

BC BIRDING



Newsmagazine of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists

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Are you heading to Costa Rica to see great birds like these? There's some information you will need on page 30.

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 (online version) is a benefit of membership in the society. A hard-copy version will be posted to members for a \$12 annual premium.

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). Books for review should be sent to 10790 Grassland Road, Prince George, BC V2K 5E8.

Topics may include birding experiences, casual observations about bird behaviour, bird project reports, site guides, birding equipment, bird photography, trip reports (including overseas trips), and other subjects of broad interest to BC birders. Brief items are always welcome, but average submissions tend to be in the 400–600 word range. For longer submissions the normal maximum length is 1,500 words. Note that this is a newsmagazine rather than an academic journal, so formal reference lists etc tend to be inappropriate.

Articles should be in plain text, either as the content of an email, or as an attachment (preferably Word). Photographs should be in jpeg and sent as separate attachments, not embedded in text.

Deadlines (i.e. final dates for submission) are as follows:

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

Advertising Rates

Full page: \$125 per issue. Contact editor for other options.

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Conservation and Education Committee: Gary Davidson (Chair), Stephen Partington, Art Martell, Charles Helm, Marian Porter.

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



IMPORTANT DATES

VERNON CONFERENCE & AGM

REGISTRATION

Immediate

Online registration open for
Conference & AGM

April 1

Online registration opens for pre-
conference trip.

EVENT DATES

June 7 – 9

Pre-conference extension trip to the
Okanagan Valley

June 9 – 11

Vernon Conference & AGM.

CLOSING DEADLINES

May 24

Registration for the pre-conference
extension trip.

May 26

Registration for Vernon Conference
and AGM.

COVER PHOTOS

This Great Curassow was photographed by the editor in Costa Rica in January, 2023. It involved his lying on the ground in a likely spot and waiting. Fortunately chiggers did not take advantage.

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President's Message

Gary Davidson, Nakusp

During the last few months my time has been divided between my restful, retired life and the stressful life of planning a major conference! But I am relieved to say that the planning is now behind me. You will find full details of this year's BCFO Annual Conference in this issue. I'd like to recognize the assistance provided by members of the North Okanagan Naturalist Club; in particular, Marnie Williamson and Chris Siddle. Marnie and Chris did most of the work finding field trip leaders and organizing the field trip routes. Without their help I might still be knee-deep in emails! Conference details will also be up on the website and open for registration. Despite an increase in food costs this year, we were able to keep

registration costs the same as last year. Pre-conference extension trip details are also posted both here and on the website. Note that registration for the extension trip will not open until 9:00AM on April 1.

There are two other items in this issue to which I'd like to draw your attention. One is an article (page 14) about John Waldin, a watercolour artist living on Vancouver Island. The article describes his generous donation to the BCFO. The second is a notice regarding the Steve Cannings Award (page 23). This award, first presented to Dr Ian McTaggart-Cowan in 2007, has not been presented during the last three years. I'm pleased to announce that we have formed a new committee to handle this and there will be a presentation at this year's Conference. In addition to Dr McTaggart-Cowan, other previous winners have been David Sterling, Madelon Schouton, Jeremy Tatum, Ralph Ritcey, Glen Ryder, Fred Zwickel, Martin McNichol, Alan Burger, Chris

Siddle, Art Martell, Rick Howie, and Neil Dawe. There are many worthy candidates out there who contribute large amounts of their time to birds, conservation and natural history. Please consider nominating someone you know who fits the criteria set out in the notice.

My term on the board will expire at this year's conference. Our by-laws allow for only six consecutive years on the Board of Directors. Our treasurer, Josh Inman, is also completing his sixth year. In addition, one other director is stepping down, leaving us with three spaces to fill. There is a notice elsewhere in this issue (page 16) asking for people to step forward to help fill these vacancies. You can put your own name forward or the name of another member you wish to nominate. Please give serious thought to helping your organization. Time commitments are not great: four or five board meetings a year, conducted via Zoom.

Hope to see you all in Vernon!

Welcome New Members

Julie Bose - Salmon Arm

Diane Cartwright - Courtenay

Janet Chriest - Victoria

Dale Floer - Burnaby

Sonia Gill - Vancouver

Mara Hanneson - Victoria

David Reid - West Vancouver

**Alexander Perrin -
Vancouver**

**Claude Rioux - Fairmont
Hot Springs**

Jacob Robinson - Coquitlam

Lauren Wiegel - North Saanich

**David & Wendy Wlasitz -
Prince George**

BCFO 33rd CONFERENCE & AGM, June 9 – 11, 2023, Vernon, BC

Schedule of Events

Location: Prestige Vernon Hotel 4411 32nd St, Vernon, BC V1T 9G8.

Registration fee: full conference registration is \$195 per person.

NOTE: 20 rooms at the Prestige Vernon Hotel have been set aside at conference rates. First come, first served. To book a room call (250) 558-5991. There are also numerous other hotels in Vernon.

Friday, June 9

Registration, Social and Saturday Field-trip Signup: 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Prestige Vernon Hotel, O'Keefe/Ellison Room. Pick up your conference package and socialize with fellow birders: there will be appetizers and a cash bar. Field trip selections for the morning of June 10 will also be made at this time, and you will be asked to complete your conference waiver form and review the BCFO Code of Ethics. Signup sheets for the Sunday morning field trips will be available just after the AGM.

Saturday, June 10

Breakfast: 5:30 to 6:00 AM, prior to field trips, Prestige Vernon Hotel.

Conference Field Trips: 6:15 AM departures from the Prestige Vernon Hotel.

- Trip 1 - Kalamalka Lakeview Road, High Ridge Road, and the Lower Commonage
 - Trip 2 - Swan Lake Nature Reserve Park
 - Trip 3 - Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park
 - Trip 4 - Silver Star Mountain – Sovereign Lake high boreal birding
 - Trip 5 - Beaver Lake Road
- (See page 7 for details.)

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

Afternoon Speakers: 1:00 to 2:30 PM, Saturday. Jocie Brooks – *The Life and Art of Allan Brooks*; Les Gyug – *Okanagan Mountain Park, Before and After the Firestorm*.

Annual General Meeting: 3:00 PM. Signup sheets for the Sunday morning field trips will be available just after the AGM.

Social with Cash Bar: 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

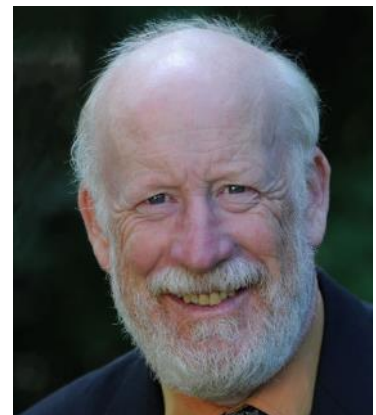
Banquet: 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

Steve Cannings Award Presentation: 7:30 PM.

Keynote Speaker: 7:45 PM, Richard Cannings – *Adventures in Okanagan Owling*.



*Keynote speaker Richard
Cannings*



Sunday, June 11

Morning Field Trips: depart 6:15 AM from the Prestige Vernon Hotel.

Lunch: 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

Farewell.

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Online Registration

TO REGISTER FOR THE PRE-CONFERENCE EXTENSION TRIP

From April 1 you will be able to register for the conference through the BCFO Website (bcfo.ca) and pay conference fees using PayPal or eTransfer.

Go to the AGM/Extension Payments tab under the Events > Annual Conference drop-downs. This will bring up a fillable registration form. To pay for more than one registration, simply make sufficient single payments for each person you wish to register.

The only way to register for the extension trip is via the website.

Go to the AGM/Extension Payments tab under the Events > Annual Conference drop-downs. The form will include the opportunity to indicate your desire to attend the pre-conference extension trip.

*Online registrations open on
April 1 at 9:00 AM PDT.*



Alternative Mail-in Registration Form

Name(s)

Address

Phone Email

Conference Registration

Maximum registrations: 80. Attendance is limited to BCFO members and accompanying spouses/family members. If spaces are available, non-members may join BCFO at the same time as they register for the Conference.*

Full conference fee includes: Friday night Meet & Greet, Saturday & Sunday breakfasts, lunches and Saturday evening Banquet plus all field trips and talks. Refunds for cancellation will be considered if received before 27 May.

_____ @ \$195 /person = \$_____

BCFO Young Birders _____ @ \$90 /person = \$_____

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

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

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, available at the Conference at the time of registering for field trips. Please make cheque or money order payable to **BC Field Ornithologists**. Send your registration and payment to BC Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 61670, RPO Brookwood, Langley, BC V3A 1K0.

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Field Trips

Field Trip 1

Kalamalka Lakeview Road, High
Ridge Road, and the Lower
Commonage.

You will be following your leader south of Vernon to a portion of the old highway towards Kelowna. Now named Kalamalka Lakeview Road, this is a scenic grassland route with the hills of the Vernon Commonage on the west and grassland and remnant Ponderosa Pines intersected by shrubby draws and occasional talus slopes to the east set against Kalamalka Lake.

The route proceeds south to High Ridge Road north of Kekuli Bay Provincial Park then joins Highway 97 for a brief section before pausing at the base of Bailey Road for a brief exploration of riparian shrubbery before climbing Bailey Road, passing an active Osprey nest and stopping to scan Bailey Pond. Then the tour turns north onto Commonage Road for a final stop at Rose's Pond before ending back in Vernon.

The tour will target open-country and pond species including Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, White-throated Swift (scarce), Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Willow Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Common Raven, Rock Wren, Gray Catbird, Western Bluebird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bullock's Oriole, Yellow Warbler, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

There will be a final stop or two along Mission Road to look for Swainson's Hawk which traditionally nests at the Vernon Army Camp and possibly at the entrance road to the Allan Brooks Nature Centre.

Walking difficulty: Easy stop-and-go automotive tour. Driving caution must be taken especially on the section of

Commonage Rd. between Bailey, Rose's Pond, and Mission Road because of fast drivers and very limited pull-off areas.

Field Trip 2

Swan Lake Nature Reserve Park and
possibly other Swan Lake stops,
O'Keefe's Pond, and Otter Lake.

The success of this morning outing will depend upon the water levels in the valley in late spring. A wet spring with high ground water may produce an ephemeral pond next to Swan Lake Nature Reserve Park, attracting gulls, the occasional tern, late shorebird migrants, and breeding waterfowl including Cinnamon Teal and Gadwall. However, a wet spring may also flood normally productive cattail and bulrush marshes and submerge shores, dramatically decreasing biodiversity at Otter Lake and O'Keefe Pond. Equally impactful, an arid spring can dry up wetlands. Pray for a "normal" not-too wet, not-too-dry season.

Target species at the south end of Swan Lake include a pair of Northern Harriers, one of the largest Yellow-headed Blackbird colonies in BC, Tree Swallows galore nesting in boxes managed by the North Okanagan Naturalists who take an active interest in the management of the Swan Lake Nature Reserve Park, and a very photographable occupied Osprey nest next to a two-story viewing tower. Other species possible include Red-necked Grebes and Pied-billed Grebes (nesting), Wood Ducks (scarce), Gadwall, Common Loon, and even the occasional Western Grebe are targets as well as the usual marsh birds such as Sora, Virginia Rail, Wilson's Snipe and Marsh Wren.

If there is time the tour will continue driving north along Old Kamloops Road and Highway 97 to the junction of Highway 97 and St. Anne's Road where

O'Keefe Pond is located right next to the road. Here are Red-winged and Yellow-headed blackbirds often perched within close photographable distance, a diversity of swallows, and waterfowl. The tour continues north turning onto Otter Lake Rd. where catbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Bullock's Orioles, and other species of riparian brush can be seen along Deep Creek. The final stop will be at Scott Park at the north end of Otter Lake to view the marsh. This is a local hotspot with 150 species on its accumulated sightings list. This is a good spot in early June for Black Swift, Wilson's Phalarope, Great Blue Heron, Bullock's Oriole, Gray Catbird, Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal, Northern Rough-winged and Bank Swallow, Redhead, Yellow Warbler, and occasionally Double-crested Cormorant.

Expect to walk about 2 kms on mostly level ground in Swan Lake Nature Reserve Park. The remainder of the tour will involve stop-and-look driving. Scopes are highly recommended for Otter Lake.

Field Trip 3

Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park

For conference participants who are comfortable hiking at least 4 km, this tour explores the largest remaining Ponderosa Pine-Douglas-fir forest remaining open to the public in the North Okanagan. The tour will arrive at the Red Gate entrance and pass through fairly open forest towards Cosens Bay on beautiful Kalamalka Lake.

The first km is on level ground while the second km descends an arid south-facing slope to a small sheltered bay on the north-east shore of the lake backed by a marsh in damp springs. Exploring these two areas will take up most of the morning, but if there is time, the tour will drive to a second parking lot

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(Cosens Bay Gate) to bird the base of the cliffs that run east west across the park.

Target birds in the dry forest include Dusky and Ruffed Grouse, Calliope Hummingbird, Golden Eagle, Red-naped Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted and Pygmy nuthatches, House Wren, Townsend's Solitaire, Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill (Ponderosa Pine call-type), Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Nashville Warbler, Western Meadowlark, and Lazuli Bunting.

In the cottonwoods and marsh around Cosens Bay we will search for Common Merganser, California Quail, Vaux's Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Sora, Cooper's Hawk, Red-naped Sapsucker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Tree and Violet-green swallows, Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, MacGillivray's and Yellow Warbler and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Field Trip 4

Silver Star Mountain – Sovereign Lake – high boreal birding.

Join Chris Siddle on a short tour of the spruce-fir forests surrounding Sovereign Lake. We will be walking about 2–4 kms of ski-trails and communications one-lane roads. In early June these trails may still be covered in fairly deep snow so wear waterproof boots and be prepared for last-minute changes of plans. Layered clothing is highly recommended for the weather can be very changeable at 5,000 feet running from cold to hot.

This trip involves dense forest edge birding and can vary from highly productive to a complete bust, so you've been warned. However, you can usually count on a few mosquitoes so bring

repellent. Hopefully at least one participant will still have acute hearing and can draw the crowd's attention to the location of chickadees and kinglets, because your leader admits to being "somewhat deaf" when it comes to these species.

Target birds include "Franklin's" Spruce Grouse, and Boreal Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Canada Jay, Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, and Lincoln's Sparrow and Fox Sparrow (Slate-coloured type). Other species in the general area include Barrow's Goldeneye (Brewer's Pond, Silver Star village), Spotted Sandpiper (same site), Northern Pygmy-Owl (rare), Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit, Swainson's and Varied Thrushes, Cassin's Finch (sporadic), Red Crossbill, and White-crowned Sparrow (gambelli types). Usually there's plenty of parking at km 2 of the Sovereign Lake Road.

