebill.

Our guide did something we didn't like here. He heard a Gray-breasted Crake and proceeded to stamp the ground with his feet to try and flush it. He asked us to join him but we refused. We knew we wouldn't see the crake without flushing it but didn't want to harass it to do so. Flushing rails for a view or photo is just unethical. The guide quickly complied but I sure feel bad for those crakes who must endure that daily just so birders can get their "tick."

During our siesta we went up the forest tower again and saw White-winged Becards (the only becard species we saw), Collared Puffbird, Lettered Aracari, Green and Olive Oropendolas, White-fronted Nunbirds and the very cool Yellow-billed and White-chinned Jacamars.

Birding by canoe was my favourite thing to do in the Amazon. You could see birds up close and not disturb them: the Wattled Jacanas, funny-looking Hoatzins, American Pygmy, Green-and-rufous and Ringed Kingfishers, and Herons, Blue-throated, Piping and Spix's Guans. One day we also had tiny Spider Monkeys come down low to say "Hi" to us as well. It was a truly magical place with wonderful daily encounters. One of the coolest birds we saw while paddling was the Long-billed



Woodcreeper. I had never seen a bird with such a long bill. We also owled/

night-birded from the boat and got great views of owls, potoos and Ladder-tailed Nightjars.

The next day we visited a second river island where we saw pretty Pied Lapwings and cute Collared Plovers. We also saw Oriole Blackbirds, Castle-nau's Antshrike, Spot-breasted Woodpecker and the Olive-Spotted Hummingbird. The guide had to use a machete to cut through and get to an area where we could see the Olive-Spotted Hummingbird. It took over an hour and after many soon-to-be-painful chigger and mosquito bites I got good looks at the Olive-Spotted Hummingbird. My friend Brian Stech had asked us to get a photo of it. He had seen it but never got a photo. After great effort I came away with a marginal record shot of a rather plain hummingbird. It made me rethink if it was worth all the effort. It hurt to walk after and a fiery rash developed from the chiggers.

On the last day in the Amazon, as we were preparing to leave, another group on a canoe along the small river creek saw a Jaguar. We were quite sad as we wished we could see it too and join them, but it was not possible. To add insult to injury another group had seen a rare Pink River Dolphin twenty minutes earlier where we had just been. It's all luck but these were two animals I had wanted to see since childhood. I really could not complain too much and it just gave me more to look forward to on a return trip to the Amazon region. We had an amazing trip and I wouldn't really have changed a minute of it.

I personally ended up with 462 species during our trip. Between the two of us we had recorded a total of 471 species on our 18-day trip throughout Ecuador. We also saw 48 species of Hummingbirds and 225 species of birds in the Amazon region alone.

We wanted to thank all the people who gave us invaluable info to help make our trip successful, especially Mike and Sharon Toochin, Peter Candido, Brian Stech and Roger Foxall.

*Left: Pied Lapwing.*

*There are more details and photographs at Melissa's blog: [daretobird.blogspot.com](http://daretobird.blogspot.com)*



# Close Encounters of the Bird Kind

*Tom Leys, Vancouver*

Giant bird lists are good for those who are beasts of birding, and exotic trips are great for those with exotic amounts of cash to spare, but for me the best of birding is a close encounter with a bird. To find oneself close to a bird is awesome. It is a bit breathtaking, because we share a bird's wildness and subtlety. The challenge is to find these moments. They happen by luck or by stealth in the countryside, but in the city we can simply bribe birds.

## Close Encounters through Luck

There are always a few times when one can get close to a bird by luck. Camped on the Honolulu River in the Cariboo one summer, a Sharp-shinned Hawk slid through the brush on the west side of the creek and alighted on the top of our opened truck door. For a minute or more it rested, dressed like a samurai in full gear, and glared at us as we sat still at our picnic table. Then with a sweep of its wings, without warning, it was off and gone back into the trees. Farther south, on the Chilcotin River, in one of those 53-degree July heat waves that happen there, a young Brown-headed Cowbird joined us in our tent for three days. On this occasion it was a more opportunistic bird visit – the bird, Timmy, would sit in the shade of the tent and then follow us about catching the grasshoppers that jumped away from our feet. It was a similar relationship we had later on with a female Ruffed Grouse which decided one fall that it was safe to forage under our truck and around our campsite. We called her Rebecca, because she looked like a Rebecca, but she made a mistake early one morning by climbing onto a mound and letting a Northern Goshawk take her. That was sad, but it was the way it is.

One of my best lucky bird encounters was with a family of three Canada Jays at Plateau Lake south of Kamloops. I was camped with my brother and we were frying bacon on a campfire one morning when a jay visited. We were delighted to see this jay, which talked to us as it sat on a branch at eye level quite close to us. When it flew off, we turned around to find that two other jays had been taking half of our bacon right out of our frying pan! Talk about

cooperative behaviour using a decoy. We felt like idiots. Is the Canada Jay the national bird now?

## Bribery Works

It's a fact that the best way to get close to birds is by bribing them with food, much like it is said to be for men, though birds are more interesting. One of my favourite winter birding places in the Lower Mainland is Reifel Bird Sanctuary in Delta. I once listened to an American visitor there rail against feeding the birds, which the sanctuary promotes, but that is a fascinating aspect of the place. Chickadees and Red-winged Blackbirds alight on visitors' hands, and Wood Ducks, in all their psychedelic glory, let themselves be hand-fed. I can't think of a better way for people to connect with birds and understand a little of the beauty, the fragility and the strength birds have. For those people whose lives have denied them a connection with wild things and for children, it is a moving moment when a tiny bird holds on to one of their fingers. I can see by peoples' faces when they feed a bird and get really close to it, whether a Chickadee or a Sandhill Crane, what a revelation it is.

Yet for food, birds will come close to us even at home, even unusual birds. One of my wife's co-workers feeds Anna's Hummingbirds from her feeder on her fifth-floor apartment balcony. We are luckier, though. We have an East Vancouver home with a standard 33-foot-wide lot. It is about 15 feet from our front door to the edge of the lot, but in this pathetic 500-square-foot space we have planted various small trees and shrubs and put among them a hummingbird feeder, a seed feeder, a peanut feeder, a suet feeder and a raised bird bath. This patch is today a sort of an oasis on the street since five local trees have been cut down as the city campaigns for "eco-density," an oxymoron of truth gymnastics invented by Vancouver's developers. Yet we are still getting a number of birds, and we are learning from them.

The male Anna's Hummingbird chats to us whenever we go out and particularly when we give him fresh nectar. A pair of crows has trained us to feed them peanuts on our back balcony each fall and winter. Over the summers, without any food being offered or asked

for, the pair has sat on our electrical wire and introduced their young ones to us. The crows might get us up on the weekend for a feed and wait for a meal during the day. Their cleverness is well known around the world, but I think that the intelligence of hummingbirds might be hugely underestimated. We know that their memory is phenomenal – much better than mine. These two species also seem to understand that windows are dangerous, something that the juncos, chickadees, finches, thrushes, robins and other birds do not.

## The Window Problem

As far as windows go, most birds see a reflection of sky and branches, not the cold pane of glass, so attracting birds to our feeders has meant that a lot of birds have flown into our various window panes. When an immature shrike flew straight smack into our bedroom window this fall, we finally decided to do something effective to prevent this. There is a company in Wisconsin, USA, devoted to preventing bird strikes on windows. It is called CollidEscape, and it makes various types of film that adhere to the outside of a window, types that either alert birds to the window's presence or present the window as a solid wall. The latter type is 100% effective in preventing bird strikes, so we ordered it and stuck it on the windows this winter, front and back. It works! We highly recommend it. It is a perforated film, white or any colour or design one chooses to have on the outside, and black on the inside where it sticks to the window and allows one to see through it from inside the house.

The complete window film we chose does make the view outside less distinct, and it does cut down on the light that gets into the house – CollidEscape advertises it as a great assist to cooling a building in the summer time – but it also does two things for the human occupant I did not realize. It gives an occupant total privacy from anybody looking in (unless it is night time and you have a light on in the house) and it allows birds to interact at their feeders utterly unaware that they are being watched. That never happened before we applied the CollidEscape. Two days ago a Cooper's Hawk raided the songbirds at our feeders but missed its target. It rested and

preened itself on a branch a few feet away, oblivious of us. With the film covering, our garden birds are less stressed and more candid in their behaviour, which is beautiful to watch.

The success of this window covering has completely relieved our conscience as far as protecting the wild birds here from window strikes. But there is more! Something I have never understood is why stores that promote backyard bird feeders never promote protection for the birds from cats. Having bird feeders means that ground-feeding birds are also attracted, and cats wait for them. The simple solution we have found to protect birds from cats is to surround the feeders with two-inch galvanized steel stucco mesh, the kind that is sold for about \$65 for 50 feet at Lowes and Home Depot. It works like a charm if you prop it up with poles leaning outward against the mesh circle. At first I thought our 500-square-foot patch of garden was going to look like a concentration camp, but that was years ago and very soon I didn't even notice it, and the birds are safer.

If we like urban bird encounters of a



close, almost intimate kind, the CollidEscape window protection gives us a human-eye view of their most energetic and uninhibited behaviour, and they stay safe from our windows.

#### Note

The illustration above (added by Editor) was taken from the CollidEscape website. See [www.collidescape.org](http://www.collidescape.org).

## Book Review

Clive Keen, Prince George

***Gulls Simplified***, by Pete Dunne and Kevin T. Karlson, Princeton University Press, 206 pages, paperback, \$30.55.

This book will have an odd allure to reluctant gull watchers, which I suspect is the majority of us. It is handsome, beautifully designed and illustrated, written by the incomparable Pete Dunne, and promises to open our eyes to a group of birds that we know we've under-appreciated.

Browsing through the first few pages, I spot a challenge. Could I name this scruffy-looking junior gull? "Give it a pop," says Pete, and so I do, and then read "You are wrong, but look how far you have come already. Only yesterday you wouldn't have even looked at the bird, and now you've progressed to misidentifying it."

Frankly, I wouldn't have continued with the book if it hadn't been for Pete Dunne moments like that. "Life is too short for junior gulls" has been my mantra. If I can tick off adults with a bit of assistance, why on earth should I

bother with all those juveniles and sub-adults? The answer appears to be: because you're just looking at plumage. Gull identification is not just about plumage, and if you get the hang of a more holistic approach, you'll be able to easily identify the adults and then sort out the youngsters into the bargain. Well, perhaps.