Field Trip 5

Beaver Lake Road

Beaver Lake Road rises through a variety of habitats – grassland slopes, mixed woodland, conifer forest, and upper plateau lake environs – affording the chance to see many different species. Bluebirds, meadowlarks, Lazuli Bunting, and a variety of forest birds are possible on this route. As much of the lower part is private land we will be driving with frequent stops to look and listen.

Come prepared to carpool so that we reduce our need for parking space and to minimize our environmental impact. There are no facilities, just "happy trees" at higher elevations so be warned.

Please bring water and a snack. Pace will be easy with perhaps some short walks on uneven ground on forest trails.

Field Trip Leaders

Chris Siddle

A long-time resident of Vernon and life-long birder and naturalist. He has published many papers and articles in a number of scientific journals.

Pam Laing

Currently residing in Kelowna, Pam has been active with the Central Okanagan Naturalist Club for many years.

Gail Loughridge

Born in Victoria where she met Cam Findlay and was introduced to the world of hummingbird banding. She later received her hummingbird banding permit and has been active in the BC hummingbird banding program in Vernon for the past 15 years.

Margaret Mackenzie

A long-time resident and naturalist of the Vernon area. For over ten years, she has coordinated the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club Bluebird Nest Box program consisting of 22 trails and over 400 boxes. She is extremely knowledgeable about local habitats and ecosystems and is our local go-to person to help with plant identification. In recent years, her proficiency with a camera has enhanced her knowledge of birds and become a great accompaniment to her ability to identify bird song.

Pat McAllister

A long-time naturalist of the Vernon area, Pat enjoys sharing her knowledge of birds, plants, local geology and general ecology to all ages. She has been a member and supporter of North Okanagan Naturalists' Club for many years.

Harold Sellers

Another long-time director of North Okanagan Naturalists' Club, Ribbons of Green Trails Society and other organizations. His knowledge of the Vernon area trails and birding areas is a great support to the local birders and natu-

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ralists. His dedication to the preservation and protection of natural areas in the North Okanagan has been a guiding force in the club.

Marnie Williamson

A director of North Okanagan Naturalists' Club for over 12 years. She has lived in the Vernon area for over 40 years and knows some of the local and regional spots that bring the wonder and joy of nature to one's soul.

Scott Thomson

Born and raised in Vernon, Scott has long had an interest in the outdoors. He lived most of his working life in Summerland before returning to the Okanagan four years ago; he now lives in Lumby. He has made Rawlings Lake, northeast of Lumby, his special project. Since arriving in the North Okanagan he has added several birds to the local checklist including an errant Brant and a completely lost Green-tailed Towhee.

Don Cecile

Don is a retired school teacher/administrator who has been an avid birder and photographer since 1986. He has a biology background with several seasons conducting shorebird census/nesting studies in the Canadian and Alaskan arctic. When he is not pursuing birds off-continent, he is most often found pursuing birds of the Salmon Arm shoreline.

The Speakers

Dick Cannings

Dick was born and raised in Penticton in a family that loved nature and the outdoors. He gravitated to biology as a career and worked for 17 years in the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia. In 1995 he moved back to the Okanagan with his wife Margaret and young children, where he worked with Birds Canada, coordinating Canadian Christmas Bird Counts, the eBird program and the British Columbia Owl Survey. He served on various boards and committees, including eight years as co-chair for birds on the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, eleven years on the British Columbia Environmental Appeal Board and five years on the British Columbia Forest Appeals Commission.

He was a founding director of the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance and has also served as a board member for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Dick has written over a dozen books on the natural history of British Columbia.

In 2015 he moved from biology to politics and now serves as the Member of Parliament for South Okanagan-West Kootenay in Ottawa.

Jocie Brooks

Jocie Brooks is a piano teacher who moonlights as a "nature nerd." In keeping with family tradition, she is a birder and naturalist, with particular interest in botany and fungi. Currently, Jocie is the leader of the Comox Valley Nature botany group. She lives in the Comox Valley with her two teenagers.

The Life and Art of Allan Brooks

Allan Brooks (1869–1946) was one of North America's most renowned illustrators of birds and mammals. The Brooks

family came to Canada from England and settled in the Chilli-wack area in the late 1880s. Young Allan was enthralled with the wilds of British Columbia. He established a home at Okanagan Landing, near Vernon, and eventually divided his time between the Okanagan and his winter home in Comox.

Allan illustrated many major bird books of the day, including *Birds of Western Canada*, *Birds of Canada*, *Birds of Washington* and *Birds of California*. His paintings were also widely circulated in magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Canadian Nature* and *Audubon Magazine*. He wrote and illustrated articles for many ornithological journals including the *Condor* and the *Auk*.

Allan's grand-daughter, Jocie, will give an overview of Brooks' life and art, focusing on his time in the Okanagan and his many paintings of birds and wildlife from this rich area. There will be a "sneak peek" from Brooks' diaries and sketch books that are in the Brooks family private collection.



Les Gyug

Les is a self-employed biologist living and working in the Okanagan for the past 35 years. His work has included environmental consulting and monitoring and designing and conducting wildlife research and inventories for all manner of wildlife from mice to moose and birds to bears. He has conducted bird surveys of many sorts for over 40 years, but lately has specialized in working with species-at-risk, particularly sapsuckers and other woodpeckers. He has been an active member of the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club for 30 years and was a director of BCFO from 2006-2012.

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Pre-Conference Extension Trip

The Okanagan Valley from South to North

Dates: June 7, 8, and 9, 2023.

Cost: \$160 per person not including meals and accommodation.

Locations: The tour will begin in Osoyoos where participants will meet the leaders on the evening of Tuesday, 7 June, for dinner. Expect to spend three nights (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) in Osoyoos. Details of motels and restaurants will be provided to all signed-up participants.

Registration and payment: Go to the Pre-Conference Extension Trip page on the bcfo.ca website. This page opens at 9:00 am, April 1.

Group Size: This tour is limited to 12 persons on a first-come first-served basis.

Overview

The focus of this tour will be the Okanagan Valley south of Penticton, since morning tours of the North Okanagan will be available on the Conference weekend. There will be the opportunity to make a few stops north of Penticton on our return to Vernon on Friday. In the following, we describe the tour without reference to specific days and times. This broad approach allows for maximum flexibility. Once in the field we will be able to access more precisely a schedule, and the accessibility of each site.

We will endeavour to make this tour as comfortable and rewarding as possible. Expect sunny warm conditions (but come prepared for occasional wet conditions), wear sturdy waterproof footwear, pack plenty of snacks, and expect early morning hours (in June 6:00 AM departures are neces-

sary), some irregularity of meal stops, and the flexibility to deal with the occasional “natural” comfort break. Apply insect repellent to discourage mosquitoes and wood ticks.

Itinerary

Early Wednesday morning we will car-pool and head west along Highway 3 over the Richter Pass to the Chopaka area, a brushy flat between Highway 3 and the US border. This area, which is also called Nighthawk after the name of the border station, is famous for attracting Sage Thrashers, Grasshopper Sparrows (sporadic), Lark Sparrows, Brewer’s Sparrows and Long-billed Curlew (uncommon). After exploring flats from the road leading to the border we will return over Richter Pass, pass through Osoyoos and drive up the mountain on the east side of town.

Anarchist Mountain forms the high eastern side of the Okanagan Valley. As we climb we will pass through a succession of habitats including orchards, arid rocky hillside, Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir forest, and finally Western Larch-spruce-fir forest and high grassland. Our targets in this patchwork of forest and fields will be Swainson’s Hawk and Williamson’s Sapsucker but many other species are possible including nesting Mountain Bluebirds.

If time allows on our return to the valley we will go north of Osoyoos Lake to Road 22. This location is especially rich with birdlife and rewards a slow careful search. We will check the oxbows of the Okanagan River next to Highway 97 for waterfowl, late migrating shorebirds, and wetland passerines like Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Cedar Waxwings, and Marsh Wrens. At the hard-stem bulrush marsh next to the junction of the highway and the beginning of Road 22 proper we will look and listen for Sora and Virginia

Rail as well as Wilson’s Snipe and a colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. The ridge to the west is a good site for soaring Golden Eagles.

Along Road 22 west of the channelized river we will search the fields for Bobolinks, one of the most visible colonies of these members of the blackbird family in BC. Long-billed Curlews can sometimes be seen as well, but are more visible in April and May. Ospreys nest along the south-east dyke which passes riparian thickets and bulrush ponds usually full of birds including Willow Flycatchers, Gray Catbirds, and Veeries. Yellow-breasted Chat will certainly be heard if not seen. The south end of the dyke where the river joins Osoyoos Lake is a hotspot for rare waterbirds.

At the east end of Road 22 we will once again listen for chats and check out the waterfowl which usually include Wood Ducks, Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal. Hooded Merganser is also possible. After a short stint on Black Sage Road, we will take Mackenzie Road to the Haynes Lease Ecological Reserve. Careful not to disturb this fragile environment, we will experience the Great Basin vegetation as it looked in the past before vineyards and urbanization claimed it. Targets will include Chukars, Rock and Canyon wrens at the base of the massive rock wall known as The Throne, Golden Eagle, and perhaps distant views and cries of Peregrine Falcons that traditionally nest on the rock face. Veteran old-growth Ponderosa Pines spaced wide apart and surrounded by tall shrubs make for productive Lewis’s Woodpecker habitat. Lazuli Bunting, Western Bluebirds, and Lark Sparrows also occur.

Camp McKinney Road runs east out of Oliver. Traditionally, distances along McKinney are measured from the gas station at its junction with Black Sage

BCFO 33rd CONFERENCE & AGM, June 9 – 11, 2023, Vernon, BC

Road. The first nine kilometres are First Nations land where we bird from the side of the road. This area is a large sage area known as Manuel's Flats where Vesper and Lark sparrows occur especially at rockpiles (past km 3).

Past km 10 we start looking for Gray Flycatchers in the pines at cattle guard. This species first extended its range from Washington State in the 1980s and so far has remained very locally distributed in the Okanagan occurring (sparsely) only as far north as Summerland. The forest beyond km 10 remain the best spot in Canada for this species. In the surrounding dry forest Townsend's Solitaires, Clark's Nutcrackers, all three nuthatches, Cassin's Finches and Red Crossbills also occur. This general area was home to the last White-headed Woodpeckers that could be found by the greater birding public in 2001. Since then the species has been highly elusive and with the recent increase in wild fires may be extirpated in Canada.

After exploring km 10–13 we will return to Oliver and head west towards the Fairview-White Lake road. A Bank Swallow colony, Black-chinned and Calliope hummingbirds and possibly a Least Flycatcher calling "chebec" from aspen copses may enliven the first few kilometres. At the km 7.5 intersection we will check out public land at the corner for White-breasted and Pygmy nuthatches, and Western Bluebirds before continuing straight on towards White Lake.

The next important landmark is the junction of Green Lake-White Lake. About 5 kms north of this junction we will stop at a pull-off on the right where a gated track leads down towards White Lake. Here we will look for White-throated Swifts overhead, and Nashville and Lazuli Bunting singing from brushy edges. Grassland birds here include Western Meadowlarks, Vesper Sparrows, Mountain and Western Bluebirds. Chukars may announce

their presence from the rocks while Gray Partridges are possible.

We will double back towards Oliver to visit River Road and Hacks Pond – Yellow-breasted Chats call from the riparian thickets along River Road. Often a male Black-chinned Hummingbird can be spotted perched on the wires where River Road becomes gravel. Hacks Pond is a little oasis at the foot of a steep pine covered slope. Expect Black-headed Grosbeaks, all three teal species, Marsh Wrens, Yellow Warblers, Gray Catbirds, Eastern Kingbirds, Red-eyed Vireos and other riparian songbirds.

Back on Highway 97 heading north we may stop at Inkaneep Provincial Park, a deciduous riparian picnic area or carry on to the north end of Vaseux Lake where we will spend a pleasant hour or two exploring the marsh boardwalk and then MacIntyre Creek Road up the arid slope east of the lake. White-throated Swifts, perhaps a passing Golden Eagle, Chukars, Rock Wrens, and Canyon Wrens make this an especially interesting spot, and a highlight of the tour.

If we have time, we will tour the Shuttleworth Creek and Venner Meadows that climb high into the forested slopes on the east side of the valley.

After a stop at Okanagan Falls for ice cream at Tickleberries, we will briefly inspect the falls to the south end of Skaha Lake for American Dipper and Barrow's Goldeneyes, though it's late in the season for both of these birds. Once through Penticton we will pull over to scan the western slopes north of Summerland for Mountain Goats to add to our mammal list which by the tour's end may include 15 species or more.

Conclusion

The tour will end at the Prestige Vernon Hotel in time for conference registration at 5:00 PM.

The Trip Leaders

Gary Davidson

Gary is a retired secondary school math and physics teacher. Most of his working career was in Nakusp where he still lives. He has been an active birder and naturalist since his university days in the early 1970s. He has compiled the Nakusp Christmas Bird Count since 1975 and he completed in excess of 50 Breeding Bird Surveys over a 30-year period. He contributed over 100,000 bird records to the 4-volume publication *The Birds of British Columbia*. He is a director of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies and has published numerous articles in their journal *Wildlife Afield*. He is an eBird reviewer for three regions in BC. He is the current president of the BCFO and has served on the Board of Directors for six years.

Chris Siddle

Chris is a retired secondary-school English teacher and has been an active birder since 1962. He has compiled and participated in dozens of Christmas Bird Counts, and carried out 25 years of Breeding Bird Surveys. He was also a field editor for the Royal British Columbia Museum's publication *The Birds of British Columbia* (1990–2000) and contributed species accounts to *The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia*. He is a former director of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies and remains the Centre's book review editor for *Wildlife Afield: A Journal of British Columbia Natural History*. He has worked as a co-leader for Avocet's Tours and as a sightings reviewer for eBird. He is a member of the British Columbia Field Ornithologists and in 2016 was the recipient of the BCFO's Steve Cannings Award for contributions to the province's ornithology. He writes a column, *Gone Pishing*, for the BCFO's quarterly news magazine, *BC Birding*.

BCFO

Short Trips

Last year the BCFO two-day field trips re-launched with a fantastic May bird trip in Creston, BC. We are planning more two-day field trips for 2023. These member-led trips are free for BCFO members.