The subtitle of the book is "A Comparative Approach to Identification," and that approach is undoubtedly helpful. Instead of trying to memorize all the fieldmarks, we should focus more on comparing gull features one against another. Gulls are usually not solitary, but observable alongside others: very helpful of them. Comparison thus allows the various differentiating features to be seen and internalized *in situ*. Plenty of the book's many photographs therefore show birds in mixed groups, so the features pointed out in the text make sense. The face of the Herring Gull, we are told, looks like pulled taffy, unlike the other species next to it. And, good lord, so it does. The Bonaparte's Gull is petite compared to the more robust Black-headed Gull beside it. Yes indeed. The eye arcs of Franklin's Gulls are a lot more prominent than those of the Laughing Gulls in

their mixed flock. Agreed. All true and helpful.

Of course, it can't all be incisive Pete Dunne moments, so most of the book is rather encyclopedic, giving far greater attention to points of differentiation than can be found in general field guides. And for all the insistence that identification is about more than plumage, those plumages are covered in great detail. Anybody really wanting to ID every gull they come across will find this terrific. But I had the nagging sense, as I struggled through dozens of paragraphs on relative shades of brownness, that it wasn't making me care all that much. Even Pete Dunne was unable to convey the joys of telling those juvies apart. But then, I could never get most people to understand why I find shorebirds, and the details of their identification, so compelling.

In conclusion: if you are a larophile, this book is definitely for you. Buy it by the box load. If, like me, you discover that your self-diagnosis of larophobia is accurate, you should buy it to grace your collection and smile as you skim through a well-crafted book, accepting that it will soon find its place on the shelf, and probably stay there undisturbed.

## It Should Not Need to Be Said

– but, apparently it still does ...

*Andy Buhler, Vernon*

The morning started out quite normally. Marilyn and I went to one of our local coffee spots for a cuppa and a bakery treat. The free newspaper basket there was sort of bare but it did contain a partial copy of Kelowna's December 18 *The Daily Courier*. I scanned the pages to see if there were any comics or undone crosswords. Retirement does that to you. One short article had a very nice picture of a Fieldfare. Interesting, I thought. I wonder where in Canada that bird was seen. Surprise, surprise – it was reported to have been seen by several birders on December 16 during the Salmon Arm CBC. Hmmm ... Salmon Arm was only about an hour's drive from Vernon. Today was the 21st but – just maybe the bird was still around. We seniors have a modicum of optimism – besides it was a warm and sunny first day of winter and all the roads were bare.

We went home and checked eBird Rare Birds for BC. Yes, there was a Fieldfare listed plus scant directions to its location. Google Maps assisted us in locating the spot. We got our bins, a scope, a camera, water bottles, four Mandarin oranges, a hastily drafted map and then headed out to try and locate this lifer.

The Salmon River Road is both narrow and full of twists but otherwise it's a nice rural ramble through some sparsely populated countryside. We eventually found the correct turnoff and knew we were close to the correct spot as there were two birders standing on the roadside with cameras poised and ready. A bit of back-and-forth birder talk solicited the fact that the two fellows had seen, and photographed, the bird earlier today. It was not there now but apparently it came in about every half an hour with a bunch of American Robins. Great – still around. (Positive optimistic mood swing.) We all stood on the verge across the road from a house that still had several trees full of ripe mountain ash berries. We waited patiently for the bird to show.

Not much was happening. Unfortu-

nately, it was now after noon and, as everyone knows, the only things stirring then are mad dogs and Englishmen. I'm British-born so I elected to remain out there. We waited longer.

After a couple of hours and the consumption of two oranges we noticed that the lady of the house, who was about to leave by car, get out of her vehicle and walk the 100 yards up to meet us and the three or four other birders who were all patiently waiting across the road from her home. We thought she might be going to ask us to move along because her home was only one of two on this quiet rural roadway. Instead, we found that she had come to compliment us for staying off of her property.

Why would she need to say that? She then related to us that over the last few days there had been many cars, and up to 25 birders on the road, on the roadsides AND even tromping through her lawn and garden. A couple of days ago, when she had asked a trio to please move off of her lawn their response was, "We have come a long way to see this bird!" as though that entitled them to tread roughshod over her property. We were aghast!

That sort of boorish attitude and behaviour really goes against both common sense and any type of responsible birding. Not only were those "birders" annoying the homeowner, trespassing on her private property without permission, greatly disturbing a rarity that had found this quiet complex to rest and recoup in, they probably irked most other birders who also had come "some distance" to get their hoped for glimpse of a rarity. We understood that the offenders had come from our neighbouring state to the south. Whatever – it needs to be said once again – respect the property, the habitat, the bird and fellow birders.

The ABA Code of Birding Ethics includes the following:

### 1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

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 minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. ...

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.

With the advent of electronic and social media, sightings get reported widely and quickly. People will come! With a rapidly changing climate we are likely to have many more rare birds visiting our province, and we may have more common birds being found out of their normal times of residence. In just the last few weeks here in the Okanagan we have had several reports of unusual sightings – a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, a White-tailed Ptarmigan, the Fieldfare. Even on our Vernon CBC we tallied a late-season Say's Phoebe and a late-remaining Golden-crowned Sparrow. There are bound to be more unusual avians in the future. That means there will be more contacts in the future with homeowners whose properties have been selected by those rarities. It should not need to be said – but, apparently it still does ... reread the following line in your ABA Code of Birding Ethics:

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

Please, always practice responsible birding. Always keep the birds, the homeowners and your fellow birders front of mind.

## Editor's Note

The BCFO Board of Directors has been debating the issue of whether an existing Birding Code of Ethics should be promulgated on behalf of the organization or whether one should be developed to meet the specific needs of the province. The issue will be raised at the 2019 AGM and Conference.



## Featured Species, No. 5

### Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops kennicottii*)

**Status:** Formerly an uncommon resident, now rare. Breeds.

The Western Screech-Owl is similar in appearance to the Eastern Screech-Owl, but has a very different voice, which can be described as an accelerating series of short whistled notes (creating a bouncing ball effect). This species is difficult to find by means other than voice, although once in a while one gets lucky, as I did when I encountered a family of owls in the Carmanah Valley in the early 1990s. It happened again a year later when I spotted an owl sitting at the entrance of a tree cavity in a dead snag at Spire Lake in the upper Kennedy River drainage.

This species breeds from British Columbia south to California, Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, and Mexico. In British Columbia, it breeds in the southern interior, the Fraser Valley, and Vancouver Island, north along the coast to Prince Rupert and the Skeena River Valley, to Terrace and Hazelton. It is not found on Haida Gwaii. Birds on the coast are of the subspecies *M. k. kennicottii*, and apparently come in two morphs, a brown and a grey. I have personally never seen the grey, and all road kills I have seen have been brown.

On Vancouver Island's west coast, this species is a year-round resident. Records go back to 10 March 1936, when two males were collected at Quatsino. *Birds of Pacific Rim National Park* listed 27 records. Of those, 8 were recorded during the breeding season from May to August. D.F. Hatler heard birds on Turtle Island in Barkley Sound on 4 May and on 1 and 2 June 1972. On 1 June, three birds were vocalizing. On 20 June 1972, he also heard a bird on Effingham Island.

There are two breeding records in the BC Nest Record Scheme. On 21 June 1970, William Verbrugge found a live fledgling in the middle of the road that appeared to have collided with a vehicle near Kennedy Lake, and on 8 July 1979, students at the Bamfield Marine Station watched an adult feed a

mouse to one of two fledged young, east of Bamfield.

In the years since then, birds have been recorded during the spring and summer months at other locations, such as the Clayoquot River valley on 11 August 1990, Ursus Creek on 26 May 1994, and Meares Island on 9 June 1994. In addition, a bird was observed in July 1985 on Thornton Island, off Kyuquot Sound. This owl was apparently subsisting on the Leach's Storm-Petrels that come and go from their nesting burrows in the dead of night. On a summer's evening in the early 1990s, in the Carmanah Valley, I observed a family of Western Screech-Owls sitting on a low branch just before sunset. Unfortunately, I could not find precise dates for the latter two observations. It is interesting that all of the summer sightings just mentioned occurred in old-growth forest.

Outside of the summer months, there are at least two other records from old-growth forests, one at Ursus Creek on 28 September 1992 and two birds in the Megin River Valley on 20 October 1993. Hatler et al. mentioned a report of birds seen in a red alder stand (second growth) near Kennedy Lake in the summer of 1973, where an employee of a logging company reported frequent sightings of Western Screech-Owls. They also mentioned road kills, of which there were at least eight during the winters of 1971/72 and 1972/73. In the 1970s, it was not uncommon in winter to see one fly across the highway in front of a vehicle at night, and on a few occasions dead owls were picked up on the roadside. Road kills are of course a possible contributing factor in the subsequent decline of this owl in British Columbia.

That screech-owls have declined in numbers locally on the BC south coast is well known among birders and ornithologists. On the central west coast of Vancouver Island, the last record I know of a living bird, prior to recent

sightings, was on 29 December 2001, when a bird was seen on a Christmas Bird Count near Tofino. There are also two records from Carmanah Point, where a bird was recorded from 22 to



*Western Screech-Owl. Creative Commons photo.*

28 October 1997 and on 3 February 2002. Most of the blame for the bird's demise has been placed on Barred Owls, which are said to prey on screech-owls and which first appeared on Vancouver Island on 26 November 1969.

The Barred Owl was first recorded in the west coast region on 29 May 1993, at Grice Bay, and by the year 2000 records were becoming much more frequent. The arrival of this new predator seems to correspond closely with the decline of screech-owls, as has been suggested elsewhere. However, several other factors should also be taken into account. Barred Owls are not the only predator to kill small owls. Other owls, especially the Great Horned Owl, are known to do so as well. The latter species is said to prefer the forest edge over the deep forest. Could the extensive logging that has occurred on Vancouver Island have favoured this large owl at the expense of the Western Screech-Owl? Certainly, the removal of over 75% of the old-growth forest on

Vancouver Island has not occurred without consequences for the inhabitants of that environment.

Collisions with motor vehicles may also take a toll during the year, but especially after birds disperse for the winter. What is curious is that sightings of birds in the headlights at night while motoring, as well as road kills, occurred mostly in the 1970s and appear to have become an uncommon or rare event long before Barred Owls came on the scene.

The Western Screech-Owl is currently regarded as threatened by the federal government (COSEWIC), and blue-listed by the BC government. Given the paucity of recent sightings, some fear that these birds may become endangered. However, an increase in records in recent years suggests that the situation is not as dire as was believed. On 22 May 2008, a bird was found at Woss Lake by Dan Tyson. The following month, Nigel Jackett found Western Screech-Owls at four locations south and southeast of Nimkish Lake, as well as a bird near Vernon Lake. Although these locations are somewhat outside our west coast region, sightings were subsequently recorded within its boundaries. On 4 July 2008, Nigel Jackett found a family of two adults and two juveniles in Carmanah Provincial Park.

Additional records emerged in subsequent years, with a bird heard by Bernard Schroeder in the Artlish River valley on 27 and 29 June 2011, and by Barb and Mike McGrenere along Caycuse Main on 10 July 2012. These were followed by three records for 2014. On 4 January, a bird was photographed in a backyard in Ucluelet by resident Helen Williams, and on 21 March, one (and possibly two) was heard at Carmanah by Bernard Schroeder. On 4 November 2014, a road-killed bird was picked up near Long Beach. Further confirmation that birds still survive in the old-growth rainforests of Clayoquot Sound came on 6 October 2015, when the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, based in Tofino, made an audio recording of a Western Screech-Owl at the upper end of Sydney Inlet. On 13 September of the following year, the trust recorded two birds vocalizing at the same location. On 6 November, a bird was photographed at the base of Catface Mountain, northwest of Tofino.

The first six months of 2017 pro-

duced three records, all of them in Clayoquot Sound. On 18 May, a bird was found and photographed by Toby Theriault at Boat Basin, and three days later one was heard by Garret Beisel at the head of Clayoquot Arm of Kennedy Lake. On 11 and 12 June, two birds were heard by Ian Cruickshank calling at Boat Basin.

*This is an extract from Adrian Dorst's The Birds of Vancouver Island's West Coast, UBC Press, which covers 360 species in its 550 pages. The book can be ordered at [ubcpres.ca](http://ubcpres.ca).*



## Briefing 2

### Spiders Can Fly?

Well, (most) birds certainly do. Swifts (family *Apodidae*), notably, spend all their lives on the wing except to nest. Some remain on the wing for months at a time. Most certainly, they are aerial feeders, consuming flies, dragonflies, aphids, ants, wasps and bees – and spiders. Which raises the question “where do swifts encounter spiders?” Answer: in the air. Next question: “how do spiders become airborne?”

It has long been known that spiders can become airborne and travel long distances in the atmosphere. Charles Darwin recorded hundreds of spiders landing on *The Beagle* at sea. In recent times, spiders have been captured at altitudes up to 4,000 metres. Candidate forces for raising spiders aloft, discussed ever since Darwin's day, are aerodynamic drag on spider silk and atmospheric electrostatic forces. The former has attracted most interest, yet spiders are most definitely not aerodynamically designed (in fact, they don't actually fly: their aerial travel is more accurately described as “ballooning” or “kiting”). And, perversely, they are observed to take off only in winds of less than 3 metres/second (about 11 km/hour), which rather discourages aerodynamic drag as the prime source of lift, though it may help guide the spiders' flight, once airborne. On the other hand, atmospheric potential gradients typically vary from volts/metre in stable air to kilovolts/metre in stormy weather. This

is the phenomenon that directs the path of atmospheric lightning. Further, at the surface, potentials typically peak around sharp, upstanding objects, such as tree branches or leaf tips (and lightning rods). The potential gradient on leaf tips and small branches can provide sufficient force to lift spiders into the air (bees also take advantage of this force around flowers).

How do the spiders detect a favourable condition for liftoff? Spiders' legs are covered with exceedingly fine hairs called *trichobothria* that are mechanically activated by the atmospheric electric field. Under sufficiently strong stimulation the spiders are motivated to stand “on tiptoe” and to release a silk dragline that, in turn, enables them to draw out flight silk that responds strongly to the electric field. Then they jump off, perhaps to get quickly to the bottom of the garden, perhaps to travel hundreds of kilometres to colonize new territory, or perhaps to meet a swift end.

Much remains to be learned. Which spiders use this mode of travel? Smaller species and juveniles may certainly do so, but it is rather hard (and terrifying) to imagine a flying mature Tarantula. Spiders are significant in global food/energy chains inasmuch as they consume between 400 and 800 million tonnes of biomass globally each year. They also form a significant fraction of annual biomass movements. It is further suspected that other creatures, such as spider mites and Lepidopteran caterpillars, may travel in a similar mode. And in all these matters, the diet of swifts is a significant factor.

#### Reference

Morley, E.L. and Robert, D. 2018. Electric fields elicit ballooning in spiders. *Current Biology* 28: 2324-2330. doi: [doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2018.05.057](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2018.05.057).

NOTE: This paper describes the phenomena of atmospheric static electricity in some detail and experiments conducted by the authors to demonstrate spiders' ability to use it to lift off the surface. It does not mention swifts.

Summary by M. Church.



# Gone Fishing

Chris Siddle, Vernon

## Of Grey Pigs and Party Pies

The big news for BC birders in December 2018 and January 2019 was the twitchable Fieldfare associating with American Robins at the intersection of Krick and Kernaghan streets about 10 kilometres south of Salmon Arm. BC's second documented Fieldfare, this Eurasian thrush is a major prize for listers, an ABA Code 4 species, very rare wherever it occurs in North America. Check *Rare Birds of North America* by Steve Howell, Ian Lewington, and Will Russell for a summary of the Fieldfare's occurrence in North America up to about 2014.

The Fieldfare mainly turns up as a very rare stray in Atlantic Canada and the Great Lakes provinces. Records in the West are even fewer, which makes sense once you study a map of the bird's mainly European range. Wherever our Fieldfare originated, it had come a long way to find a place for itself among the robins of southern BC.

The Fieldfare is a visually striking bird. It's slightly larger than an average American Robin and in the words of *Handbook of the Western Palearctic* is a "large, bold, long-tailed, often noisy thrush, with rather rakish form both on ground and in the air." The Fieldfare wears a complex of bright greys, brownish greys, some blacks, orange-gold, and rich medium browns (with white underwings).

I saw the Fieldfare late on the afternoon of 18 December, the day after it was first discovered by Roger Beardmore, Nan Prittie, Peter Lawless and Sharon Lawless during the Salmon Arm Christmas Bird Count. The bird's rarity in North America motivated me to do some reading about this strikingly patterned thrush on its home ground.

### Folk Names

Scientifically, the Fieldfare is known universally as *Turdus pilaris*. Before Carl Linnaeus introduced the system of Latin binomials used by scientists to uniquely name each and every living organism that has been officially described, birds and other critters were known by folk names. As field guides evolved during the 20th century most folknames were dropped in favour of

one common name that ordinary folks could use instead of a Latin binomial. Thus, for example, the Bobolink was also commonly called the Ricebird or the Reedbird, but these names were eventually dropped in favour of the onomatopoeic Bobolink. The Fieldfare had dozens of local, common names, ranging from Storm Bird in Norfolk to Big Felt in Ireland. Many of its local folk names, like Fellfor (Lancashire), Felfaw (Yorkshire), and Felter (Surrey) involve variations of fel, Old English for field.

"The name means field wanderer or traveler; as in wayfarer" (*Fauna Britannica*). Britain's older literary references are often associated with winter such as Geoffrey Chaucer's "frosty feldefares." Four hundred years later another poet, John Clare (1793–1864), linked Fieldfares with winter in his poem "The Shepherd's Calendar" which is somewhat less well known than Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.

*Flocking fieldfares, speckled  
like the thrush,*

*Picking the red haw from the  
sweeing bush*

*That come and go on winter's  
chilling wing*

*And seem to share no sym-  
pathy with Spring.*

The Welsh name for the Fieldfare, *so-cen llwyd*, means "grey pig," supposedly because the Fieldfare can be a noisy bird. The Salmon Arm bird was largely or entirely silent (at least no one mentioned vocalizations in their eBird reports) but to get a sense of how loud this species can be, play the call included in David Sibley's cell phone app, *Sibley Birds*, version 2. You'll hear a harsh wooden rattle instead of melodic notes one might normally expect from a thrush.

### Range and Migration

The Fieldfare has an extensive Eurasian range, breeding from Iceland, Fennoscandia, and eastern France eastwards to central Siberia and northwest China. It winters, sometimes abundantly, throughout Great Britain and across central and southern Europe. Across northern Europe, it is one of the ten most abundant breeding birds, numbering ten million pairs. Its breeding range has expanded southwards into cen-

tral Europe since the early nineteenth century, spreading into France in 1953, Denmark in 1965 and Belgium in 1967. The United Kingdom is thought to support one of the largest wintering populations, some 700,000 individuals, though overall numbers vary depending upon food availability in the UK and on the continent. Most arrive in England in October and November, often arriving across a broad front. Thousands may be seen in a single day passing known spots on England's eastern coast. And at night thousands have been detected passing over urban areas.

### Passage and Winter Habitat

In winter the Fieldfare avoids dense woods and favours farmland, especially orchards, hedgerows, pastures and stubble fields. In warm weather it eats a diversity of invertebrates, with earthworms and beetles most frequently taken. Throughout the fall and winter it eats fruit as many thrushes do. The Fieldfare is a highly gregarious species, flocking with its own kind as well as other thrushes such as the Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) and Starlings. In harsh weather, it readily shifts into suburban and urban areas, especially if it can find fruit. The berries of ornamental shrubs become important foods at such stressful times. While not as invariably protective of its patch as say, a Townsend's Solitaire is of its juniper tree, the Fieldfare can become aggressive towards other individual fruit eaters. Fieldfares like mountain ash berries (called rowan berries in the United Kingdom) and don't migrate in large numbers to invade the British Isles until the birds have exhausted the Scandinavian crop.

### The Fieldfare as Human Food

All of the Fieldfare's fruit-fueled roundness of belly did not go unnoticed by hungry humans. Mark Cocker writes:

"One suspects that the same roundness that nourishes our affection for [thrushes] was once at work in our parallel desire for them as food. Quite simply thrushes look good enough to eat. They have probably been part of the human diet wherever they occur and their bones have been retrieved from European cave deposits dating to the last ice age. Even 12,000 years later they are still eaten in parts of the continent..." (*Birds and People*).

In Sweden, the autumn arrival of Fieldfare flocks was a highly anticipated event, marking people's last opportunities to "gather in edible birds" (*Birds*



in *Winter*). A much repeated snippet in most Fieldfare accounts is that one of the earliest literary references to thrush-catching occurs in Homer's *The Odyssey*. The ancient Greeks caught thrushes en masse in a net thrown over a thicket where the birds are roosting. Romans served Fieldfares and other thrushes at banquets. In Tunisia, formerly part of the Roman Empire, a Roman-style mosaic dating from the second century AD shows five thrushes bundled together like carrots we'd buy at the store. "Another Roman mosaic discovered near Ingolstadt in Germany, dating to around AD 150, shows hunters catching the strikingly beautiful – and from all accounts, deliciously tasty – Fieldfare..." (*Birds and People*).

Hungry Huns loved thrush flesh. Thrush-hunting survived for almost 2,000 years in parts of Germany. "In the seventeenth century Prussian trappers were said to have caught 600,000 birds during one season, although another historian put the annual total of Fieldfare killed with slingshots at 1.2 million birds in eastern Prussia alone" (*Birds and People*).