100 Mile House June 23-24, 2023

This BCFO field trip will cover the 100 Mile House area on the expansive Cariboo plateau, where a few northern and eastern species mix with more common birds of the BC Interior. One day will focus on breeding warblers and songbirds in the rich forested habitats near Canim, Hawkins and Hendrix lakes. Possibilities include Black Tern, Spruce Grouse, Black Swift, Alder Flycatcher, Veery, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, MacGillivray's Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Tennessee Warbler (rare).

Another day will be spent exploring the marshes, grasslands, aspen parklands and burned areas near 100 Mile House, where Sandhill Crane, Sharp-tailed Grouse (rare), Wilson's Phalarope, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Red-naped Sapsucker, Mountain Bluebird, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and numerous waterfowl species breed.

This trip will be led by Paul Foth, BCFO board member and local 100 Mile House area birding tour guide. To register, email Paul at paulrfoth@gmail.com.

Other Upcoming Trips

Field trips are also being planned for Merritt and the Coquihalla Summit

(August 2023) and Salmon Arm Bay (September 2023). Keep your eye on the next issue of *BC Birding* for more details. Meanwhile, If you have requests for field trips to other areas of BC, or if you are interested in leading a future trip in your area, please email paulrfoth@gmail.com.



How the Short Trips Work

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

The first day is all-day birding followed by an evening get-together at a restaurant to recap the day and tally species. On three-day trips, the second day is similar.

The final day is morning birding, with optional birding in the afternoon.

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.

Left: Northern Waterthrush.

Below: Spruce Grouse.

Both photographed by Paul Foth in the 100 Mile House area.



In Memoriam

Rick Howie
19 Dec 1946 – 20 Jan 2023

Gary Davidson and Chris Siddle

Early this year BC lost another of its long-time naturalists. Rick Howie was known to many of us, and he will be missed. Rick was a long-time member of the BCFO. In 2018 he was presented with our highest honour, the Steve Cannings Award.

Rick's career as a wildlife biologist began with Parks Canada in the early 1970s when he held several positions over a seven-year period. He was Chief Park Naturalist in Prince Edward Island National Park, Chief Park Naturalist in Kejimikujik National Park, Nova Scotia, Interpretation Planner in Cornwall Ontario, and finally Chief Park Naturalist in Yoho National Park.

In 1978 he moved to the BC Parks Service and held the position of Regional Interpretation Officer for 16 years.

From 1994 to 2004 he was employed by the BC Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks as a Habitat Protection Biologist. As a government resource representative advising ranchers and developers on land and water use, he listened first and suggested later, able to put himself in the place of the manager or landowner. He knew the dangers of heavy-handed prescriptive approaches and avoided them and had a high success rate for helping land managers move toward wiser resource management.

In 2004 he formed his own company, Aspen Park Consulting. He spent the last 19 years of his working career as a consultant biologist. His work has included wildlife inventories, impact assessments for suburban, urban and industrial developments, and riparian

assessment reports to ensure that developments near water courses are in compliance with provincial regulations.

While many of us knew Rick as a birder, his interests were many and varied. His interest in the smaller things, for example, led him into the field of microscopy. He owned two sophisticated microscopes, each with camera attachments, which he used to identify freshwater organisms. In the field he was a friendly companion, full of curiosity and knowledge of not just birds but also plants, insects, and geology. Fellow birders accepted that a trip with Rick would invariably slow down at some point; Rick always managed to find a local to talk to along the way! Later in his career, he developed a keen interest in wildlife photography. And he is well known (among his friends), for his ability to make fine wines!

In the 1980s Rick and colleague Ralph Ritcey did ground-breaking field work on the distribution and habitat

Rick Howie on a Kumsheen River rafting trip on the Thompson River.



preferences of Flammulated Owls in the Thompson region. As a result, he was invited to present a seminal paper on Flammulated Owls at the 1987 Biology and Conservation of Northern Forest Owls symposium in Winnipeg. The symposium focussed international attention on northern owls across

North America and Europe for the first time in history. At that meeting, in company with some of the world's foremost owl experts like Robert W. Nero, C. Stuart Houston, Denver Holt, James Duncan and Heimo Mikkola, Rick co-chaired a special session on Great Gray Owls and other Strix species.

Always willing to share, and sometimes mentor, Rick had a very special talent for making people feel appreciated.

Rick is survived by his wife Carol and his daughter Christina.

Donation of Art to BCFO

Gary Davidson, Nakusp

John Waldin is a wildlife artist living in Duncan, BC. He recently donated one of his paintings to the BCFO to be used as a fundraiser to support our organization. Although John is not currently a member, he says he knows of us and supports our principles and ideals.

John is originally from southern Alberta. He joined Boy Scouts at an early age because he wanted to experience the outdoors. His first merit badge was earned by identifying local birds. He moved to Vancouver Island in his early 20s to work in the forest industry. He began painting about 20 years later when an industrial accident prevented him from continuing with forestry work. His first attempts were watercolours and as he puts it, he "... knew right away making art was my true calling." He has now worked as a professional artist for 35 years. His preferred subjects are Vancouver Island landscapes and BC birds. Like all artists, John paints what he feels, but will also do commission paintings for his customers. So, if you need a special picture for that blank space on your wall, you might want to give John a call!

The BCFO would like to thank John for his generous donation. The picture will be subject of a silent

auction at the Annual Conference in June. If you can't make the conference, but would like to take part in the auction, contact the president, Gary Davidson at: gsd37@yahoo.ca.



Belted Kingfisher by wildlife artist John Waldin of Duncan BC. It will be auctioned at the Vernon Conference and AGM as a fundraiser, with all proceeds going to the BCFO Education and Conservation Fund.

BCFO Young Birder Award Winners, 2023

Carlo Giovanella, Chair, Young Birders Award Committee

This year we are pleased to introduce a flock of seven new outstanding youngsters who have demonstrated remarkable levels of skill and enthusiasm for birding. Each will receive a plaque to commemorate their achievement, a custom BCFO YB baseball cap, BCFO membership until age 18, a year's membership to Reifel, and a one-year subscription to Cornell's *Birds of The World*. The winners are:

Bentley Colwill (below)

Age 14, Chilliwack. Nominator: Len Jellicoe



Paul Jacques (below)

Age 15, Vancouver. Nominator: Liron Gertzman



Raymond Liu

Age 13, Richmond. Nominator: Carlo Giovanella



Daniel Poon (below)

Age 14, Richmond. Nominator: Carlo Giovanella



Harry Sedin (top right)

Age 12, Vancouver. Nominator: Liron Gertzman



Josh Yiu (below)

Age 17, Surrey. Nominator: Carlo Giovanella



Clay Zhou-Radies (below)

Age 14, Vancouver. Nominator: Liron Gertzman.



Notes

Membership Report

Larry Cowan, Pitt Meadows

The 2022 final number for regular memberships was 314. This is the highest membership total I have been able to find and certainly the highest since 2010.

Our year-to-date paid membership figure of 269 as of February 12 compares to 258 to the end of February 2022. This is a positive trend with the likelihood of 2023 surpassing 2022. New memberships are as expected to February.

Of the 54 new members joining in 2022, 67% have to date renewed for 2023. As a bonus, four complimentary memberships from 2022 have renewed as members for 2023.

So far in 2023 membership payment methods are as follows: eTransfer 33%, PayPal/CC 56%, and by cheque 11%. In 2022 eTransfers accounted for 23% of payments, 68% PayPal and 9% by cheque.

Membership Age Demographic Survey

The directors think it would be beneficial to recognize whether there is a need to encourage more involvement from birders in a wider age range. To get an awareness of our membership age demographic a survey will be sent to members sometime in March. It is hoped members will take a few minutes to take part in the survey. The survey will not capture individual members age.

Research & Conservation Committee

The R & C Committee and the Board have approved a request to help fund a project to collect information on the distribution of Yellow Rails and other marsh birds in the province. The collaborative project, led by Birds Canada,

THREE NEW DIRECTORS NEEDED!

At the Vernon Conference and AGM three Board members are standing down after long service (the maximum allowable is six consecutive years.) Please consider stepping up to add your input and guidance for the future direction of the BCFO. Alternatively, if you know of a BCFO member well suited to the role, please forward their name. Members with treasurer/bookkeeping experience/interest are particularly encouraged to join the board.

Nominations must be received by the Board at least 30 days prior to the scheduled AGM, and so need to be received by May 12 at latest.

If no nominations are received, the Board will seek to find suitable candidates from the membership.

The time commitment is not great – typically four or five meetings per year conducted via Zoom. We need new members with new ideas. Please give some thought to assisting your organization.

Gary Davidson, President, 250-265-4456, gsd37@yahoo.ca

will install 20 autonomous recording units (ARUs) to detect Species at Risk during their breeding period throughout south-central BC. The data will support conservation of key wetland sites and improve understanding of the breeding range of at-risk marsh birds. It will also enhance understanding of the effectiveness of ARUs in collecting data from conservation areas and unprotected sites.

BCFO will contribute \$2,000 to cover the food and travel expenses involved in the project. The project will be carried out between April and June, 2023 and will focus on the Cariboo-Chilcotin area.

June if anybody would like to keep paper copies of the various materials. There is a copy of the 4-volume *Birds of BC* from the 1990s that was donated years ago (which itself is available online as a pdf now – but at a price). If anybody would like to preview the library contents, I can forward that list.

BCFO Facebook Group

The Directors have been looking into developing social media tools for the organization, including a Facebook Group: this is now under development. The Group will allow members to exchange thoughts, photographs, etc.

BCFO Library

Les Gyug, BCFO Archivist (and former Librarian).

The BCFO lending library is being disbanded after many years of unused. Everything in the library is available online, so there really is no point to it in this digital age. I will be bringing the boxes of material to the AGM in Vernon in

Thanks to Reifel and Cornell

The BCFO Directors were delighted to receive notice from Reifel and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology that they would provide free one-year subscriptions for Young Birder Award winners. Cornell will provide subscriptions to *Birds of the World*, while Reifel will provide free access to the bird sanctuary.

BC Bird Alerts

Since the deadline for the December edition of this magazine, the following alerts were issued:

- FIELDFARE, Kelowna, Jan 10–13
- BLACK PHOEBE in Chilliwack, Dec 17–18
- BRAMBLING, Powell River, Dec 12
- TUFTED DUCK, Duncan, Dec 11–12
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, Sechelt, Dec 2
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, Vancouver, Nov 30–Dec 3
- PRAIRIE WARBLER, Victoria, Nov 21
- SLATY-BACKED GULL, Kamloops, Nov 21–23
- WHOOPER SWAN, Courtenay, Nov 19-24
- SCARLET TANAGER, Kaslo, Nov 18

See bcbirdalert.blogspot.com

BC Bird of the Year 2022

Kevin Neill's annual contest offered the following candidates for *BC Bird of the Year 2022*:

- Red-shouldered Hawk, Jan–Feb, Agassiz, 1st BC photo documentation
- Blue Grosbeak, Jan-Apr, Tofino, 2nd confirmed BC record
- Nazca Booby, Feb & July, Victoria area, 3rd confirmed BC record
- Whooper Swan, Mar & Nov, Vancouver & Courtenay, 1st/2nd confirmed BC records
- Scarlet Tanager, June & Nov, Vancouver & Kaslo, 4th/5th BC records
- Sedge Wren, July, Fort St. John, 1st confirmed BC breeding record
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, July, Lardeau
- Yellow Wagtail, Aug, Sechelt, 5th BC record

- Hawaiian Petrel, Sept, off Vancouver Island, 6th BC record
- Bell's Vireo, Nov, Victoria, 2nd BC record
- Prairie Warbler, Nov, Victoria, 6th BC record
- Prothonotary Warbler, Dec, Vancouver, 1st winter record in Canada

The Whooper Swan was the clear winner, receiving one third of all votes. Following at some distance were:

- 2) Prothonotary Warbler
- 3) Red-shouldered Hawk
- 4) Sedge Wren
- 5) Black-capped Chickadee

Fourteen birds in total received votes for this year, which Kevin notes is much more varied than usual.

Bird of the Year - VI

The year, Geoffrey Newell has added a Bird of the Year competition specifically for Vancouver Island. Mainlanders were amazed to hear that Black-

capped Chickadee was a serious contender, but after votes were tallied, it appeared just in fourth place, as there was serious competition. As might have been expected, the Whooper Swan again emerged as winner.

The votes cast were as follows:

1. Whooper Swan - 24%
2. Loggerhead Shrike - 19%
3. Common Poorwill - 14%
4. Black-capped Chickadee - 10%
5. Arctic Loon - 8%

Bird Friendly Cities

Lions Bay and Saanich are among the latest recipients of the *Bird Friendly City* certification. Nature Canada created this certification to encourage municipalities to become safer places for birds, following receipt of a \$655,000 grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada. In the spring of 2021, Vancouver, along with Toronto, London, and Calgary, were the first to be certified as Bird Friendly Cities.

THE BCFO 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, free BCFO membership (electronic) until age 19, plus other contributed awards.

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 listservs, 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.

The Bird Friendly City program encourages communities to act to:

- reduce the number of human-caused threats to birds, such as outdoor cats, pesticide use, and collisions with windows
- create safe environments for birds by promoting stewardship and ensuring that natural habitats are protected and restored; and
- engage and educate citizens on the benefits of Bird Friendly Cities and the celebration of birds in their communities.

More details can be found at:

naturecanada.ca/defend-nature/how-you-help-us-take-action/bfc/

Peter Pyle's *Birds of North America*

The second edition of this bird-bander's bible is now available from Buteo Books and other sources for \$US80. It is emphatically not a field guide, but a compendium of information on identifying, ageing, and sexing passerines and near-passerines in the hand. See

www.buteobooks.com/product/PYLE1.html

Seabird Colonies of BC

Volume three in the four-volume series on *Seabird Colonies of British Columbia* has just been published. The series provides a compendium of the research carried out over decades by the authors, Michael Rodway, Wayne Campbell, and Moira Lemon. Volume 4 will be available later this year and will cover seabird breeding populations at colonies in the highly-urbanized and disturbed inner waters of the BC Salish Sea.

More information can be found along with free online copies of the first three on the Biodiversity Centre

website, <http://www.wildlifebc.org>.

Creston Valley Bird Festival

Ulrike Sliworsky

The 11th Annual Creston Valley Bird Festival takes flight on May 12–14th, 2023 in Creston, BC. There will be 19 guided bird tours by kayak, foot, car, and bus to various locations in the valley, that supports over 300 avian species. There will also be tours to some of our wonderful valley producers such as Swan Valley Honey, Kootenay Meadows Dairy, Baillie-Grohman Estate Winery, Wild North Brewery, Wyndell Craft Distillery, and Treasure Mills flour.