Brutish Brits also capitalized on Fieldfares' highly gregarious habits. An English "sportsman" wrote that on 2 February 1831 the passing of a storm bunched up the birds and made shooting particularly rewarding:

"An extraordinary influx of fieldfares, not less than 20,000 dispersed round Keyhaven and Westhover, and so tame that you might have kept firing from morning till night, though I found it impossible to get more than five at one shot.... It was quite laughable when the storm ceased this afternoon ... and hear ... the whole country for miles around ... in one incessant state of siege" (*Birds Britannica*).

In Germany in the hills east of Cologne lies Bergisches Land where there was a widespread tradition of trapping Fieldfares and other winter thrushes until the twentieth century. Some local place names and fairs were named for hunting Fieldfares, like the village of Bergisch Born with its annual fair called Kammetsvogelfesttage (Fieldfare celebration days) (*Birds and People*).

France still allows trapping of thrushes in places such as the Massif Central. A simple trap, of a heavy stone balanced over a depression, is called a tendelle and is used to kill Fieldfares. In 2009 permission was granted by the



Roger Beardmore took this great photograph of the Salmon Arm Fieldfare on 17 December 2018, and set listers' hearts racing.

government for the legal use of 20,000 tendelles, but the practice has become highly controversial. In their own defense, thrush hunters claim it's their right to follow a tradition that dates back to ancient Greece, while environmentalists paint the practice as barbaric (*Birds and People*).

#### Fun Food

A fad for "entertainment dishes" in the Middle Ages resulted in several European courts and other places of wealth serving guests pies in which live thrushes, sometimes including fieldfares, had been imprisoned. The birds, nicely cleaned up, were tucked into the pie in the last stage of baking just before serving. The birds' panicked escape from the just-cut crust added entertainment and hilarity to the gathering of guests.

#### A Final Note

Fieldfares will nest semi-colonially in Scandinavia. To minimize losses of chicks to predators, the adult members of the colony perform "a unique communal mobbing tactic involving directional defecation" (*Handbook of Birds of the World*). In Volume 5 of *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa* there's an interesting line drawing of a flying Fieldfare veering away from a Tawny Owl, its airborne feces on an accurate trajectory to the owl's face and breast. Imagine

the members of a Fieldfare colony unloading their sticky feces in a series of exciting, noisy "bombing runs" and you can perhaps understand why *Handbook* reports in its slightly telegraphic style that "attacks persist until predator retreats, but by then its plumage may be so soiled and matted that it is grounded, and several reported dying as a result." As far as I could tell from my reading, no human intruder has yet to expire from such an attack.

#### References

References consulted include *Birds and People* by Mark Cocker (2013); *Birds Britannica* by Mark Cocker and Richard Mabey (2005); *Fauna Britannica* by Steven Buczacki (2002) which was a treasury of information about birds' folk names; *Birds in England* by Andy Brown and Phil Gore (2005); *Birds by Night* by Graham Martin (1990); *Rare Birds of North America* by Steve Howell, Ian Lewington, and Will Russell (2014); *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa* (BWP) chiefly edited by Stanley Cramp (1988); *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (HBW) Volume 10, edited by Josep del Hoyo *et alia* (2005); *Winter Birds* by Lars Jonsson (2015, 2017); *British Thrushes* by Eric Simms (1978); *Birds and Berries* by Barbara and David Snow (1988) and *Weather and Bird Behavior* by Norman Elkins (1983).

## Briefing 3

### Climate Clobbers Shorebirds

Climate affects organisms in many ways, including reproductive success. Successful reproduction in birds depends on many aspects related to climate, including food availability, direct weather-related nest failure, and – it appears – predation by both animals and birds. A group of investigators has studied the relation between climate change and nest predation in shorebirds, a well-studied, cosmopolitan group of species with high similarity in nesting style. The researchers examined records from more than 38,000 nests in 237 populations of 111 species at 149 locations worldwide, recorded across a time span of up to 73 years (but mostly about 50 years). The data reveal that, historically (1943–1999), total seasonal nest predation was  $43\pm3\%$ , increasing to  $57\pm2\%$  in the 21st century (2000–2016).

In the tropics and southern temperate zone the change in predation is not significant, though a modestly increasing trend is detected there. In the northern temperate zone and arctic, however, the increase in nest predation is highly significant, increasing from  $35\pm6\%$  in the 20th century to  $64\pm5\%$  since 2000. The effect is greatest in the Arctic where there has been a three-fold increase. Whereas in northeastern North America and Siberia predation in the 20th century was less than 25%, these regions are now the global “hot spots” for shorebird nest predation, experiencing values as high as 70% or more. Charadrii (sandpipers and allies) have been relatively more severely affected since 2000 than Scolopaci (plovers and allies).

You might expect that predation would be relatively highest in the tropics, where potential nest predators are more abundant and, indeed, in the 20th century, this was the case. The dramatic increase in shorebird nest predation north of latitude  $50^\circ\text{N}$  since about 1990, however, now makes this part of the world the most difficult place to raise your family if you are a shorebird. Both daily and seasonal rates of predation are highly correlated with the rate of change of mean annual temperature and

with the year-to-year variations in temperature, consistent with our knowledge that climate warming, including some extremely warm years, has been greatest in the Arctic.

Various reasons are proposed for the increase in nest predation in the far north. They include the crash of small rodent populations (lemmings, voles) with the reduction in seasonal duration of snow cover leading to predators paying increased attention to shorebird nests, increase of predatory animals (e.g. foxes) with the moderating climate, and perhaps increased exposure of nests as seasonal patterns of grass growth and grazing by browsing animals (e.g. Snow Geese) change.

Such high incidence of nest predation as reported from the far north, where the still relatively short summer season discourages second attempts at nesting, contributes significantly to population declines. Northern hemisphere shorebirds, especially subarctic and Arctic breeders, face other population pressures as well. As a result of climate change, the timing of breeding cycles may now be de-synchronized from the time of maximum food availability; there has been significant loss of migratory resting areas; and the birds are still hunted on some wintering grounds. Altogether, the long-distance migrants that breed in the far north face

a formidable set of circumstances. It is no wonder that their populations are in serious decline.

#### References

Kubeka, V. and five others. 2018. “Global pattern of nest predation is disrupted by climate change in shorebirds.” *Science* 362: 680–683.

See also “A Knotty Climate,” *BC Birding* 26(3): 19 (September, 2016) and “Shorebirds are Tanking,” *BC Birding* 27(1): 24–25 (March, 2017).

Summary by M. Church

### More Than A Mouthful

*John Gordon, Langley/Cloverdale*

One of the most insidious creatures to have been introduced to Canada and the Lower Mainland is the Bullfrog. Below, a Great Blue Heron I photographed in Pitt Meadows tries the difficult task of swallowing its catch. An indigenous species would be smaller and therefore an easier meal. The Heron eventually flew off, the frog's fate unknown.

An adult Bullfrog can weigh a kilogram when fully grown and spawn 20,000 eggs at a time; many will survive as they are unpalatable to most predators.





## Briefing 4

### Kittiwakes and the PDO

Red-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa brevirostris*) are Arctic seabirds that, exceptionally, rely on food resources of the off-shore, deeper ocean. Eighty percent of the world's population of this species breeds on St. George Island, one of the Pribilof Islands, northwest of the Aleutians in the Bering Sea. They forage in the Bering Sea as far west as the Kamchatka Peninsula and the Kuril Islands of East Asia. They feed largely on myctophid fish (lanternfish) while also consuming squid and other forage fish. They can feed nocturnally when the lanternfish rise to near sea surface and their presence is revealed by their bioluminescent photophores (light producing organs). Lanternfish are amongst the most common fish in the world oceans.

Over the past 40 years, the Red-legged Kittiwake population has undergone a drastic decline and recovery. In 1989, the St. George Island population had declined to only about 45% of its early 1970s size, but by 2010 it had recovered to near the original numbers. Climate-induced fluctuations in food supply were suspected to be the reason for the population changes. To study this, investigators from the University of Alaska analyzed the chemistry of head feathers (moulted in February) and first primary wing feathers (post-breeding moult) from 180 St. George Island birds, 77 of them living and 103 museum specimens. Feather collection dates range from 1913 to 2016, though most of the specimens date to 1975 or later.

The feather chemistry reveals diet details. The researchers focused attention on corticosterone, a steroid hormone that in most animals (but not humans) is associated with diet and with stress induced by limited food intake. In kittiwakes, it is found in feathers and it is stable, so that the museum specimens could yield useful data. Results revealed positive correlations between corticosterone in head feathers (winter moult) and February sea ice extent, and with pan-Arctic seasonal sea ice trends. There were also high nitrogen isotope variations in the sample, suggesting that the apparently food-stressed birds have shifted food sources. This could mean that foraging in cold winters is restrict-

ed to areas – possibly nearer shore – with open leads and that, to survive such winters, the birds increasingly rely on consuming energy stored in fatty tissue. In sum, the authors infer that the steroid reflects reduced feeding due to ice cover on the sea.

A second intriguing correlation was found between corticosterone in wing primaries (summer moult) and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), a climate index reflecting annual mean temperatures in the North Pacific Ocean. Positive PDO indicates warm waters off western North America, including the Alaskan south coast and the Bering Sea, and cold waters off Japan and East Asia, while negative PDO indicates the reverse. Low corticosterone levels in the birds were associated with positive PDO indices (that is, a negative correlation), implying low food stress in warmer times. The researchers speculate that this could be associated either with increased abundance of their preferred prey (the lanternfish) or with sea conditions that make it easy to catch them.

They also noted that summer corticosterone levels are correlated with those of the preceding winter, implying some inter-seasonal persistence in physical conditions brought about by a hard winter. But the correlation is not compelling and it is otherwise known that the birds can recover from a period of limited food intake within a period of several weeks once food becomes abundant. The inter-season correlation may, then, indicate some more persistent cyclic condition in the lanternfish population. Variation in isotopes of carbon, nitrogen and sulphur, assayed in the feathers, imply that there have been

seasonal and longer-term changes in the birds' food supply, but none indicates any major net change over the 100-year span of the data.

Food supply strongly influences bird fitness, hence likely breeding success. Persistent food supply anomalies affect population size. The period from 1960 to 1977, including the beginning of the dramatic decline of the St. George Island kittiwakes, was a period of persistently negative PDO, indicating hard winters and extensive sea ice. After winter 1977, the PDO turned positive and persisted in that mode until 2010, signifying warmer winters and declining ice cover. There is a 12-year lag between the turn of the PDO and the commencement of population recovery at St. George Island, the reason for which is unknown and may even signify that climate is not the dominant factor mediating population dynamics in these birds. Whatever the detailed circumstances of their food supply (which remain uncertain) the Red-legged Kittiwakes' success does appear to be coupled to weather conditions, especially winter conditions in the Bering Sea.