Birds Canada will join us for a presentation on their citizen science programs as well as their latest research projects on the Long-billed Curlew and Black Swift. There will also be a short film "Of Waterfalls and Wings: Surveying for the Mysterious Black Swifts". Sachi Snively will be presenting the work at the Tatlayoko Lake Bird Observatory.

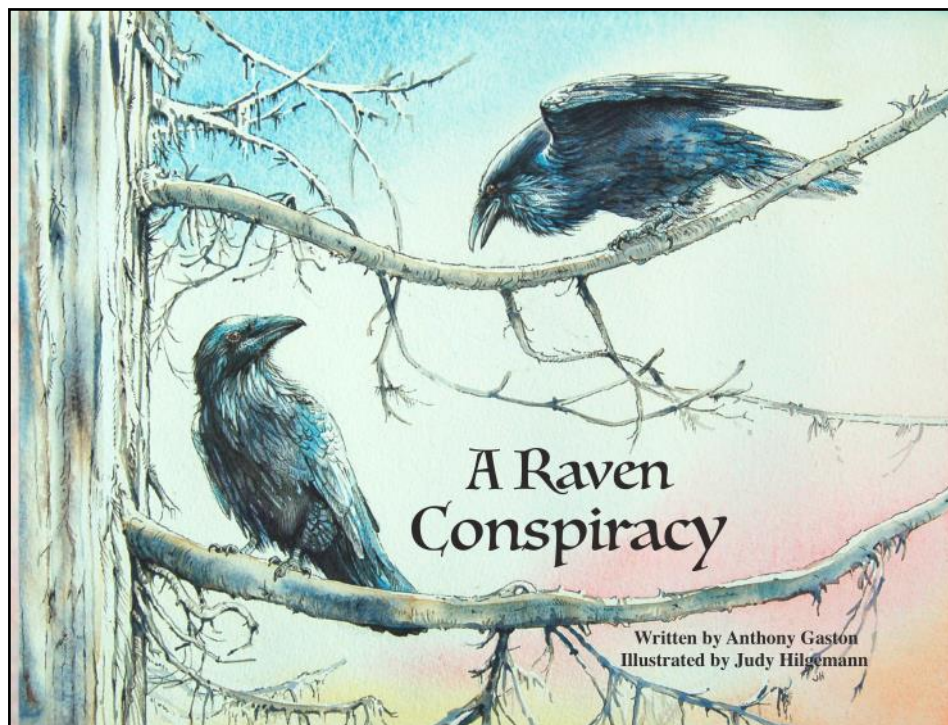
<https://wildsight.ca/branches/creston-valley/birdfest>

Latest Tony Gaston Book

BCFO member Tony Gaston has a new book out called *A Raven Conspiracy*. This is a children's book, aimed at 7–77 year-olds.

Christopher Moore, winner of the Canadian Governor General's Award for Children's Literature, wrote of the book:

"*A Raven Conspiracy* is set in the magical islands of Haida Gwaii, off the west coast of Canada. Krah, an intelligent and resourceful raven, is chosen by his peers to represent the ravens of Haida Gwaii at the Kag-moot: a gathering of all the world's ravens. The meeting has been called to consider what can be done to curb humans' wasteful attitude towards the environment that all living creatures share. After long deliberation, the ravens decide to take away some children, being the one thing that all humans value highly. To do this they enlist the help of Sufis and Lamas, holy men who support the ravens' cause. The children and the ravens soon make friends, and together they begin to awaken the older generation to the harm that their wasteful way of life is doing to the earth. "A good, original story, well organized and well told. It has a quest, it has vivid central charac-



ters, it has drama and a climax at the end.”

Richard Cannings wrote of the book:

“This is a remarkable, page-turning tale that mixes science with fantasy and packs an important message for all of us.”

Online purchasers can be made at <https://www.laskeekbay.org/shop-1>, or can be ordered by phone at 250-800-0563.

Find the Birds AND Whales

Adam Dhalla

Find the Birds, a free educational game about bird and habitat conservation I created, continues to expand its content and audience. It features Arizona, Illinois, British Columbia and Japan birds and in-game locations. The game has thousands of players of all ages in 49 countries.

In order to increase the accessibility for children, schools and families to the game’s accurate information about birds, I recently partnered with BCFO, NatureKids BC, BirdWatching magazine and Birds Canada to also create a free Windows PC/Computer version, which is now available on Steam, the number one worldwide distribution platform for this format. The download link for this, and for the App Store (Apple) and Google Play (Android) versions are available on the game website: www.findthebirds.com

While I’m still waiting to hear back from various organizations around the globe about who want to help produce the next *Find the Birds* in-game location, I also went ahead and developed, with the assistance of the Pacific Whale Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, WWF Mesoamérica, Healthy Reefs for Healthy People, and MAR Fund, a new, free spin-off game called *Find the Whales*, about ocean conservation.

Find the Whales is growing too, and currently includes Hawaii and Mesoamerican Reef in-game locations and

species. Not only does it have marine animals, such as the Pantropical spotted dolphin and Humpback whale, it includes a few birds too: the Brown Booby and Great Frigatebird – so is something to interest birders too, although anyone interested in nature and education will enjoy this new game, as conserving the planet’s seas is at least as important as protecting its land habitats. The download links for the App Store (Apple), Google Play (Android) and Steam (Windows/PC Computer) game versions are available on the website at www.findthewhales.com.



Lightening Up

Some Classy Sign-offs

Carlo Giovanella, Cloverdale

This little article harkens back to times before social media took over the world of communications. That was the heyday for internet listservs / forums / chat lines, which were the chief means by which birders could post bird sightings, information, and opinions to fellow featherphiles. Most active birders posted to one or several lists, and some became very active and well-known, even infamous. A few took to signing off their postings with creative slogans. Here are some favourites that I can recall.

- *Happy Birding* – fairly commonly used, notably by Wayne Weber.
- *Best Pishes* – Ken Kingston (Kingston Ont)
- *Watch the Birdie* – name forgotten
- *May Your Birds Abound* – Ian Thomas (Vancouver)
- *Good Migrations* – name forgotten
- *See You in the Field* – Len Jellicoe (Surrey - Abbotsford)
- *Tight Bins* – name forgotten, prominent birder in Newfoundland.

I liked the last one so much I plagiarized the theme and used *Steady Bins* as my own sign-off.

In the same light, except used as a sign-off on blog postings: John Gordon’s “It’s never too late to start birding.”

Meanwhile, over the last few decades I have prepared a few tongue-in-cheek articles that poke fun at birders and birding. Some were posted on precursors to the current BCVanBirds list, now no longer accessible. A few were published in previous editions of this newsmagazine. As a service to the birding community, I have now compiled these fanciful ramblings into a single blog, recently posted under the title, *Birding on the Lighter Side*.

rokman61.wordpress.com/2023/01/23/on-the-lighter-side-of-birding/

eBird Good Humour

Chris Siddle has pointed out a rather delightful quirk in the normally sober eBird species descriptions. Concluding the description of the Shining Sunbeam are the words

*You are my sunbeam, my
Shining Sunbeam / You
make me happy when you
display / Aglaeactis cu-
pripennis / Please don't take
my sunbeam away.*

I kid you not. See ebird.org/species/shisun1

Listserv Humour

The Vancouver Island birders’ listserv had an amusing thread on birds making questionable appearances in TV programs, films, and songs. The most famous is of course the Red-tailed Hawk’s scream used as a voice-over for eagles, but it is just the tip of the iceberg. Here are a few that were mentioned:

The Essential Loon

The Common Loon certainly utters a wonderfully atmospheric sound, giving just the right frisson of wild loneliness when the drama requires it. Thus we find it appearing at a poignant moment in the dense Malayan jungle (*Lord Jim*), and in a far northern forest in the middle of the winter (*The Trap*).

Exotic Locations

Well, exotic birds will appear anywhere exotic, won't they? A Cockatoo would surely be perfectly at home in the jungles of Colombia (*Romancing the Stone*). And a Kookaburra laugh makes for a really convincing bit of exotica, so seemed (to the film makers) an appropriate accompaniment for numerous Tarzan movies.

Not-so Exotic Location

Birders watching *The Parent Trap* might have been sent scrambling through their bird guides after seeing the film's villainess, floating on a lake, awakened in a tizzy by a bird. Not often seen outdoors in northern California, it proved to be a Red-Crested Turaco, rather more often seen in Central Africa.

Song-Birds

Who would ever be moved by "There are crows over the white cliffs of Dover?" And Americans buy more records than Brits, so it makes sense to write lyrics about birds that Americans might know. Which explains not just the bluebird but:

How many songbirds fly to and fro
In an English country garden?
We'll tell you now of some that we know
Those we miss you'll surely pardon
Bobolink, cuckoo and quail
Tanager and *cardinal*
Bluebird, lark, thrush and nightingale
There is joy in the spring
When the birds begin to sing
In an English country garden

Ouch.

Field Assistant Position Available—March-April 2023

With possible second contract thru May-June 2023

Ecology and Social Behaviour of Vancouver Island Canada Jays

Paradise Meadows, Strathcona Provincial Park, Mount Washington, BC

Principal Investigators: Mr. Dan Strickland, Field Supervisor; Dr. John D. Reynolds, Simon Fraser University; Dr. Ryan Norris, University of Guelph

Description of Study: This study, which began in 2016, seeks to document and understand the social behaviour, demography, ecology, and susceptibility to climate change of a colour-banded population of the Pacific morphotype of Canada Jays (*Perisoreus canadensis obscurus*). This population is at Paradise Meadows, Strathcona Provincial Park, on Mount Washington, Vancouver Island, BC. The Canada Jay's Pacific morphotype differs from the continent-spanning Boreal morphotype (*P. c. canadensis*) in being slightly smaller, having different plumage, and in having much larger social groups that often include two or even three separate breeding pairs. In fact, it may deserve separate species status.

Duties and Qualifications: Duties will include recording of individuals in social groups, nest searching, performing nest watches, video recording of intragroup behaviour, and data entry (on days with poor field conditions). Coordination of daily activities will be by prior arrangement, cell phone, and/or portable radio. Much of the on-site travel will be by snowshoes (supplied) but preference will be given to candidates who also have demonstrated cross-country skiing experience.

Remuneration and Working Conditions: Compensation (through Simon Fraser University) will be \$2500-\$3000 per month depending on experience. Accommodation in Courtenay and use of kitchen is free but the successful applicant will be responsible for cooking their own meals and for associated food costs. The assistant will also be responsible for costs associated with travel to Courtenay from their normal place of residence and return at the end of the contract.

Questions? Please send CV and contact information of two references to Dan Strickland (perisoreus1@gmail.com). Interviews may be conducted by phone or Zoom. Copies of annual progress reports from this field study are available on request.



Spooky Owl Sounds

Owls sounds are tailor-made to accompany anything creepy and mysterious. That is why you hear the eerie notes of a Great Horned Owl during a *Murder She Wrote* investigation taking place in England. Perhaps the bird flew in specially from North America for the gig.

More Subtle Bloopers

In an episode of *The Tudors*, featuring 16th century Henry VIII, a swan can be seen swimming serenely on a lake in the palace gardens. It's a pity they got the

continent wrong and chose to show a Trumpeter Swan.

A more subtle error, which can almost be forgiven, is the avian anachronism. Eurasian Collared-Doves would seem to make a sound perfectly suited to the English countryside and have thus made noted appearances in movies of early Agatha Christie tales and in the Georgian period *Pride and Prejudice*. But then only birders are likely to know that Eurasian Collared-Doves were unknown in England until the second half of the twentieth century.

Avian Encounters

Varied Thrush Invasion

Tony Greenfield, Sechelt

The Arctic front descended on the Sunshine Coast overnight on 17th December 2022 bringing heavy snow in the mountains and snow and sub-zero temperatures to sea-level on the 18th. Along with the front and the snow came a historic influx of Varied Thrushes. Snow to sea-level is relatively uncommon on the Sunshine Coast but after a heavy snowfall in the mountains there is normally a visible increase in Varied Thrush numbers at lower elevations. However, this was a mega-event and exceptional numbers of thrushes were also reported in Vancouver and Washington state.

In their unaccustomed low elevation and sea-level habitat, the thrushes were drawn to any tiny area of bare ground where they could kick the snow and leaf litter around to find seeds and arthropods. On my property they focused on the ground beneath western red cedars where the canopy intercepted the snow, thus minimizing the snow depth, and one area looked like it had been ploughed, with every square centimetre turned over. However, bird feeders proved particularly attractive to the thrushes with phenomenal concentrations. Three birders located along 20 kms of the Sunshine Coast reported 72, 68 and 60 birds at their individual feeders. I had 30+ with no feeder.

The Sunshine Coast CBC was held on 17th December, the day prior to the influx and 80 Varied Thrush were tallied, about the same as the total at one feeder a day later. The influx was reported the length of the Sunshine Coast from Langdale to Earl's Cove, a distance of 80 kms. Simple arithmetic suggests that hundreds of thousands of birds may have been involved in this event.

A similar snow and cold event in December 2016 coincided with the Sunshine Coast Christmas Bird Count. That year there was a historic invasion of Red-breasted Sapsuckers and the CBC total for the species ballooned from an average of 1–3 to 124, which blew the all-time continental CBC record for the species right out of the water. In 2016 there was a concomitant spike in Varied Thrush numbers, but there was no visible increase in sapsucker numbers during the 2022 event. One unifying feature though was an increase in mortality. In 2016 the sapsuckers and in 2022 the thrushes, suffered elevated mortality from unaccustomed hazards such as glass collisions, vehicle hits, and predation.

By 24th December the Arctic front withered away, the temperature rose, it was raining, and a rapid thaw was under way. And as the snow melted, so did the Varied Thrushes, melting back to their upslope habitat. Some questions remain. Where did all these Varied Thrushes come from? Was this a local or a regional movement?



Leucistic, Too

Among a large flock of Varied Thrush spotted by Scott Edwardson in Delta on Christmas Eve was the leucistic individual at top right. Had it been alone, it would surely have caused great ID bafflement.

Neighbourly Merlin

Mike Cronk (Gibsons) had a family of four Merlin around the house this year and one of them would regularly drop by for a photo session, and perhaps give a friendly wave. Mike used a Nikon D850 and a 200–500mm zoom.



Brown Creeper: Feeder Bird?

Lyle Grisedale, Kimberley

Shortly after the new year when the Kootenays went into the deep freeze I noticed that a Brown Creeper was visiting my bird feeders most days, on my back deck, picking up the bits of sunflower seeds that the chickadees and nuthatches have dropped. From what I have read this is unusual behaviour, but perhaps it has just gone unnoticed. Since it has warmed up the Brown Creeper has continued to visit my feeders and shows up most days. The photos show the creeper on my deck picking up seeds.