#### Reference

Will, A.P., Kitaiskaia, E.V. and Kitaysky, A.S. 2018. "Red-legged kittiwake feathers link food availability to environmental changes in the Bering Sea." *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 593: 261-274. doi: [org/10.3354/meps12509](https://doi.org/10.3354/meps12509).

Summary by M. Church

---

*Below: Another of Melissa Hafting's photographs from her Ecuador trip – a Gilded Barbet.*





# The Reflective Birder

Clive Keen, Prince George

## Recruitment 101

“Why do you go birdwatching?” you were asked, and I bet you gave the wrong answer, and thereby flunked Recruitment 101. You’ll have said something like “I really like shorebirds” or “Gulls are such an interesting challenge” or “I’m aiming at 700 ABA birds” or a score of other hopelessly bad answers. The first thing you have to understand is that the questioner doesn’t actually mean “Why do *you* go birdwatching?” unless it is a disguised accusation: “Birdwatching! You! Jeez!” If it’s a genuine question, which is likely in this relatively enlightened age, it is asking whether the activity is rewarding enough to give it a try. So it’s a rare and wonderful recruitment opportunity, and since we need recruits aplenty if we are to save the world, you must read on and get your Recruitment 101 credits.

The first thing to do is forget about what currently attracts you, and put yourself in the headspace of a potential recruit. “The beauty of the birds” might sound a terrific answer, worthy of a smile from the Prof, but not so. It takes a lot of looking through binoculars, and gradually learning how to see, before the beauty of birds can be really appreciated. To an experienced birder, a Savannah Sparrow in spring may be a thing of great beauty, but don’t try selling that to a muggle. A much better answer is to say that very few people realize how many different birds there are all around us.

At the newbie level, learning something about birds has the same sort of attraction as learning about knots. It’s nice to get a mastery of something arcane, with all the bragging rights it entails. “Ah, that’s a granny knot; it’ll come undone, unlike a reef, but in this case I’d use a bowline.” Long-standing birdwatchers will have forgotten about the joys of knowing something that most don’t, because they recognize that

the more they know, the more they don’t know. Bragging is a thing of the past for them, but not for newbies. So, let the newcomers luxuriate in the thought of becoming one of The Elect. In fact, you can add an extra layer to it by talking about the joys of finding a rarity – “It’s like finding a unicorn!” The thought of becoming a know-all celebrity beguiles many a beginner.

Another thing that works for potential recruits is a simple statement of fact. “On the journey here I saw sixty-three species of birds,” said I to one particular muggle, and he perked up instantly. “Oh! I get it now! That’s what you do birdwatching!” Ta da. He was recruited. The sporting aspect of birding attracted him, as it does many, and he promptly bought his binoculars and field guide.

Something that works on even more

people is talking about the joys of being out in nature with a purpose. A desire to have some sort of relationship with nature seems to be inbuilt in all of us, but these days, few people seem to know how to achieve it. Huntin’ fishin’ and shootin’ used to fill the need for many, but currently repel even more. “It’s like hunting without the bloodshed,” as a result can be a great recruitment line. I personally use a softer sell, explaining that when I’m out in nature I’ve always got something to keep me interested because birds are everywhere, but it also gives a chance to see the mammals and other great critters that you’d otherwise never be in a position to find.

Use any permutation of the approaches above, and you’ll pass Recruitment 101, but to get high marks you must follow up with a simple offer, something like “I’m going out birdwatching on Saturday for a couple of hours. Why don’t you come along? I’ll lend you some binoculars.” Choose your spot well, and you’ll have a group of professional assistants to complete the recruitment process. Those pesky birds themselves.

## Quite the Consolation

John Gordon, Langley/Cloverdale

On January 17 a non-birder located a Northern Hawk Owl in Pitt Meadows. I was not aware of this, but on the following day Carlo Giovanella and I were attempting a five-falcon day and were missing just a Gyr Falcon, having found a Prairie and Peregrine Falcon, Merlin and American Kestrel earlier in the day. While heading through Neaves Road and Dewdney on our way home we spotted a bird atop a 30-metre high Lombardy Poplar. There was quite a wind blowing and the bird was moving back and forth. Thinking it might be a Gyr Falcon we stopped. It was far enough away that we had to photograph it to confirm the ID. But there was then no doubt: it was the Northern Hawk Owl. We are told it is only the fourth for the Lower Mainland in as many decades.

*The Northern Hawk Owl, photographed by John Gordon.*



## BCFO Listers' Corner

### 2018 Lists

Welcome to the 2018 BCFO Lister's Corner. **Tables:** the number under “ % ” is the percentage of an individual's total compared to the total species in that particular area/list. “**incr**” indicates an increase from 2017. “ \* ” preceding a total indicates a total wasn't submitted for 2018. **Red bold** indicates largest increase from the previous year. **Red italics** indicates reaching of a significant plateau or other significant increase.

**NOTE:** If a total is not supplied after two consecutive years the listing will be dropped.

Submissions were received from 65 members, three less than 2017. There were six new members to Listers' Corner: Peter Boon, John Chandler, Rosemary Clapham, Josh Inman, Krista Kaptein, and Ben Keen. 2017 totals were used for six members who failed to provide 2018 totals.

**BC: Ken Willis** had the highest increase at 33. Eight new submitters joined this list. *Sharon Toochin & Dale Jensen* reached the 450 level and *Nathan Hentze* surpassed 400. *Monica Nugent* added 15 to jump past the 350 mark.

BRITISH COLUMBIA - 522					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	478	Mike Toochin	92	3	475
2	<b>453</b>	<b>Sharon Toochin</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>447</b>
3	451	Tom Plath	86.4	1	450
4	<b>450</b>	<b>Dale Jensen</b>	<b>86.2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>447</b>
5	441	Roger Foxall	84.5	3	438
5	441	Wayne Weber	84.5	1	440
7	*441	Jo Ann MacKenzie	84.5		*441
8	439	Dan Tyson	84.1	1	438
9	437	Carlo Giovanella	83.7	2	435
10	433	Peter Candido	83.0	4	429
10	433	Brian Self	83.0	3	430
10	433	Guy Monty	83.0		*433
13	431	Val George	82.6	2	429
13	431	Brian Stech	82.6	5	426
15	427	Tony Greenfield	81.8	1	426

BRITISH COLUMBIA - 522					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
16	426	Murray Brown	81.6	2	424
16	426	Kevin Neill	81.6	3	423
18	425	Melissa Hafting	81.4	9	416
19	422	Ilya Povalyaev	80.8	5	417
20	418	Mike McGrenere	80.1	1	417
21	*417	Lloyd Esralson	79.9		417
22	414	Dick Cannings	79.3	1	*413
23	410	Keith Riding	78.5	3	407
24	409	Larry Cowan	78.4	1	408
24	409	John Voos	78.4	2	407
26	402	Bryan Gates	77		402
27	<b>401</b>	<b>Nathan Hentze</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>397</b>
27	401	Len Jellicoe	76.8	1	400
27	401	Russ Tkachuk	76.8		401
30	398	Hank Vanderpol	76.2		398
31	397	Barbara Begg	76.1		397
32	396	Chris Charlesworth	75.9	5	391
33	386	Gary Davidson	73.9	3	383
34	382	Rand Rudland	73.2	1	381
35	380	Quentin Brown	72.8	4	376
36	373	Don Wilson	71.5	2	371
37	372	Eric Tull	71.3	1	371
38	371	John Chandler	71.1		new
39	368	Ken Morgan	70.5		368
40	366	Laird Law	70.1		366
41	363	Bruce Whittington	69.5		365
42	362	Gwynneth Wilson	69.3	3	359
43	361	Art Martell	69.2		361
44	<b>359</b>	<b>Monica Nugent</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>344</b>
45	355	Ben Keen	68.0		new
46	351	Andy Buhler	67.2	1	350
46	351	Marilyn Buhler	67.2	1	350
48	345	John Gordon	66	6	339
49	335	Paul Clapham	64.2	9	326
50	333	Josh Inman	63.8		new
50	333	John Sprague	63.8		333
52	324	Ted Goshulak	62.1		324
53	323	Dorothy Copp	61.9	1	322
54	322	Peter Boon	61.7		new
55	316	John Hodges	60.5	2	314
56	313	Neill Vanhinsberg	60	13	300
57	311	Janice Arndt	59.6	2	309
58	308	Lee Harding	59.0		new
59	300	Mike Mulligan	57.5		300



BRITISH COLUMBIA - 522					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
60	297	Rosemary Clapham	56.9		new
61	290	Kathryn Clouston	56	11	279
62	283	Krista Kaptein	54.2		new
62	<b>283</b>	<b>Ken Willis</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>250</b>
64	*279	Susanne Hayer	53.4		279
65	274	Eric Newton	52.5		new

**Canada:** **Monica Nugent** had the largest increase with 14. Of note **Tom Plath**, a 500 club member, raised his total by 10 to move into second place. *Eric Tull* and *Dan Tyson* achieved the 500 mark. *John Vooy's* added 2 passing the 450 plateau. Husband and wife duo *Andy & Marilyn Buhler* both reached 400.

CANADA - 691					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	549	Roger Foxall	79	2	547
2	<b>527</b>	<b>Tom Plath</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>517</b>
3	*526	Jo Ann MacKenzie	76.1		*526
4	512	Mike Toochin	74	3	509
5	<b>501</b>	<b>Eric Tull</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>499</b>
6	<b>500</b>	<b>Dan Tyson</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>498</b>
7	496	Sharon Toochin	71.8	4	492
8	495	Brian Self	71.6	1	494
9	490	Dale Jensen	70.9	1	489
10	483	Wayne Weber	69.9	2	481
11	478	Kevin Neill	69.2	3	475
11	478	Russ Tkachuk	69.2		478
13	474	Peter Candido	68.6	4	470
13	474	Carlo Giovanella	68.6	1	473
15	473	Dick Cannings	68.5	2	*471
16	472	Mike McGrenere	68.3	1	471
17	466	Murray Brown	67.4	4	462
18	461	Keith Riding	66.7	3	458
19	459	Brian Stech	66.4	5	454
20	457	Ilya Povalyaev	66.1	4	453
21	456	Mike Mulligan	66		456
22	455	Larry Cowan	65.8	2	453
23	454	Barbara Begg	65.7		454
23	454	Len Jellicoe	65.7		454
25	<b>450</b>	<b>John Vooy's</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>448</b>
26	448	Rand Rudland	64.8		448
27	447	Art Martell	64.7		447
27	447	Nathan Hentze	64.7	3	444
29	446	Chris Charlesworth	64.5		446
29	446	Hank Vanderpol	64.5		446

CANADA - 691					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
31	*440	Lloyd Esralson	63.7		440
32	438	Tony Greenfield	63.4	1	437
33	433	Ken Morgan	62.7		433
34	<b>431</b>	<b>Monica Nugent</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>412</b>
35	423	Bryan Gates	61.2		423
36	422	Quentin Brown	61.1	3	419
37	420	Don Wilson	60.8	8	412
37	*420	Gwynneth Wilson	60.8		420
38	419	John Sprague	60.6		419
39	418	Sandra Eadie	60.5		*418
40	414	Gary Davidson	59.9	2	412
41	402	Janice Arndt	58.2		402
42	401	Josh Inman	58		new
43	<b>400</b>	<b>Andy Buhler</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>399</b>
43	<b>400</b>	<b>Marilyn Buhler</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>399</b>
45	399	John Gordon	57.7	3	396
46	396	Laird Law	57.3	3	393
47	390	John Chandler	56.4		new
48	389	Ted Goshulak	56.3	2	387
49	381	Dorothy Copp	55	1	380
50	366	Paul Clapham	53	8	358
51	363	John Hodges	52.5	2	361
52	362	Neill Vanhinsberg	52.4		new
53	354	Peter Boon	51.2		new
54	350	Lee Harding	50.7		new

**ABA (Continental):** **Melissa Hafting** had the biggest improvement with 42. *Eric Tull* added 20 topping the 700 mark. *Monica Nugent* made 600 by adding nine.

ABA (Continental) - 1,013					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	799	Hank Vanderpol	79	4	795
2	788	Mike Toochin	77.8	3	785
3	783	Roger Foxall	77.3		783
4	778	Mike Mulligan	76.8	4	774
5	740	Russ Tkachuk	73		740
6	731	Wayne Weber	72	1	730
7	*723	Art Martell	71.4		723
8	722	John Vooy's	71.3	2	720
9	719	Dorothy Copp	71.0		719
10	714	Brian Stech	70.5	2	712
11	711	Dale Jensen	70.2	1	710
12	*710	Jo Ann MacKenzie	70.1		*710
13	<b>709</b>	<b>Eric Tull</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>689</b>
14	704	Sharon Toochin	69.5	3	701



ABA (Continental) - 1,013					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
15	<b>696</b>	<b>Melissa Hafting</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>654</b>
16	685	Chris Charlesworth	67.6	6	679
16	685	Dan Tyson	67.6	1	684
18	669	Brian Self	66		670
19	666	Gary Davidson	65.7	8	658
20	663	Peter Candido	65.4	4	659
21	653	Nathan Hentze	64.5	4	649
22	652	Keith Riding	64.4	2	650
23	649	John Sprague	64.1		649
24	641	Andy Buhler	63.3	1	640
24	641	Marilyn Buhler	63.3	1	640
24	641	Dick Cannings	63.3	2	*639
27	634	Kevin Neill	62.6	1	633
28	631	Don Wilson	62.3	7	624
28	631	Gwynneth Wilson	62.3	1	630
30	624	Barbara Begg	61.6		646
31	623	Carlo Giovanella	61.5	1	622
32	618	Mike McGrenere	61	2	616
33	614	Tony Greenfield	60.6		614
34	605	Len Jellicoe	59.7	3	602
35	<b>600</b>	<b>Monica Nugent</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>591</b>
35	*600	Lloyd Esralson	59.2		*600
37	594	Sandra Eadie (ON)	58.6		*594
38	584	Ken Morgan	57.7		584
39	574	Larry Cowan	56.7	1	573
40	570	Bryan Gates	56.3		570
41	566	Rand Rudland	55.9	4	562
42	561	Laird Law	55.4	2	559
43	557	Murray Brown	55	2	555
44	553	Val George	54.6	3	550
45	532	John Chandler	52.5		new
46	523	Clive Keen	52		523
47	518	Ted Goshulak	51.1	1	517
48	518	Josh Inman	51.1		new
49	466	Lee Harding	46		new
50	441	Paul Clapham	43.5	4	437
51	439	Janice Arndt	43.3		439
52	<b>*419</b>	<b>Susanne Hayer</b>	<b>41.4</b>		<b>419</b>
53	410	John Hodges	40.5	2	408

ABA + Hawaii 1,082					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	842	Mike Toochin	78	3	839
2	826	Roger Foxall	76		826
3	791	Mike Mulligan	73	4	787
4	*775	Art Martell	72		775
5	762	Dale Jensen	70.4		new
6	<b>760</b>	<b>Eric Tull</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>743</b>
6	760	Sharon Toochin	70.2	3	757
8	749	John Voos	69.2	4	745
9	671	Gwynneth Wilson	62	1	670
10	657	Kevin Neill	61		658
11	646	Barbara Begg	59.7		new
12	645	Carlo Giovanella	59.6	1	644
13	642	Don Wilson	59.3		642
14	629	Monica Nugent	58	9	620
15	611	Larry Cowan	56.5	1	610
16	600	Ken Morgan	55.5		600
17	589	Rand Rudland	54.4		607
18	581	Val George	53.7		new
19	572	Josh Inman	52.9		new
20	571	Laird Law	52.8	12	559
21	552	Clive Keen	51		new
22	542	Ted Goshulak	50.1	1	541
23	475	Lee Harding	43.9		new
24	473	Janice Arndt	43.7		473
25	462	Paul Clapham	42.7	4	458

**World: Paul Clapham's** increase of 356 was the largest and pushed him over the 2,000 mark. Others passing notable plateaus were: *Nigel Mathews* (5,500), *Rand Rudland* (3,500), and *Val George* (3,000).

WORLD - 10,499					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	7,406	Keith Riding	71	290	7,116
2	5,818	Roger Foxall	55	153	5,665
3	<b>5,646</b>	<b>Nigel Mathews</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>5,370</b>
4	5,327	Mike Toochin	51	9	5,318
5	*5,087	Jo Ann MacKenzie	48		*5,087
6	4,727	Peter Candido	45	143	4,584
7	4,669	Eric Tull	44.5	125	4,544
8	*4,623	Art Martell	44		4,623

**ABA + Hawaii: Eric Tull** had the largest increase at 17. *Mike Toochin* improved by three (842) increasing his lead over second place Roger Foxall (826) to 16.



WORLD - 10,499					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
9	4,584	Sharon Tootchin	43.7	11	4,573
10	*3,966	Peter McIver	37.8		3,966
11	3,925	Brian Self	37.4	281	3,644
12	3,600	Mike Mulligan	34.3	7	3,593
13	<b>3,568</b>	<b>Rand Rudland</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>3,425</b>
14	3,508	Laird Law	33	2	3,506
15	3,400	Dale Jensen	32	53	3,347
16	3,279	Brian Stech	31.2	142	3,137
17	3,274	Dorothy Copp	31.2	122	3,152
18	3,273	Barbara Begg	31.2	4	3,269
19	3,231	Hank Vanderpol	30.8		3,231
20	3,204	Dick Cannings	30.5	30	*3,174
21	<b>3,044</b>	<b>Val George</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2,936</b>
22	2,913	Gary Davidson	28	7	2,906
23	2,739	Don Wilson	26	7	2,732
24	2,535	Nathan Hentze	24	8	2,527
25	2,381	Sandra Eadie	22.7	62	2,319
26	2,352	Lee Harding	22.4	3	2,349
27	2,284	Ken Morgan	21.8	15	2,269
28	2,258	Chris Charlesworth	21.5	61	2,197
29	2,226	Andy Buhler	21.2	116	2,110
29	2,226	Marilyn Buhler	21.2	116	2,110
31	2,120	Bryan Gates	20		2,120
32	<b>2,015</b>	<b>Paul Clapham</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>1,659</b>
33	1,940	Josh Inman	18.5		new
34	1,933	Monica Nugent	18.4	42	1,891
35	1,756	John Chandler	16.7		new
36	1,714	Rosemary Clapham	16.3		new
37	1,651	Larry Cowan	15.7	3	1,648
38	1,600	Tony Greenfield	15	70	1,530
39	1,433	John Hodges	13.6	72	1,361
40	1,315	Ben Keen	12.5		new
41	1,300	Mike McGrenere	12.4	13	<b>*1,287</b>
42	1,144	Wayne Weber	10.9	218	926
43	1,007	Kevin Neill	9.6		1,007
44	1,005	Peter Boon	9.6		new
45	974	Ken Willis	9.3		new
46	951	John Sprague	9.1		951

**World Families:** Peter Candido managed the largest increase adding 13. **Paul Clapham** was a close second with 10.

World Families 234					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	231	Roger Foxall	98.7	1	230
2	<b>230</b>	<b>Peter Candido</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*217</b>

World Families 234					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
3	225	Eric Tull	96	3	222
4	221	Mike Tootchin	94	2	219
5	*216	David Sterling	92.3		216
6	*215	Art Martell	91.9		215
7	214	Brian Self	91.5	7	207
8	210	Rand Rudland	89.7	4	206
9	210	Sharon Tootchin	89.7	2	208
10	206	Laird Law	88	1	205
11	180	Sandra Eadie	77		*180
12	177	Ken Morgan	76		177
13	*174	Peter McIver	74.4		174
14	<b>173</b>	<b>Paul Clapham</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>163</b>
15	148	Lee Harding	63		new
16	142	Bryan Gates	61		142
17	129	John Chandler	55		new
18	122	Kevin Neill	52		122
19	117	Larry Cowan	50		117

**North America:** Colombia/Panama border northward. **John Hodges** had the largest increase at 75. **Eric Tull** had another good year adding 69. **Monica Nugent** added 43 to top the 1000 plateau.

North America 2076					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	1,619	Brian Stech	78.0	12	1,607
2	1,612	Dorothy Copp	77.6	1	1,611
3	1,474	Mike Tootchin	71.0	3	1,471
4	1,449	Roger Foxall	69.8	51	1,398
5	*1,427	Keith Riding	68.7		1,427
6	*1,300	Art Martell	62.6		1,300
7	1,163	Rand Rudland	56.0	8	1,155
8	1,077	Eric Tull	51.9	69	1,008
9	1,051	Gary Davidson	50.6		new
10	*1,018	Peter McIver	49.0		1,018
11	<b>1,008</b>	<b>Monica Nugent</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>965</b>
12	<b>986</b>	<b>John Hodges</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>911</b>
13	967	Laird Law	46.6	2	965
14	862	John Chandler	41.5		new
15	856	Larry Cowan	41.2		856
16	708	Ted Goshulak	34.1	1	707
17	708	John Sprague	34.1		708
18	695	Sandra Eadie	33.5		*695
19	675	Kathryn Clouston	32.5		new
20	662	Krista Kaptein	31.9		new



**AOS North (AOU):** This is a new category covering the area north of the Panama/Colombia border including offshore islands.