Anna's Hummingbird Meets a Shocking End

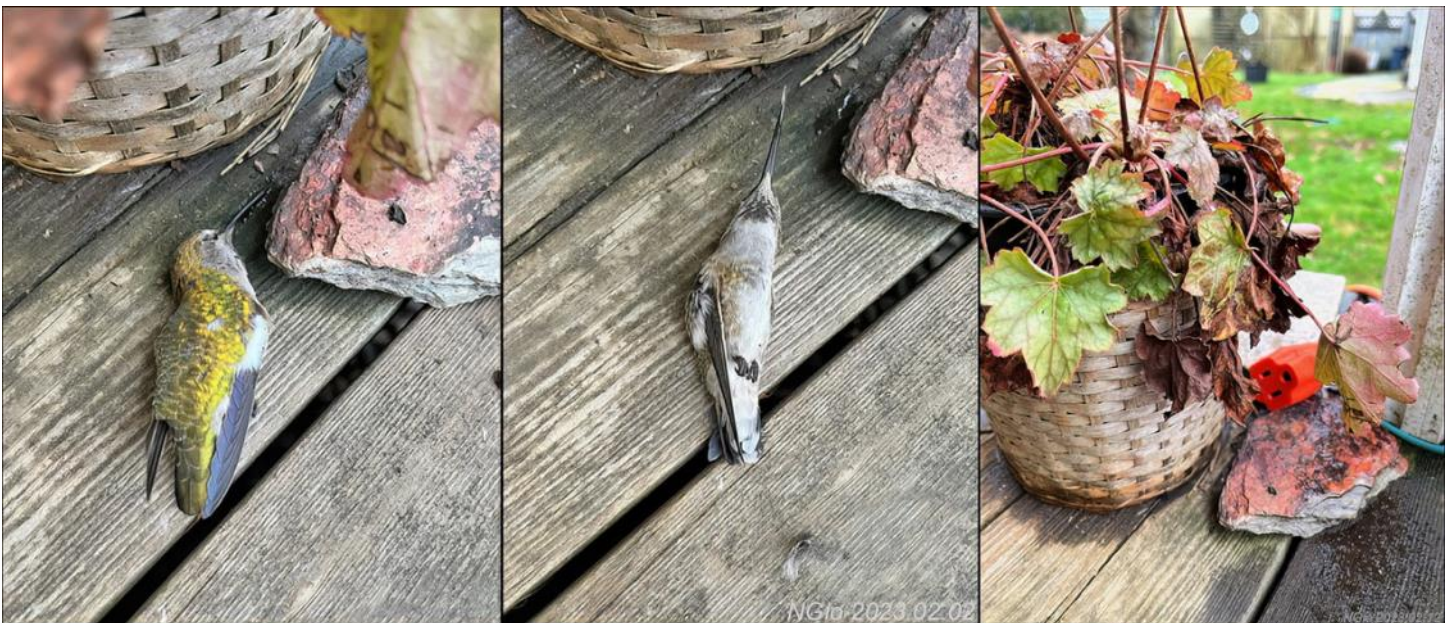
Carlo and Norma Gionavella, Cloverdale

We keep a hummingbird feeder on the deck year-round, but only see minimal action at it; occasional visits by one bird on most days, some days two birds. So imagine how upsetting it was when Norma recently noticed a tiny feathered body lying on the deck directly below the feeder! The corpse was extremely fresh, and on close inspection she noticed that its tongue was extended, as if it had died instantly whilst in the act of feeding. How could that happen! I wondered if it had been attacked by another hummer, but a consequence so sudden seems implau-

sible. Norma soon came up with what we think is the explanation.

In winter the feeder is kept warm with an electric heater, which is plugged into an extension cord on the deck below the feeder. The extension cord is bright orange in colour, and the bulbous female end does somewhat resemble a flower-blossom head. Apparently the bird was attracted by the orange colour, and attempted to "feed" from the holes in the receptacle. This too seems rather unthinkable, but unless someone can suggest a more likely cause of death, we surmise that the bird was in fact electrocuted.

Although the chance of a recurrence must be extremely unlikely, we are keeping that receptacle covered when not in use.



THE STEVE CANNINGS AWARD

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Steve Cannings Award has been presented by BCFO since 2007 to honour the memory of Steve Cannings, an outstanding amateur ornithologist, naturalist, photographer, and conservationist. The Steve Cannings Award recognizes someone who has made significant contributions over a long period of time in one or more of the following areas:

1. Research on bird biology or ecology, or detailed documentation of the birdlife of any portion of BC
2. Conservation of birds or of bird habitats in BC
3. Public education about birds in BC
4. Distinguished service to BC birding.

Presentation of the award is usually made at the annual BCFO conference.

Nominations are sought from any BCFO member. Nominations should include at least a brief statement as to why the nominee is deserving of the award. The Award Committee will follow up for more details as needed. All nominations for the award will be gratefully received.

Nominations should be sent to Gary Davidson, Chair of the Steve Cannings Award Committee, either by mail to P.O. Box 294 Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0, or by email to gsd37@yahoo.ca.

Getting a Better Look

On January 15, Brian Avent (Richmond) glimpsed a California Scrub-Jay in his neighbourhood and wondered if a bribe would generate a better look. It certainly did. After he put out some nuts in his yard, the first bird arrived within a couple of minutes followed by two more and perhaps a third. They were obviously watching



the neighbourhood and seem to be a lot more populous than he expected.

Coming Soon To a Town Near you

California Scrub-Jays are also now making appearances in the Okanagan, being regularly spotted in OK Falls and surrounding areas. Alex Bodden even managed to spot one for the Cawston Christmas Bird Count.



Above: Another of John Gordon's photographs from New South Wales – see page 26. The Crimson Rosella is a ground feeder found in eastern rainforests, woodlands and farmland.

Left: California Scrub Jay photographed by Brian Avent.

On Dippers and Their Nests

Charles Helm, Tumbler Ridge

One of my cross-country skiing friends sent me an email saying he had skied up Bullmoose Creek to the falls, and that he had found what seemed to be a nest in the cliff close to the falls. He provided an attachment, which was clearly a photo of the nest of an American Dipper.

We have found that the most effective and easiest way to find dipper nests is to ski up creeks and canyons to waterfalls, and then check out the cliffs at the base of each frozen waterfall. Moreover, I knew that when I had skied to the falls on Bullmoose Creek last winter, there was no nest.

The next day we set off in perfect ski conditions: minus 5 degrees, no wind, and a nice trail to follow that had been set by my friend's group. It took us just two hours to ski the ten km to the falls. Sure enough, once there I followed my friend's tracks and found his nest. I admired its simple yet perfectly executed design (top right).

Happy to have looked into another dipper nest, I then worked my way along the base of the cliff on the frozen pool below the falls. After about five metres, I was astonished to find a second dipper nest, as perfectly situated and constructed as the first one (bottom right).

What a fine puzzle! Two nests where a year ago there were none: this begged multiple questions. Did this represent two broods, one in each nest? Was one of the seemingly perfect nests not quite up to dipper standard? If so, what was wrong with it, that could justify all that extra effort rather than some retrofitting? Could a second



pair of dippers have built the second nest? Could two pairs of dippers have shared the territory and been content with nesting five metres away from each other (surely that's not possible)?

Jack Bowling, ever in tune with questions like these, sent some information from Cornell's *Birds of the World*: dippers often build new nests



Photo top: Nest 1 at the falls on Bullmoose Creek.

Photo right: Nest 2 also at the falls on Bullmoose Creek.

Photos by author.

near old nests or on top of them, or repair and reuse old nests. For example, openings are made smaller and new inner linings are added. Apparently, nest building is a female prerogative for dippers, and the role of the male is to provide some assistance in bringing moss to the nest.

This was useful knowledge, but did not quite answer all the questions. That heavy tome in my basement, Volume 3 of *The Birds of British Columbia* (1997), did provide some extra information: double-brooding had been noted in one third of dipper pairs in the USA, but had not been recorded in BC. Nonetheless, records of nesting from March through August suggested that some pairs indeed raised more than one brood.

One more question arose: how many of our dippers stay for the winter and how many head elsewhere to areas with less chance of all moving water being frozen over during a forty-below cold snap? And where do they go?

All these questions got me thinking about dippers and what remarkable creatures they are. Certainly, our Christmas Bird Count quest for a dipper sighting (usually successful) has become the high point in that annual en-

deavour, which tells me that they are something special (below).

So, what's not to like about dippers? They are the most aquatic of all songbirds, and are the only songbirds that swim – watching a clip of them progressing rapidly underwater against the current conjures up comparisons with penguins. Plus, they have those cool white feathers on their eyelids that they seem to flaunt when blinking repeatedly.

However, most important for me personally is their habitat: stretches of canyon and fast-moving creek close to waterfalls, where they nest. And in the Tumbler Ridge area, this means proximity to dinosaur tracks. Dippers are inevitably my cherished companions during field research at dinosaur track-sites. In fact, those two nests at the falls on Bullmoose Creek are located just a couple of metres from the nearest dinosaur tracks.

In addition to all of this, dippers (both female and male) sing throughout the year. In the depths of winter their song reminds me that spring and so much other birdsong are on the way. And the song is good and loud – it has to be, as it competes with the sound of rushing and tumbling water.

Their song is a distillation of everything I love about our foothills and canyon wilderness, and I am reminded of the verse from Philippians (4:8) that I learned as a schoolkid:

“Whatsoever is true, whatsoever is pure, whatsoever is lovely, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Indeed, I enjoy thinking on dipper song.

Now there is one human who has extolled these virtues more eloquently than anyone else ever could, and that is John Muir. In fact, he devoted an entire chapter (chapter 13) to the “Water-ouzel” (aka the American Dipper) in his 1894 book, *The Mountains of California*. Selected excerpts include:

“as smoothly plump and compact as a pebble that has been whirled in a pot-hole.... no canyon is too cold for this little bird, none too lonely, provided it be rich in falling water.... the mountain streams' own darling, the humming-bird of blooming waters, loving rocky ripple-slopes and sheets of foam as a bee loves flowers, as a lark loves sunshine and meadows among all the mountain birds, none has cheered me so much in my lonely wanderings—none so unfailingly ...while water sings, so must he; his mellow, fluty voice is ever tuned to down-right gladness.”

If I had to choose my three favourite birds for Tumbler Ridge, I would start by establishing criteria. Number one would be that if I choose to embrace winter and stick around for it, then so should my favourite birds. That immediately excludes more than 80% of candidates. But it leaves the ptarmigan (preferably the White-tailed variety), the goshawk, and the dipper – representing hill, forest and stream. Yet of the three the dipper is easiest to reliably find.

Like dippers, I enjoy inhabiting these canyons with fast-moving wa-

American Dipper at Christmas-time, 2022. Photo by Brandon Broderick.



ters, swimming in them and jumping into pools below waterfalls. I sing (though not well) in the Community Choir. I leave my tracks beside those of dippers in the winter snow beside pockets of open water, and am accompanied by them as I search for dinosaur tracks in summer. If I were to return to this life in another form one day, I hope it would be as a dipper (provided I could first get some good singing lessons).

I might never learn the answers to the questions posed by the nests at the falls on Bullmoose Creek. Yet sometimes just pondering and wondering is as good as knowing.

Right: American Dipper feeding young at Flatbed Falls, near Tumbler Ridge.

Photo by Kirsty Casey.



Briefing I

Pest Patrol

Summary by M. Church

Orchardists suffer many pests – insects, birds and mammals (not entirely excluding us) – that pilfer ripening fruit, gnaw plant stems, and damage blossom. And prey on other organisms that benefit the orchard. Through a series of studies in the United States, the surprising value of bird “police” has become clear. They are easily the most cost-effective means for eliminating orchard pests. But the orchardist needs to take positive steps to attract the right “policemen.”

In upstate Michigan, cherry orchardists discovered, via a Boy Scout nest-box building project, that American Kestrels eliminate mice and voles that gnaw the stems of young trees and, along with songbirds, attack the fruit. For each dollar spent on nest boxes, \$C120 to \$C500 was saved in fruit value and reduced pesticide costs, with the added advantage of reduced need to apply chemical pesticides. Nest box-

es have proliferated and Kestrel numbers in the region, formerly declining, are now increasing.

In California vineyards, Barn Owls raising young consume 3,000 rodents, particularly rats, in a year, while the planting of shade trees among the vines attracts songbirds that consume large numbers of insects. An important factor in attracting the owls is to maintain a portion of the landscape in natural cover, grasses and Garry oak. Savings are in the range \$C90 to \$C210 per hectare. This success prompted water-control engineers to realise that Barn Owls and other raptors might control pocket gophers and voles that dig passageways and nests in earthen dykes along irrigation canals. With an established program using nest boxes to attract the appropriate birds, about \$C6,660 per kilometre per year is saved in dyke maintenance costs over the use of pesticides.

Western Bluebirds are favourite songbirds to attract to orchards and vineyards because they readily take up residence in nesting boxes, providing a sure means to attract them. Songbirds attracted to an orchard or vineyard have been found to increase insect

consumption by 4x, while bluebirds account for a 10x increase. The birds’ value is estimated to be about \$C425 per hectare in fruit saved from insect pests. Again, natural habitat within about 500 metres increases the number and effectiveness of songbirds to consume insect pests. Enthusiastic participants include Nuttall’s Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick’s Wren, Northern Flickers, Bushtits and Sapsuckers – birds that seek and consume insects along woody stems.

The summary lesson is the value of farming with nature rather than by imposing artificial solutions. Nature’s design, we learn, again, is usually best – because developed over perhaps millions of years.

Reference

Summarized from Breining, G. 2021. “In orchards, vineyards and other farms, birds are best at pest control.” *Living Bird*, summer 2021: 33-43 (*Living Bird* is the house journal of the Cornell Laboratory for Ornithology).

Birding New South Wales, Fall 2022

John Gordon, Langley/Cloverdale

Flooded farmland, bridges washed away and roads closed; not the Australia that Sandee and I had read about or expected. Rural areas had been hardest hit, as had major population centres including Sydney. Historically, Australia has always had bouts of drought, wildfires and floods. Following the devastating wildfires of 2019 the country was now in the third year of the La Niña phenomenon, leaving many parts of the country wetter than normal.

Sydney

Our Australian trip began with three days of orientation in Sydney. Sandee and I took a tour of the city. At a windy Bondi Beach a large flock of shearwaters battled their way to an offshore island. They were too far away to tell the exact species.