<b>AOS North (AOU) 2,160</b>					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	1,182	Dick Cannings	55		new
2	892	Larry Cowan	41		new
3	662	Krista Kaptein	31		new

**US "minus" Hawaii:** No changes. Two added to the list.

<b>United States (minus Hawaii) - 1,007</b>					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	*662	David Stirling	66		*662
2	606	Gary Davidson	60		new
3	409	Larry Cowan	41		new
4	*223	John Hodges	22		223

**ATPAT: Larry Cowan** improved his total by 100 trailed closely by **Laird Law** 91.

<b>All Ticks Provinces And Territories - 5,263</b>					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	3,027	Eric Tull	58	4	3,023
2	2,967	Roger Foxall	56	1	2,966
3	*2,160	David Stirling	41		2,160
4	*1,858	Dick Cannings	35		*1,858
5	1,737	Wayne Weber	33	1	1,736
6	1,703	Mike Mulligan	32	2	1,701
7	*1,578	Art Martell	30		*1,578
8	1,488	Dan Tyson	28	6	1,482
9	1,477	Janice Arndt	28	16	1,461
10	1,271	Barabara Begg	24		1,271
11	1,258	John Sprague	24		1,258
12	<b>1,198</b>	<b>Laird Law</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1,107</b>
13	*1,189	Gary Davidson	23		*1,189
14	<b>909</b>	<b>Larry Cowan</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>809</b>
15	904	Josh Inman	17		new
15	904	Brian Stech	17	25	879
17	759	Dorothy Copp	14	1	758
18	610	John Chandler	12		new

**BC Winter: "Winter" - Dec/Jan/Feb to Dec. 31, 2018.** **Mike Toochin** had the highest increase at 9 putting him over the 300 mark. *Tom Plath* also topped the 300 mark with an increase of 8. The list leader, *Dan Tyson*, increased his total by seven.

<b>B.C. Winter List - Dec / Jan / Feb</b>					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	310	Dan Tyson		7	303
2	<b>305</b>	<b>Mike Toochin</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>296</b>
3	<b>301</b>	<b>Tom Plath</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>293</b>
4	*293	Brian Self			293
5	271	Wayne Weber		5	266
6	244	Carlo Giovannella			new
7	228	Larry Cowan		4	224
8	206	Paul Clapham			new
9	190	Eric Tull		1	189
10	128	Janice Arndt		1	127

**Non-Motorized Transport: Mike McGrenere** again had the largest increase with four.

<b>Non-Motorized Transport</b>					
#	2018	Name & location	%	incr	2017
1	<b>309</b>	<b>Mike McGrenere - Victoria</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>305</b>
2	*247	Dick Cannings - Penticton			*247
3	159	Janice Arndt - Nelson		2	157
4	114	Barbara Begg - Sidney			114
5	113	Larry Cowan - Pitt Meadows		2	111
6	97	Lee Harding - Coquitlam			new

**Alberta: Len Jellico** again enjoyed the best improvement with 8. *Monica Nugent* not far behind with an increase of six.

<b>ALBERTA - 425</b>					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	364	Mike Mulligan	86		364
2	361	Eric Tull	85		361
3	323	Hank Vanderpol	76		323
4	*286	David Stirling	67		286
5	276	Melissa Hafting	64.9		276
6	273	Tom Plath	64.2		273
7	244	Wayne Weber	57.4		244
8	241	Roger Foxall	56.7		241
9	*240	Jo Ann MacKenzie	56.5		*240
10	233	Dan Tyson	54.8	4	229
11	*228	Chris Charlesworth	53.6		228
12	222	Bryan Gates	52.2		222
13	220	Gary Davidson	51.8	4	216
14	<b>215</b>	<b>Monica Nugent</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>209</b>
15	<b>214</b>	<b>Len Jellicoe</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>206</b>
15	*214	Dick Cannings	50.4		*214
17	199	Josh Inman	47		new
18	190	Larry Cowan	45		190



ALBERTA - 425					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
19	184	Mike Toochin	43.3		184
20	*181	Dale Jensen	42.6		181

**Yukon Territory:** The only significant improvement was by **Laird Law** with an impressive 78. Second place *Tony Greenfield* managed an increase of two.

YUKON TERRITORY - 333					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	*172	Dick Cannings	52		*172
2	<b>165</b>	<b>Tony Greenfield</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>163</b>
3	155	Eric Tull	46.5		155
4	*150	David Stirling	45		150
5	142	Roger Foxall	42.6		142
6	<b>126</b>	<b>Laird Law</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>48</b>
7	123	Gary Davidson	36.9		123
8	113	John Sprague	33.9		113
9	112	Rand Rudland	33.6		112
10	109	Wayne Weber	32.7		109
11	*106	Art Martell	31.8		106
12	102	Brian Self	30.6		102
13	91	Dan Tyson	27	1	90
14	86	John Hodges	25.8		86
15	*84	Mike Toochin	25.2		*84
16	*80	Dale Jensen	24		80
17	64	Dorothy Copp	19.2		64
17	64	Brian Stech	19.2		64
19	*53	Paul Clapham	16		53

**NWT:** **Laird Law** had the only increase adding 13 to move him into first place. *Rosemary Clapham* joined the list with 70.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - 302					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>189</b>	<b>Laird Law</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>176</b>
2	180	Eric Tull	60		180
3	155	Tony Greenfield	51		155
4	*148	David Stirling	49		148
5	133	Rand Rudland	44		133
6	129	Janice Arndt	43		129
7	105	Roger Foxall	35		105
8	98	Brian Self	32.5		98
9	97	Barbara Begg	32.1		97
10	86	Mike Toochin	28.5		86
11	84	John Sprague	27.8		84
12	*71	Art Martell	23.5		71

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - 302					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
13	*70	Paul Clapham	23.2		70
13	70	Rosemary Clapham	23.2		new
15	64	Lee Harding	21		new
16	54	John Hodges	17.9		54
17	*53	Gary Davidson	17.5		53
18	52	Wayne Weber	17.2		52
19	*40	Dick Cannings	13		*40

**Washington:** **Brian Self** had the highest increase at 14. *Dan Tyson* not far behind with eleven.

WASHINGTON STATE - 518					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	410	Wayne Weber	79	3	407
2	*348	Jo Ann MacKenzie	67.2		*348
3	344	Melissa Hafting	66.4	1	343
4	<b>331</b>	<b>Dan Tyson</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>320</b>
5	327	Mike Toochin	63.1		327
6	<b>310</b>	<b>Brian Self</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>296</b>
7	303	Tom Plath	58.5		new
8	286	Hank Vanderpol	55		286
9	*268	Dick Cannings	51.7		*268
10	263	Roger Foxall	50.8	1	262
11	247	Brian Stech	48		247
12	*236	Dale Jensen	45.6		236
13	*235	Lloyd Esralson	45.4		235
14	232	Dorothy Copp	44.8		232
15	*231	Art Martell	44.6		231
16	224	Larry Cowan	43		224
17	218	Eric Tull	42	1	217
18	192	Josh Inman	37		new

**Alaska:** This listing has moved from the “single” lister category. The “THRESHOLD LEVEL” is 160 or 30% of the state total.

ALASKA - 537					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	217	Eric Tull	40		new
2	183	Wayne Weber	34	1	182

**Montana:** This listing has moved from the “single” lister category. The “THRESHOLD LEVEL” is 130 or 30% of the state total.

MONTANA - 434					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	207	Eric Tull	48		new
2	205	Wayne Weber	47		205

**Vancouver:** Ken Willis added a list high 53 pushing his total over 200. **Melissa Hafting**, amongst those above the 300 mark, increased her total by ten.

VANCOUVER AREA - 430					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	376	Mike Toochin	87	2	374
2	360	Dan Tyson	83.7	2	358
3	356	Brian Self	82.8	1	355
3	356	Tom Plath	82.8	1	355
3	356	Wayne Weber	82.8	2	354
3	*356	Jo Ann MacKenzie	82.8		*356
7	355	Carlo Giovanella	82.6	4	351
8	346	Keith Riding	80.5	4	342
9	344	Roger Foxall	80	2	342
10	338	Peter Candido	78.6		new
11	336	Quentin Brown	78.1	4	332
12	*333	Lloyd Esralson	77.4		333
13	329	Larry Cowan	76.5	3	326
13	329	Brian Stech	76.5	2	327
15	323	Ilya Povalyaev	75	6	317
16	<b>319</b>	<b>Melissa Hafting</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>309</b>
17	314	John Voos	73		314
18	310	John Chandler	72		new
19	294	Kevin Neill	68.4	2	292
20	292	Paul Clapham	67.9	9	283
21	286	Dick Cannings	66.5		*286
22	283	John Gordon	65.8	7	276
23	279	Monica Nugent	64.9	4	275
24	277	Ted Goshulak	64.4	1	276
25	274	Neill Vanhinsberg	63.7	10	264
26	269	Rosemary Clapham	62.6		new
27	<b>253</b>	<b>Ken Willis</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>200</b>
28	235	Bryan Gates	54.7		235
29	234	Don Wilson	54.4		*234
30	218	Josh Inman	50.7		new
31	212	Eric Tull	49.3		212

**Vancouver Island:** Kevin Neill added 30 to his total. In the plus 300 club *Mike Toochin* raised his total by 6.

Vancouver Island - 388					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	354	Mike McGrenere	91.2	3	351
2	*352	David Stirling	90.7		352
3	348	Barbara Begg	89.7	1	347
4	341	Guy Monty	87.9		*341
5	337	Bryan Gates	86.9		337
6	*332	Hank Vanderpol	85.6		*332

Vancouver Island - 388					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
7	<b>316</b>	<b>Mike Toochin</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>310</b>
8	313	Bruce Whittington	80.7		315
9	286	Ken Morgan	73.7		286
10	*283	Tom Plath	72.9		283
11	<b>279</b>	<b>Kevin Neill</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>249</b>
12	274	Eric Tull	70.6	6	268
12	274	Wayne Weber	70.6	1	273
14	266	Roger Foxall	68.6	2	264
15	264	Dan Tyson	68.0		264
16	*252	Jo Ann MacKenzie	64.9		*252
17	241	Krista Kaptein	62		new
18	211	Larry Cowan	54		211
19	206	John Sprague	53		206
20	*203	Keith Riding	52		203
21	*197	Kathryn Clouston	51		197

**Victoria:** Kevin Neill added 30 to his total pushing him over the 250 plateau. *Mike McGrenere* who is over the 90% mark managed to add another 3 to his total.