A short walk from the hotel an Australian White Ibis bathed in an ornamental fountain. They are known here as “bin chickens” or “tip turkeys” due to their scavenging habits.

Downtown offered a chance to bird the Sydney Botanical Garden where I picked up a dozen new species. A great way to shrug off jet lag. Most large centres had botanical gardens; Rockhampton and Coff's Harbour were some of the best.

The Sydney Natural History Museum (free admission) was

the perfect way to spend a rainy afternoon. One hall was devoted to Australia birds, another to aboriginal history and culture: both good primers for our upcoming adventure.

On Day 3, while Sandee indulged in retail therapy I met up with Birding Pal Barry Lancaster who took me and another birder out to Cumberland State Forest on the outskirts of Sydney.

An early start made sure we had time to see parrots and cockatoos before they left their forest roosts to search for food in the surrounding orchards and farmland. The forest was full of birdsong and the ultimate skulker and vocalist, the Eastern Whipbird.

A colourful flock of Red-rumped Parrots feeding on a suburban lawn was another highlight. A ground feeder, small flocks are confined to south-eastern Australia.

By the end of the day and with Barry's expert knowledge I had added 66 more lifers to my Aussie list. An introduced Eurasian Blackbird, House Sparrow, Rock Pigeon and Common Starling were Australian ticks. I couldn't have asked for a better start.

Camper Time

We picked up our camper and headed south toward Goulburn and inland to Jugiong. There we met Lyn Burden, another Birding Pal I had been corresponding with for months. Lyn had taken the trouble to make up a five-day itinerary for us but due to inclement weather had decided to reverse the tour to avoid the rains. Our destination, Lake Cargelligo, was five hundred kms inland. We stayed at a combination of free and paid campsites.

We made numerous stops including Pioneer Park in Jugiong where Lyn found me a Speckled Warbler. Other stops included Campbell's Swamp, Fivebough Wetlands, Hooey Road Lookout and Lake Wyanger where we picked-up White-winged Chough, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Nankeen Kestrel and Sacred Kingfisher.

The rains had made the roads treacherous with pot-holes everywhere; one of our planned campsites was even under water. Overall the free campsites offered the best birding opportunities. At least we didn't have to deal with dusty roads which meant the camera was always out and ready to go. Later in the trip we had to drive through 14 kilometres of flooded roads to make our way back via the Blue Mountains to Sydney 600 kms to the East.

The wetlands, of which there



Right: Australian White Ibis (Bin Chicken) photographed in downtown Sydney.

I thought the background of multiple spray nozzles made for an interesting juxtaposition. I used my iPhone 8 to capture the fleeting moment. Bin Chicken or not, the bird was the first lifer of the trip.

were more than usual, provided some good birds including Blue-billed Duck and Whiskered Tern. Soon I had photographed one hundred new species, way too many to list here.

The scenery was spectacular: the rolling hills and thousands of sheep reminded us of Scotland and Wales. The economy and surrounding towns were all built around sheep and grain exports. We even had time to visit a shrine in honour of Don Bradman, the greatest cricketer of all time. That was a real treat.

Birding can be dangerous as well as exhilarating. At one point while crossing a flooded roadway we felt our camper slide sideways and slip downstream before gripping the road and pulling us to safety. The whole incident still gives us goose bumps, something neither of us will ever forget. Something I would do differently should we return would be to hire a 4x4 utility or UTE with tent on top rather than a camper van. A number of National Parks were totally unsuitable for our vehicle.

Lake Cargelligo

"You missed the Major Mitchell's Cockatoo" Sandee announced as I returned from an afternoon birding session. Sandee loves to tag along on trips and seems happy to take in the sights and sounds. She potters around doing

whatever non-birders do. Wildlife feels comfortable around her, probably oblivious to her presence. Later over supper she describes the many "red, white and yellow" birds that visited the campsite during my absence – from her descriptions probably Noisy Miners, Peaceful Doves, Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, Galahs and Australian Magpies, all birds comfortable around humans. There were others I could never quite figure out. They would come within inches of her, looking for handouts or perhaps just curious. On one occasion, she was so deep into her novel that an Australian Brush Turkey crept up and scratched her toe, drawing blood.

Then there were the lizards and giant centipedes, favourite prey for the Laughing Kookaburra. Fortunately we did not encounter any nasty spider or scorpions and only one snake, a large python that had wrapped itself around a tree at the base of the verandas a few feet from our camper. It waited patiently to pounce on a hapless rodent or bird. It posed no risk to us, but at six feet long it was an imposing sight, especially in the dark and on our way to use the facilities. Creepy to say the least.

Thanks to Lyn's keen eye and knowledge of birdsong every day provided a new set of birds. Equally interesting were encounters with kangaroos and lizards. The red earth that held the

recent rains was especially vibrant, wildflowers covered the landscape, and the smell of the eucalypts was something else.

Finally this was the Australia we had read about, far from the city and quite stunning. During one of our excursions Lyn spotted a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles feeding on carrion, a few metres further on an Emu was browsing, and a flock of parrots flew overhead. Bird-song filled the air.

After negotiating flooded roads we made our way back to Orange, some five-hundred kms east of Sydney. At the botanical gardens in Orange I ran into a local birding group on their Sunday morning walk. They helped me pick up two lifers: an Eastern Spinebill and a Spotted Pardalote.

Time was running out for the first leg of our trip. A few days later we were in the famed Blue Mountains where we viewed a Wollemi Pine at the Blue Mountains Botanical Gardens. The Wollemi Pine is one of the world's oldest and rarest plants dating back to the time of the dinosaurs. With less than 100 adult trees known to exist in the wild, the Wollemi Pine is now the focus of extensive research to safeguard its survival.

To Come

Part two of this tale will cover our trip from Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands and the seventeen hundred km drive south to Brisbane.

Part three will cover the Uluru or Ayer's Rock portion, including the return journey from Brisbane back to Sydney.

"It's never ever too late to say
G'day"



Left: The ground-feeding Double-barred Finch is almost always found in flocks around water.

Photos by author.

Oystercatcher Landing Technique

Dennis Forsyth, Denman Island

One advantage to modern photography for wildlife observers is that we sometimes get to clearly look at obscure behaviours in our subjects that go unnoticed in naked-eye observations, or even views using good binoculars or scopes. The ability to freeze a subject's movement can show us things that are just too fast to register normally.

I've been watching and photographing Black Oystercatchers on the beaches of Denman Island for nearly three decades. They are among our most common shorebirds, are here throughout the year, are fairly easily approachable and to me at least are always interesting. So when, a few weeks ago, I photographed a flock of some 25 Oystercatchers flying straight toward me and landing on a chunk of black, rough conglomerate rock in the inter-tidal I didn't expect to see anything more than a few aesthetically pleasing shots of a favourite bird in action. Then I got them up on my computer and saw something that was absolutely new to me.

Just about half of the flock came in and made what I think are normal landings. They dropped both legs and feet, then made that characteristic landing



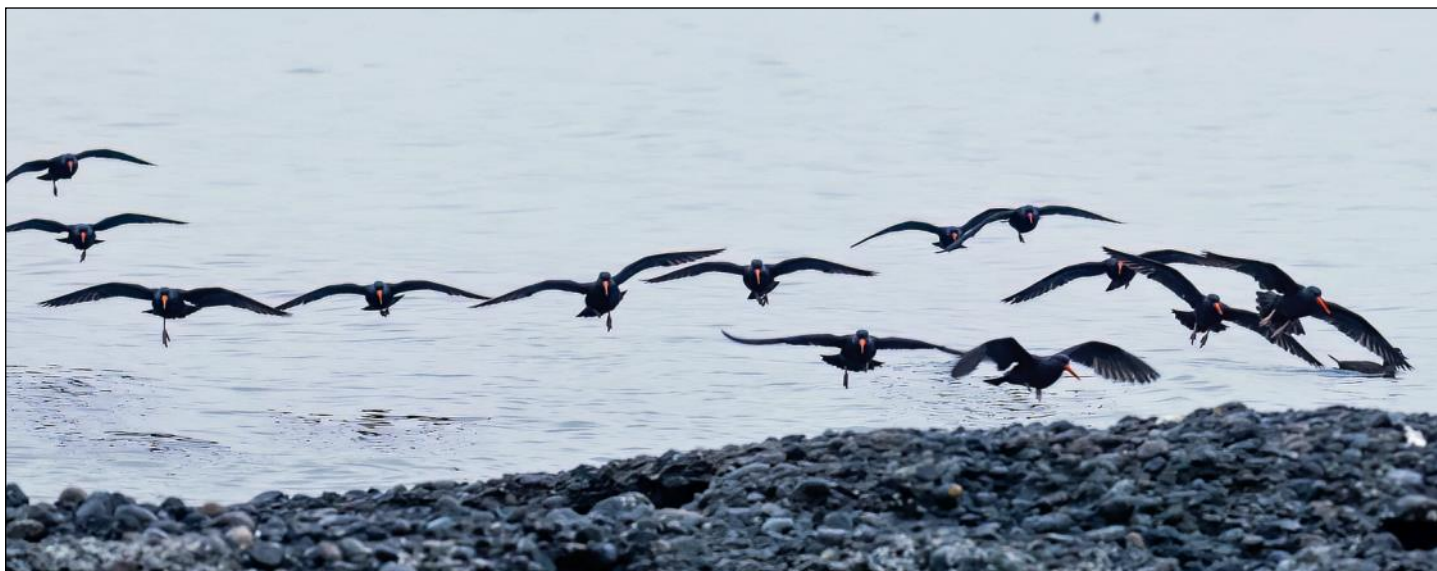
flare, and touched down. The other dozen or so did it differently. They dropped just one leg and made their landings on one single foot. Closer examination showed that of the one-legged landers about half chose to use their left foot while the rest went with the right. None of them stayed on one foot for very long and as far as I can tell they all put down the second foot almost immediately. Still, they did make that initial contact with just one foot. I was entranced and immediately started checking with all the local birders I know to see if anyone else had observed this. So far, the answer seems to be "no."

I did, however, get a few theories about why they would do this. One that immediately appealed to me was that this was an aerodynamic technique. The dropped legs and large feet act as air foils and help in adjusting landing attitude. Sometimes they need

both control surfaces and sometimes just one. Well, maybe.

An excellent fellow-birder from Victoria sent me a couple of very technical ornithological papers from Australia concerning single-footed landings among Budgies. The conclusion there was that birds will do this when the surface they are landing on is in some way insecure, it is a loose structure, or very rough, or slippery, and using just one foot allows the bird to make almost instant adjustments. My conglomerate rocky reef meets two of those criteria.

Or maybe, as a good friend with a very open mind suggested, maybe they were just showing off.



Ebird's Photo + Sound Quiz

Clive Keen, Prince George

Tucked away rather inoffensively at the bottom of eBird's *Explore* page, and easy to overlook, is the remarkably useful Photo + Sound Quiz. Alan Burger (Logan Lake) and I were both planning trips to Costa Rica, and he pointed out that this was a fun way to learn the birds of the places we were planning to visit. It is indeed.

20 Questions – Photos

When you open ebird.org/quiz, you start by typing in the place you are heading to and the date of your visit. The technology then prepares an individualized “name this bird” quiz. You are offered randomized photographs that have been uploaded by eBirders at that place and time of year, and given for each photograph four names to choose from plus “none of these.” The latter option is very effective in keeping you on your toes. After making decisions on 20 photographs – in my case after careful study of the field guide (it's an open-book examination) – you will be given your score, and the opportunity to review the birds you got wrong. You can repeat the quiz as often as you like, looking each time at twenty more randomly selected photographs.

This is a far more entertaining way of learning birds than trying to memorize the field guide. It is also more effective. First, it makes you evaluate birds *as seen in the wild*, often with some of their field marks obscured, rather than in the idealized form of the guide's paintings. You have to look a lot harder and think about each identification, and thus learn more. Secondly, while your focus might be on identifying the particular bird in question, you are obliged to look quite hard at the other possibilities listed, so you also learn them in passing. A final bonus is

that the quiz forces you to look carefully at the females, and not just learn up the more distinctive males, which I suspect is the bad habit of many of us.

While the photo quiz is likely to be used by BCFO members mostly to learn birds of distant places they will be visiting, it will be equally useful for beginners, helping them learn the birds of their own region. I'd certainly recommend it, particularly after the quiz becomes more widely used and thus the quality of questions improves (see “Citizen Science” below).

20 Questions – Bird Sounds

The quiz is likely to be invaluable as well both to those confident ebirders seeking to learn the bird sounds of distant places, and those of us struggling to master the bird sounds of our home patch. This second option is devoted entirely to the soundscape. Rather than trying to put a name to photographs, we are offered sonograms and sound recordings, and again given options to choose from. I did not try it for the birds of Costa Rica – learning what they look like was challenge enough for me – but am likely to spend a lot of time with it in the lead-up to each breeding season to improve my local birdsound IDs.

Citizen Science

Those splendid Cornell folks strongly encourage people to use the quiz, be-


cause participants have to rate the quality of photographs or sounds before moving to the next question, and this allows for auto-curating of the Macaulay Library. This is thoroughly worth doing, because rather a lot of the photographs uploaded by eBirders are of very poor quality and should preferably not be used in contexts such as these, as they make identification not simply hard but impossible. The weakest can be slowly filtered out as the quiz becomes more widely used and ratings build up. This can't happen too soon: there seem to have been very few quiz-takers so far, as many of the photographs had been graded only by me, and this makes the quiz frustrating at times. There are also a surprising number of misidentifications – I came across a number, including howlers – which are in great need of excision, both to improve eBird records and to prevent people being misled by a source they expect to trust. Citizen science can gallop to the rescue here, gradually improving not just the quiz, but the overall contents of the Macaulay Library.


I should not end on an apparently negative note, though. The quiz is a marvellous tool for all birders and should be visited often by anyone planning a trip to distant places.


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 [How to rate photos](#)

 [How to rate sounds](#)



What bird is this? 10 of 20

- Prothonotary Warbler
- Swainson's Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- None of the above

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Avoid Costa Rica Confusion!

Clive Keen, Prince George

If you are going to Costa Rica, be prepared for some listing confusion. The most recent field guide, *The Birds of Costa Rica* by Garrigues and Dean (second edition, 2014), is – to put it mildly – in serious need of updating. The problem is not that the guide is incomplete: it is very thorough, with 903 entries. White-throated Tyrannulet and Yellow-winged Flycatcher were the only absentees I came across. The real problem is that taxonomists have been splitting and lumping with carefree abandon since the guide was published. If you stick to the guide you will often be in a pickle when trying to enter sightings to eBird or listening to a guide. “Lesson’s Motmot? Damn. I could have sworn it was Blue-crowned. *Velvety* Manikin? Never heard of that one!”

Splits, Lumps and Renamings

The following list should resolve most name-change problems. In all cases the new names are listed first, with the names given in Garrigues and Dean (2014) following. In most cases of splitting, the new name will be the current name of the bird you will see in Costa Rica, as it is the local variant, but in a few cases, both species resulting from the split can be found in the country. You’re on your own with them.

This list will not of course be complete, being just the ones I came across, and the taxonomists will no doubt continue to have fun in the near future. Keep your eye on the annual AOS checklist update.

- Brushfinch, Yellow-thighed – Renamed from Yellow-thighed Finch
- Flycatcher, Olive-streaked – Split from Olive-striped Flycatcher

- Foliage-gleaner, Chiriqui – Split from Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner
- Gnatcatcher, White-browed – Split from Tropical Gnatcatcher
- Ground-Sparrow, Cabanis’s – Split from Prevost’s Ground-Sparrow
- Hummingbird, Blue-vented – Split from Steely-vented Hummingbird
- Hummingbird, Talamanca – Split from Magnificent Hummingbird
- Meadowlark, Red-breasted – Renamed from Red-breasted Blackbird
- Motmot, Lesson’s – Split from Blue-crowned Motmot
- Pewee, Northern Tropical – Split from Tropical Pewee
- Saltator, Cinnamon-bellied – Split from Greyish Saltator
- Screech-owl, Choco – Split from Vermiculated Screech-Owl
- Screech-owl, Middle American – Split from Vermiculated Screech-Owl
- Seedeater, Morelet’s – Split from White-Collared Seedeater

- Stipplethroat, Checker-throated – renamed from Checker-throated Antwren
- Tanager, Scarlet-rumped – Lumping of Cherie’s and Passerini’s
- Toucan, Yellow-throated – lumped, was Black-Mandibled Toucan

....continued



*Above: No longer Magnificent, this hummer is now a Talamanca.
Below: Splitting has changed this fellow into a Northern Emerald Toucanet.
Photos by author, January 2023.*



- Motmot, Lesson's – Split from Blue-crowned Motmot
- Toucanet, Northern Emerald – Split from Emerald Toucanet
- Tyrannulet, Mistletoe – Split from Paltry Tyrannulet
- Velvety Manakin – Split from Blue-crowned Manakin
- Violetear, Lesser – Split from Green Violetear
- Warbler, Chestnut-capped – Split from Rufous-capped Warbler
- Warbler, Costa Rican – Split from Three-striped Warbler
- Wood-rail, Gray-cowled – Split from Gray-necked Wood-Rail
- Wood-rail, Russet-naped – Split from Gray-cowled Wood-Rail
- Wren, Cabanis's – Split from Plain Wren
- Wren, Canebrake – Split from Plain Wren, Grass – Split from Sedge Wren



Above: no longer a Blue-crowned Motmot, but a Lesson's.

Historic Publication

The Origin and Distribution of Birds in Coastal Alaska and BC

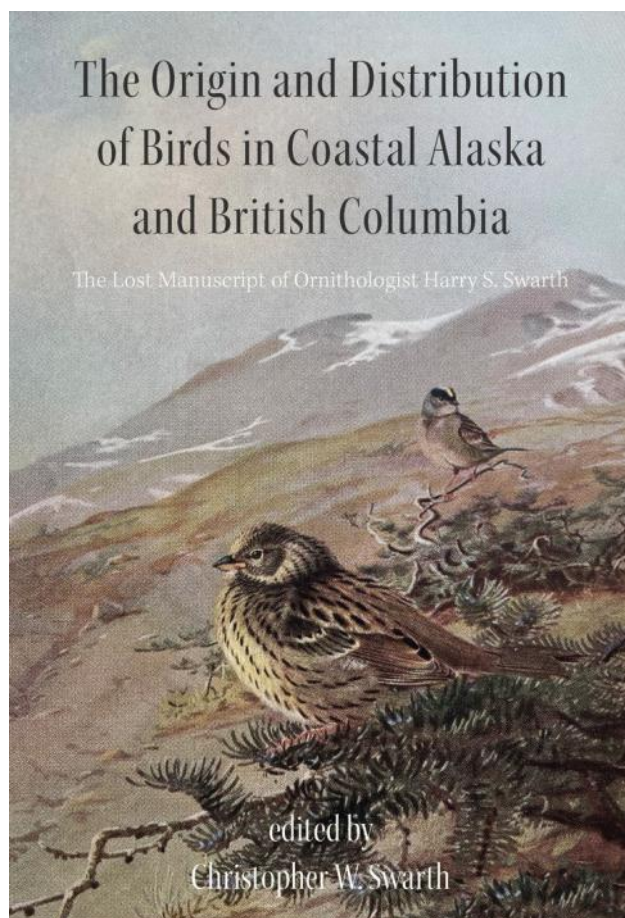
Oregon State University has published a very unusual book. At the time of his death in 1935, Harry S. Swarth had been preparing a manuscript reflecting on twenty-five years of his research in coastal Alaska and British Columbia. The manuscript summarized Swarth's research, ideas, and conjectures on the bird life in the region, including theories about when and how birds populated this vast territory after the retreat of glaciers near the end of the Pleistocene.

In 2019 Christopher Swarth, grandson of Harry Swarth, discovered the forgotten manuscript and decided it should not stay forgotten. The book he edited includes the original unpublished manuscript, accompanied by

contextual essays from contemporary ornithologists who examine the impact and relevance of Swarth's research on coastal bird diversity, Fox Sparrow migration, and the systematic puzzle of the Timberline Sparrow.

Expedition maps display field camps and exploration routes, and species checklists illustrate the variety of birds observed at key field sites.

To bring additional colour and insight, *The Origin and Distribution of Birds in Coastal Alaska and British Columbia* also includes excerpts from Harry Swarth's field notes, a comprehensive list of Harry Swarth's publications, and a glossary with historic and contemporary bird names.



For Your Ears Only

Corey Mazurat, Kelowna

Recording Vocalizations

Spring is starting to sprung, at least here in the Central Okanagan, and just like we should all be cleaning our optics and formatting our memory cards in preparation for the coming visual onslaught of freshly-molted-newly-bedecked-with-fresh-tail-feather birdies, we should also be tuning up our ears for the oncoming waves of bird vocalizations as we enter the most exciting and varied time for hearing birds.



The high vocal centre (HVC) in the avian forebrain is responsible for producing and coordinating the complex vocalizations (which we mere humans call “songs”) that are used in courtship and territorial defense. Research has shown that the activity of neurons in the HVC is tightly linked to song production and can change in response to different stimuli, such as the presence of a potential mate. Some bird species experience changes in density and weight of the HVC during mating season; this is mainly due to testosterone changes in male birds. This increase in size is believed to be linked to both increased vocalizations and increased complexity of song. You’re not wrong if you think bird songs are sweeter in the spring.

Increased levels of testosterone in male birds stimulate the growth of new neurons in the brain, specifically in regions involved in vocal communication and aggression. This spring fever can lead to changes in their behavior, making them more assertive and confident in their courtship displays. Similarly, female birds may experience changes in brain gene expression that prepare their bodies for nesting and incubation. Together these changes ensure that

birds can prioritize mating and reproductive behaviours during this crucial time of the year.

These brain changes make singing birds hypersensitive to disturbances in their environments, and thus twitchy birds get even twitchier. The mere presence of humans within 50–75 metres can impact bird song in various ways. In some cases, birds reduce or entirely change songs in response to human activity in their territory. This might be a form of anti-predator behaviour, where birds adjust behaviour to reduce the risk of attracting the attention of a potential predator. The downside for the impacted bird, of course, is that just when other birds are increasing the length or elaborateness of their songs in

order to attract mates, the disturbed birds are disadvantaged and are less likely to attract mates.

The impact varies from species to species, and common urban birds are likely less impacted due to their relative familiarity with anthropogenic noise, but regardless this highlights the importance of minimizing disturbance in bird habitats.

Cornell Labs has a robust protocol for recording bird songs whilst causing minimal disturbances.

1. Approach birds quietly and slowly and, when possible, stay in one location long enough so birds become inured to your presence. Arriving in a location before sunrise makes you a part of the background so waking birds will behave much more naturally. Better to try it now, if you’re interested, than in May when you’d have to be awake at 3:30 AM or so to beat the sunrise.
2. Maintain a buffer distance from the birds. Although they suggest up to 100m depending on location and background noise, a good rule of thumb is to be as far away as you can while still being within range of the vocalization.

3. Use a parabolic reflector to focus on the bird's song while reducing background noise. Search online for pre-made options (varying from cheap junk to very expensive) or check out tutorials on how to rig your own with existing microphones. Wildtronics make excellent kits for around \$500 CAD. There is a fantastic YouTube video from the Cornell Lab – search for “how to record audio – parabola” to watch it. Shotgun mics aren’t the “telephoto lenses of microphones” that people sometimes think they are, but they do help isolate sounds. Check out the sidebars for a quick guide to recording gear and microphones.
4. Avoid bird song playback. This may seem controversial as many birders use recorded sound to attract shy birds, but research suggests a significantly negative impact on reproductive success in some bird species. Pishing should also be avoided during mating season. Song playback is increasingly viewed as unethical at best and destructive at worst.
5. Monitor bird behaviour for stress. Increased vigilance, decreased singing, or notable aggression clearly indicate a disturbed bird.

Ultimately you must decide why you want to record bird vocalizations. If you’re primarily interested in ID-ing birds heard but not seen, an inexpensive external microphone (like a RODE VideoMic Pro) attached to a smart phone will make a very lightweight and simple solution. If you want to use the audio as background for videos you may want to invest in a shotgun mic and a handheld recorder combo like a RODE NTG-1 and ZOOM F3. If you’re interested in conservation or archival recordings, or in capturing a stubbornly hidden vagrant in crystal-clear audio, a parabolic mic may just do the trick. Whatever you end up using, listening to and recording bird vocalizations are yet another way to enjoy this wonderful hobby of ours.

Bird Photographers' Corner

Another Approach: Remote Release

Dennis Forsyth, Denman Island

Clive Keen's article on telephoto lenses in the December issue was, as always, interesting and useful. In it he asked for submissions on remote-release systems and that got me reviewing my personal approach to this kind of photography. In a pretty lengthy photographic life, the one thing I am absolutely convinced of is that there is no "one best way" of doing anything with a camera but this is my current technique. Because I do a lot of photography aimed at revealing behaviours of the birds that I see I am always looking for ways to facilitate repeatable shots. That is, I want to be able to come back tomorrow and the next day and the next and shoot from the same place and record the evolution of a behaviour that might take weeks to come to an end.

For example, a couple of summers ago I discovered that a pair of White-crowned Sparrows was building a nest in a fairly large, dense clump of thyme growing in our garden. A quick close-up

examination showed me that the nest was situated in a spot where a convenient gap in the foliage would allow me a good sight-line and, just as important, would let sufficient light in. What I didn't want to do was disturb the pair. Of course, with this particular species and their tolerance of human presence, I would be able to occasionally walk up and snap a shot or two but I knew that they would not go into the nest while I was standing right there and might possibly even abandon it.

I also knew that once there were babies being fed, I was going to want to be watching for extended periods and that I was not going to want to be spending lengthy periods with a camera held up to my face waiting for action. So, I needed to set up a pre-focused camera on a tripod and have a remote-shutter release on it.

Over the years I think I have tried nearly every remote-release system out there. Radio, infra-red, computer-tethered, all of them. But I always found that the most reliable, simplest, and

least expensive was the good old hard-wired kind. One problem with these is that if you go beyond the standard three-foot long model the camera companies gouge you mercilessly. If you are at all handy though, you can do what I do. Buy the cheap short one then cut it in half and splice in a longer piece of wire. Mine is now thirty feet long and works fine.

So, for this bit of photography I set up a twelve-foot step ladder at a reasonable distance from the nest. Then I attached a piece of plywood to the top large enough to securely support a tripod. I set up the camera with a 300 mm prime lens, pre-focused on the nest, attached my long shutter release and hauled out a comfortable lawn chair to wait in. Then it was just a matter of watching the birds come and go and occasionally giving my thumb some exercise. As you see in the photo of the set-up (bottom left) my chair is a considerable distance from the nest which is buried in the thyme clump in



the bottom left-hand corner. And over the next several weeks I successfully photographed the arrival of eggs (above), the feeding of babies, and, finally the emergence of one of the chicks into the wide world (next page). Of course, the camera came down and into the house at the end of each day. It helps to be married to a wife willing to put up with this kind of thing from a husband through one of the peak gardening periods of the year.

I have used variations of this simple, low-tech system to accomplish other



*Left: Feeding time.
Below: "The emergence of one of the
chicks into the wide world."
All photos by author.*

camera on a tripod and a shutter release in my hand. This allowed me to constantly scan the sky around me to see when one or other of the pair were coming in with food.

I find problem solving to be a most enjoyable part of wildlife photography. There are few things more enjoyable than finally figuring out how to get a shot that has eluded you for years.

challenges such as birds-in-flight shots. If I can determine with reasonable accuracy a habitual flight path for any bird then it is possible to set up the camera on its tripod, turn auto-focus off and pre-set focus manually, then wait patiently for the birds to fly by. This works for flycatchers making sorties from a regular perch for example. Or for Tree or Violet-green Swallows coming and going on feeding flights from a nest-box. It is very effective for capturing in-flight shots of hummingbirds visiting flowering bushes in the garden.

I also use something like this system but with a short shutter release cable for other situations. For many years I extensively photographed an active Bald Eagle's nest here on my island with the



Briefing 2

More Thoughts on Epidemic Birds

Michael Church

(See "Epidemic birds – Again," *BC Birding* 32(3), September, 2022, p.25)

The current world outbreak of H5N1, a particularly virulent HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) has now

reached South America and Australia (still spared when we reported in September) – only Antarctica now remains free of the disease. The current epidemic has continued to raise alarm about the spread of fatal disease by wild animals and how domestic animals can be protected from acquisition of these diseases. But HPAs and other epidemic animal diseases arise principally in domestic flocks and herds, where extreme crowding (by wild animal standards) favours the rapid

spread of communicable diseases. Taken into the wild by occasional contact of a wild animal with infected animals, or with soil or water carrying the disease virus, the problem rapidly is spread regionally (in most animals) or around the world (in birds). Agricultural interests have emphasized wild-to-domestic transmission. Ecologists have now raised the reverse and prior problem: how to prevent domestic-to-wild transmission.