Victoria Area - 362					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>340</b>	<b>Mike McGrenere</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>337</b>
2	*335	David Stirling	93		335
3	333	Barbara Begg	92	1	332
4	320	Bryan Gates	88.4		320
4	*320	Hank Vanderpol	88.4		*320
6	303	Bruce Whittington	83.7		304
7	270	Neill Vanhinsberg	75	4	266
8	257	Eric Tull	71	5	252
9	255	Wayne Weber	70.4	2	253
10	<b>253</b>	<b>Kevin Neill</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>223</b>
11	242	Tom Plath	66.9		242
12	*235	Keith Riding	65		235
13	222	Dan Tyson	61		222
14	176	Larry Cowan	49		176
15	166	Neill Vanhinsberg	46	2	164
16	150	Monica Nugent	41	4	146
17	*141	Lloyd Esralson	39		141
18	*137	Dick Cannings	38		*137
19	*130	Ted Goshulak	36		130

North Pacific Pelagic Waters				
#	2018	Name	incr	2017
1	<b>135</b>	<b>Mike Toochin</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>134</b>
2	104	Ken Morgan		104



North Pacific Pelagic Waters					
#	2018	Name		incr	2017
3	<b>86</b>	<b>Tom Plath</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>85</b>
4	<b>78</b>	<b>Bruce Whittington</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>77</b>
5	70	Kevin Neill			70
6	*63	Lloyd Esralson			63
7	45	Bryan Gates			45

**Okanagan Valley:** Minimal increases were recorded. **Chris Charlesworth**, **Gwynneth Wilson** and **Dan Tyson** all added three.

Okanagan Valley - 332					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>319</b>	<b>Chris Charlesworth</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>316</b>
2	<b>307</b>	<b>Gwynneth Wilson</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>304</b>
3	306	Dick Cannings	92.2		*306
4	296	Don Wilson	89.2	2	294
5	273	Mike Toochin	82.2		273
6	266	Wayne Weber	80.1	2	264
7	*262	Gary Davidson	78.9		262
8	259	Hank Vanderpol	78		259
8	<b>259</b>	<b>Dan Tyson</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>256</b>
10	235	Tom Plath	70.8	1	234
11	*234	Jo Ann MacKenzie	70.5		*234
11	234	Tony Greenfield	70.5		234
13	*229	Keith Riding	69.0		229
14	*224	John Voos	67		224
15	219	Laird Law	66		219
16	*215	Lloyd Esralson	65		215
17	193	Bryan Gates	58		193
18	189	Brian Stech	57		189
19	175	Eric Tull	52.7		175
20	174	Larry Cowan	52.4		174
21	162	Dorothy Copp	49		162

Peace River Area - 272					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	245	Laird Law	90		245
2	<b>228</b>	<b>Tom Plath</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>227</b>
3	209	Tony Greenfield	77		209
4	203	Mike Toochin	75		203
5	*193	Jo Ann MacKenzie	71		*193
6	184	Bryan Gates	68		184
7	179	Wayne Weber	66		179
8	165	Dan Tyson	61		165
9	*157	Keith Riding	58		157
10	155	Larry Cowan	57		155

Peace River Area - 272					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
11	*144	Lloyd Esralson	53		144
12	128	Dorothy Copp	47		128
13	128	Brian Stech	47		128

Prince George Area - 297					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>276</b>	<b>Laird Law</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>275</b>
2	<b>275</b>	<b>Cathy Antoniazzi</b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>274</b>
3	214	Nathan Hentze	72		214
4	193	Don Wilson	65		193
5	168	Dan Tyson	57		168
6	*133	Gary Davidson	45		133
7	129	Larry Cowan	43		129

Manning PP - 206					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	154	Mike McGrenere	75		154
2	141	Melissa Hafting	68		145
3	125	Wayne Weber	61		125
4	*118	Dick Cannings	57		*118
5	*115	Keith Riding	56		115
6	<b>111</b>	<b>Dan Tyson</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>110</b>
7	*110	Jo Ann MacKenzie	53.4		*110
8	91	Larry Cowan	44		91

Fraser Valley - 318					
#	2017	Name	%	incr	2016
1	253	John Voos	80	0	253
2	243	Dan Tyson	76	4	239
3	<b>195</b>	<b>Wayne Weber</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>187</b>
4	159	Larry Cowan	50	4	155
5	143	John Gordon	45	new	
6	*139	Ted Goshulak	44	0	139

Blackie Spit (Vanc) - 236					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	*191	Jo Ann MacKenzie	81		*191
2	185	Wayne Weber	78		185
3	182	Dan Tyson	77	3	179
4	*141	Keith Riding	60		141
5	121	Larry Cowan	51.3		121
6	*121	Brian Self	51.3		121
7	<b>98</b>	<b>Neill Vanhinsberg</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>92</b>
8	*91	Dick Cannings	39		*91



Sea & Iona Islands (Vanc) - 300					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>285</b>	<b>Mike Tootchin</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>278</b>
2	276	Tom Plath	92	1	275
3	*255	Keith Riding	85		255
4	243	Dan Tyson	81	2	241
5	238	Wayne Weber	79		238
6	*204	Lloyd Esralson	68		204
7	182	Larry Cowan	61	1	181
8	*167	Dick Cannings	56		*167
9	<b>163</b>	<b>Neill Vanhinsberg</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>153</b>

Westham & Reifel Islands (Vanc) - 280					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	226	Wayne Weber	80.7		226
2	<b>223</b>	<b>Brian Self</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>221</b>
3	209	Dan Tyson	74.6		209
4	*194	Lloyd Esralson	69.3		194
5	*183	Keith Riding	65.4		183
6	160	Larry Cowan	57.1		160
7	*148	Dick Cannings	52.9		*148

City of Pitt Meadows - 224					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	203	Wayne Weber	91		203
2	197	Larry Cowan	88	1	196
3	*157	Keith Riding	70		157
4	<b>115</b>	<b>Neill Vanhinsberg</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>110</b>
5	*72	Ken Willis	32		72

Semiamhoo Peninsula (WA) - 245					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	*239	Jo Ann MacKenzie	98		*239
2	224	Carlo Giovanella	91		224
3	215	Roger Foxall	87.8	3	212
4	<b>214</b>	<b>Dan Tyson</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>210</b>

Sunshine Coast - 307					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	282	Tony Greenfield	92	1	281
2	<b>267</b>	<b>Rand Rudland</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>261</b>
3	257	Russ Tkachuk	83.7		257
4	<b>255</b>	<b>John Hodges</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>249</b>
5	*235	Susanne Hayer	77		235
6	179	Dan Tyson	58		179
7	138	Wayne Weber	45		138

West Kootenay Area - 313					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>293</b>	<b>Gary Davidson</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>287</b>
2	*260	Peter McIver	83		260
3	258	Janice Arndt	82	4	254
4	*185	Jo Ann MacKenzie	59		*185
5	182	Wayne Weber	58		182
6	140	Lee Harding	45		new

Creston Valley Area - 303					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	*215	Peter McIver	71		215
2	*193	Gary Davidson	64		193
3	<b>176</b>	<b>Janice Arndt</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>173</b>
4	142	Wayne Weber	47		142

Revelstoke - 215					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	*215	Michael Morris	100		211
2	150	Wayne Weber	70		150

Haida Gwaii - 188					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>134</b>	<b>Mike Tootchin</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>132</b>
2	106	Bruce Whittington	56		107
3	97	Laird Law	52		97
4	78	Mike Mulligan	41		78
5	72	Krista Kaptein	38		new
6	*56	Keith Riding	30		56

Comox Valley - 250					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	*247	Art Martell	98.8		*247
2	244	Nathan Hentze	97.6	2	242
3	230	Krista Kaptein	92		new
4	213	Kathryn Clouston	85	19	194

Salt Spring Island - 185					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>179</b>	<b>Ren Ferguson</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>176</b>
2	173	John Sprague	94		173
3	129	Marian Porter	70	1	128
4	114	Wayne Weber	62		114

Kamloops Area - 306					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	256	Wayne Weber	84		256
2	*200	Gary Davidson	65.4		*200
3	*198	David Stirling	64.7		198

Mt. Robson PP - 182					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>148</b>	<b>Laird Law</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>142</b>
2	*145	Dick Cannings	80		*145
3	*120	David Stirling	66		120

Princeton Area - 254					
#	2018	Name	%	incr	2017
1	<b>110</b>	<b>Larry Cowan</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>91</b>
2	*103	Lloyd Esralson	41		103
3	90	Bryan Gates	35		90

Over 1,500m					
#	2018	Name		incr	2017
1	112	Mike McGrenere			112
2	106	Wayne Weber			106

The remaining listings are for areas with single submissions, grouped by Tourism Zones as set out by BC Tourism. This should be of assistance in determining which lists to consider tracking while travelling to destinations around the Province.

Northern Canada	2018	Name	+	2017
YK - NWT - NU	205	Eric Tull		new

Northern BC	2018	Name	+	2017
Gwaii Haanas NP	<b>86</b>	Bruce Whittington	<b>4</b>	82

Cariboo/Chilcotin	2018	Name	+	2017
Cariboo Plateau	<b>144</b>	Michael Sather	<b>8</b>	*136
Williams Lake Area	160	Bryan Gates		160

Kootenay/Rockies	2018	Name	+	2017
Columbia Valley	127	Bryan Gates		127
Yoho NP	124	Wayne Weber		124

Thompson/Okanagan	2018	Name	+	2017
Nicola Watershed	254	Wayne Weber		254

Vancouver Coast & Mnt.	2018	Name	+	2017
Abbotsford	<b>217</b>	John Voos	<b>2</b>	215
Colony Farm RP	<b>169</b>	Larry Cowan	<b>3</b>	166
Derby Reach RP	*124	Ted Goshulak		*124
Iona	<b>272</b>	Mike Toochin	<b>7</b>	265
Maplewood CA	*211	Quentin Brown		*211
Nathan Creek	*75	Ted Goshulak		75
Richmond	<b>296</b>	Mike Toochin	<b>7</b>	289
Trinity Western U Campus	<b>152</b>	Ted Goshulak	<b>1</b>	151
Vancouver CBC Circle	<b>305</b>	Dan Tyson	<b>2</b>	303
Vancouver Winter	229	Carlo Giovanella		new

Vancouver Island	2018	Name	+	2017
Nanaimo	186	Peter Boon		new
Saturna Island	102	Tony Greenfield		102

USA	2018	Name	+	2017
Idaho	<b>214</b>	Wayne Weber	<b>2</b>	212
USA	606	Gary Davidson		new

Other	2018	Name	+	2017
ABA Birds Photographed	<b>641</b>	Brian Stech	<b>5</b>	636
Yard List - Halfmoon Bay	*114	Susanne Hayer		114
Yard List - Oak Bay	103	Bryan Gates		103
Yard List - Saratoga Beach	153	Bryan Gates		153

A reminder, there are other opportunities for your listings with categories not encompassed by BCFO Listers' Corner. These include the **American Birding Association** and **Canadian Listers' Corner**.

<http://www.neilyworld.com/neilyworld/listerscorner/listers-corner.htm>

I would like to thank all those who submitted their life totals for this article. Wishing everyone continued good birding in 2019. See you at the BCFO AGM and Conference in Golden this coming June.

Larry Cowan