...continued

Two issues require analysis and strategies for control: the rise of pandemic diseases in domestic animals, and the initial transmission from domestic to wild flocks and herds. The scale of contemporary infections is unprecedented; it appears to be a consequence of contemporary management of domestic animals. The sheer numbers of domestic animals and the industrial methods of their management, which entail extreme crowding in artificial pens, represents effectively optimized conditions for the inception and spread of disease.

Over the past half-century the global population of poultry has expanded from 5.7 billion birds to 35.1 billion, a 6.2x increase. Cattle have increased from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion, a 1.4x increase. Perhaps as important, particularly for poultry, animal management has increasingly moved from field to pens. As well, the growth in commercial trade of animals and animal products establishes an additional means for viruses to be spread.

Paradoxically, the confinement of domestic animals probably reduces the

incidence of contacts with wild animals, but the condition of the domestic animals probably substantially increases the likelihood of disease transmission when contact occurs. All this is most critical in the case of birds because their capacity for flight enables the wild birds to enter almost any outside enclosure where the domestic fowl are permitted to run.

The industrialization of the human food supply, with a dominant focus on production volume, lies at the base of the problem. The solution lies in a return to something more like the traditional farm, with reduced flock and herd sizes leading to reduced animal densities in more natural surroundings. Reduction of live animal transfers between farms – in effect, isolation of individual production units – will also reduce the incidence of transmitted disease. Much of the concern with HPAs is centred on waterbirds. Hence, avoidance of areas of waterbird concentration as sites for poultry farms represents a long-range land-use planning principle.

Animal vaccination is another viable preventive strategy but is viewed as a last resort for domestic animals because of the difficulty to market inoculated animals for human consumption (a fear without basis for properly tested vaccines, which do exist). In advanced economies, where food provision has become a nearly entirely industrial activity, efforts to limit industrial production in the interest of slowing or preventing the spread of animal diseases must be accompanied by efforts to limit the consumption of animal products – meat and dairy – a strategy that is congruent with efforts to increase general human health.

Analyzed in this way, we find that the problem of HPAs in wild bird populations is but one more aspect of the increasing human demand on the environment for resources in an increasingly crowded world that exerts ever-increasing pressure for greater human security and prosperity.

Three in One

Barry Lancaster (Oliver) scored a three-in-one with this shot taken at Guaymas, Mexico: Roseate Spoonbill, Tricolored Heron and Snowy Egret. He was actually concentrating on the Tricolored Heron, but it moved, yielding a still-better shot.

(Nikon D500, Nikkor 200-500@500, 1/2500@ f7.1, ISO 720.)



Gone Pishing

Chris Siddle, Vernon

Farewell to a Fellow Pygmy Owl

Rick Howie died on January 20, 2023, after a seventeen-year struggle against cancer. Even during his illness, he was so active as a nature photographer, naturalist, environmental consultant, birding mentor, and train enthusiast that it was easy to forget that he was in a life-and-death struggle with a dire disease. Like his many other friends, I checked his frequent Facebook postings for his latest stunning photos and informative capsule explanations about the zoology, geography, and history of Kamloops or photos of trips he and his wife Carol had taken.

After his retirement from the provincial civil service, he had his own business, Aspen Consulting, and sometimes asked me to work on bird surveys. He was, hands down, the best environmental consultant I have ever known. He never considered pandering to his employers but always presented his findings as he had found them to be in nature, regardless of the consequences to the employer.

Our friendship began long before Aspen Consulting. In 1983 I travelled to Kamloops purposely to meet the birder I had heard so much about. Over the phone we arranged to meet at an all-night restaurant over an hour before dawn. He invited me to act as his recorder that morning on a breeding bird survey ("BBS") in Kamloops. I've done a few of these surveys myself and find them exhausting. The objective is to follow a preset route that crosses through representative habitats in an area when bird song is at its height early on a spring morning, stopping at 50 assigned spots half a mile apart. Begin your route 30 minutes before dawn and finish it at Stop 50 before 9:00 AM. At each stop write down every bird you hear and see. Tabulate and submit your results to the Canadian and American

ornithologists studying bird populations.

His time was very limited because of his demanding day job so that he had to do the BBS that day or not at all. The survey gave Rick and me a pretty accurate measure of each other's ability as an "ear birder," one who can identify unseen birds by hearing their diagnostic songs or calls. Good ear birders often quietly consider themselves a tribe apart from the run-of-the-mill sight-only birders.

After only one or two survey stops, it was clear that Rick and I were good ear birders of about equal skill. Much later in our friendship as the years dimmed our hearing, we took some comfort in playfully comparing lists of



Fellow Pygmy Owl Rick Howie.

birds we could no longer hear. Poor Rick lost much of his hearing far sooner and to a greater extent than I did but fought the silence with an endless series of high-end hearing aids equipped with programs specially designed for high frequencies. Optimism and a hopeful attitude and a faith in technology were part of Rick's personality as I was to learn over the course of our friendship.

The evening after the Breeding Bird Survey and a full day's work at his government job, Rick was still eager to tour me through the Mount Paul area and show me my first Flammulated Owl.

This was no quick tick. Standing on a dry forest slope, Rick pointed out the little insectivorous owl's specific habitat, slopes of mature Ponderosa Pine spotted with small areas of mixed Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir with aspens providing a brushy understory edge and moisture needed by the diversity of moths, beetles and other insects the strictly nocturnal owl fed on. Snags or aspens with old woodpecker excavated holes serve as nest sites. He and his long-time friend Ralph Ritcey were among the first researchers to specifically determine the habitat requirements of the Flammulated Owl, which previous to their surveys had been unknown.

The 1980s and 1990s were his "owl" period, where he gained a reputation among BC birders not only as a regional expert, but also a member of a select international group of owl scientists based mainly in northern Europe, British Columbia, Manitoba, and the Rocky Mountain states. In early February 1987 they met for the world's first symposium on special aspects of northern forest owls. Heimo Mikkola, the great European owl expert, Robert W. Nero, author of the first substantive monograph on the Great Gray Owl and Rick chaired a special section on Strix owls featuring Ural Owl, Tawny Owl, Great Gray Owl, and Barred Owl. In another section researchers presented three papers on the formerly little-known Flammulated Owl. Rick and Ralph Ritcey presented "Distribution, Habitat Selection, and Densities of Flammulated Owls in British Columbia", the first substantive Canadian Flammulated Owl paper ever to appear. The United States Department of Agriculture eventually published the results of the symposium proceedings as "Biology and Conservation of Northern Forest Owls," General Technical Report RM-142, a paperback volume available to the public.

Rick also had a playful side. In the late 1980s and early 1990s he took part in a few motorized big days based in the South Okanagan. This annual event dreamt up by Richard and Syd Cannings

and their father, Steve, was forerunner of Penticton's Meadowlark Festival. The Big Day took place on the Sunday of the long May weekend and was highly popular with birders from across the province. At least twice Rick, Gary Davidson, and I were members of the team that came in second. Both times Dick Cannings and his team beat us and everyone else. This situation where one of the Big Day hosts always won the competition himself was intolerable to us. Finally, in May 1991 Gary Davidson, Rick and I plotted to defeat Dick's team once and for all.

Our plan was to try on an untested but theoretically sound new approach. The big day rules stated that a team had to begin its 24 hours within the Okanagan Valley. Most teams began around Penticton and followed a route similar to that taken by Dick's team. Our team, the Pygmy Owls, would start in the North Okanagan and at one minute after midnight leave the Okanagan headed for towards Kamloops, taking Highway 97 to Westwold, crossing the Douglas Lake Plateau to Highway 5A north of Nicola. We would bird Beaver Flats, an important duck, shorebird and Black Tern site, then speed north to Roche Lake, the secret home of a pair of Great Gray Owls and then onto to Tranquille, Lac Du Bois, Heffley Creek, and Tod Mountain then head back toward Vernon to pick up North Okanagan species then race south to Okanagan Falls, Vaseux Lake, Road 22 and other hotspots, picking off the South Okanagan specialties in the evening. If we got all the owls that Rick knew so well on his home turf, plus the diversity of waterbirds easier to encounter in the north than in the comparatively arid South Okanagan, we could break Richard Cannings' grasp on first place and establish a new Big Day total for the Southern Interior.

At first everything went according to plan. On the road along the Salmon River south of Westwold Rick remembered that a small flock of Wild Turkeys frequented a spot close to a certain ranch. Rick turned off the noisy idling

of his diesel Toyota Landcruiser and we listened intently to the silence. It was not yet 1:00 AM. Not a sound broke the black silence. Then Rick let loose an accurate and loud gobble, and from high in a Douglas-fir came an answering gobble from a roosting turkey. Target Bird #1 was in the bag. Just as a light flicked on in the ranch house, we slammed the doors of the Landcruiser and sped off down the road.

One of the first marshes we passed on the Douglas Lake plateau was loud with frogs and Soras and Virginia Rails. Bird #4 could have been a tough one. But Rick assured us that it was the right time of year and possibly the right time of night for the Long-eared Owls he knew from a certain aspen grove to be courting. We stood by the vehicle, Rick clapped his hands and from the grove came an answering clap, the sound of a Long-eared Owl's wings striking each other as it performed its nocturnal flight display.

North of Nicola we climbed the hills to Roche Lake and to our dismay found the camping area and everywhere else close to the lake choked with the tents and camper trucks of long-weekend fishermen. Sleeping fishermen. This side trip had cost us precious minutes and our target was so special that we had to try for the birds even if it meant risking the ire of the campers. Tip-toeing through the tenting area to get closer to the woods, Rick let out a couple of deep hoots. Nothing answered. Someone stirred inside a pup tent. Rick hooted again, dragging the note from the centre of his being. And miracle of miracle a single deep hoot answered from across the lake. We stifled our happy noises and retreated through the sleepers to the vehicle.

Hopefully no one would remember the supposedly drunken idiot hooting in the campground before dawn.

As sun rose behind the velvety hills around the lakes north of Nicola, a Golden Eagle soared across a high knob of rock that Rick knew to be a traditional nesting site. At Beaver Flats we picked off avocets, a flock of Pectoral

Sandpipers, phalaropes, yellowlegs, snipe, a few peep, almost every dabbling duck known to occur in the southern Interior, Black Terns, and all the swallows. At Lac du Bois we heard the strange popping of dancing Sharp-tailed Grouse, a bird that would be unavailable to Dick's team because it had been extirpated years earlier from the Okanagan. As our time in the Kamloops area drew to a close at mid-morning, we tallied our species. If we were lucky in the Okanagan we had a good chance of besting Dick's highest score he had ever made on his Okanagan route.

Back at Swan Lake near Vernon we ticked off the species we needed one by one. We made a quick trip over the Commonage, through Lake Country and Penticton. One after another we added the South Okanagan specialties to our list. As dusk and our twenty-second hour of birding approached we saw our final species, a Hooded Merganser zooming low down the river channel at Road 22.

The next day at the post-count gathering each team described its route, the highlights and low points of its long day, and the team's final total. I wish I could tell you exactly how many species we saw. All I remember is that when all the details were in, the Pygmy Owls has beaten the next best time by one species! First place was ours.

Motorized Big Days are now rightfully considered anti-environmental. The day itself produces little of any scientific value, but back in the late 1980s and early 1990s it was a lot of fun. However, I'm off topic. The point I need to return to is the memory of Rick and Gary and me sharing great camaraderie in the field. Sadly the day has come when I say, with a heavy heart, farewell to Rick, farewell to a fellow Pygmy Owl.

BCFO Listers' Corner

2022 Lists

Kathryn Clouston, Courtenay

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

Tables: % compared to total species in area list; **inc** increase from 2021; * preceding number indicates total not submitted; **Red bold** indicates largest increase from 2021; *Red italics* indicates a significant plateau or other significant increase.

Thanks for reading the 2022 BCFO Listers' Corner. Some tables show that our years of limited travel have started to ease. Submissions were received from 56 members. This is my first year taking on the task of putting this item together so please forgive me if I misinterpret some of your points.

BC: Liam Ragan had the largest increase with 42 which also helped him over the 300 plateau. *Barbara Begg* added 1 and *Rand Rudland* added 3 which brought them both over the 400 mark.

BRITISH COLUMBIA - 532						
#	2022	Name	Name	2021	inc	%
1	486	Mike	Toochin	486	0	91.4
2	462	Sharon	Toochin	461	1	86.8
3	458	Dale	Jensen	456	2	86.1
4	456	Tom	Plath	456	0	85.7
5	452	Andrew	Foxall	new		85.0
6	448	Brian	Stech	444	4	84.2
7	*448	Dan	Tyson	448	nc	84.2
8	446	Peter	Candido	442	4	83.8
9	446	Carlo	Giovanella	443	3	83.8
10	443	Val	George	441	2	83.3
11	440	Michael	Force	439	1	82.7
12	*438	Brian	Self	438	nc	82.3
13	435	Kevin	Neill	432	3	81.8
14	*435	Guv	Montv	435	nc	81.8
15	430	Tony	Greenfield	427	3	80.8
16	429	Mike	McGrenere	425	4	80.6
17	425	Keith	Riding	412	13	79.9
18	415	John	Voovs	413	2	78.0

19	413	Larry	Cowan	411	2	77.6
20	452	Roger	Foxall	450	2	85.0
21	409	Len	Jellicoe	407	2	76.9
22	407	Brvan	Gates	407	0	76.5
23	407	Hank	Vanderpol	405	2	76.5
24	405	Chris	Charlesworth	404	1	76.1
25	*401	Russ	Tkachuk	401	nc	75.4
26	400	<i>Barbara</i>	<i>Begg</i>	399	1	75.2
27	400	<i>Rand</i>	<i>Rudland</i>	397	3	75.2
28	390	Doug	Kraeh	390	0	73.3
29	389	Garv	Davidson	389	0	73.1
30	388	Ouentin	Brown	386	2	72.9
31	385	Eric	Tull	381	4	72.4
32	379	Monica	Nugent	375	4	71.2
33	376	Don	Wilson	376	0	70.7
34	374	John	Gordon	369	5	70.3
35	374	Laird	Law	373	1	70.3
36	372	Ken	Willis	369	3	69.9
37	370	Ken	Morgan	370	0	69.5
38	368	Gwynneth	Wilson	367	1	69.2
39	*366	Bruce	Whittington	366	nc	68.8
40	360	Ben	Keen	360	0	67.7
41	359	Marv	Robichaud	new		67.5
42	353	Paul	Clapham	352	1	66.4
43	351	Andy	Buhler	351	0	66.0
44	351	Marilyn	Buhler	351	0	66.0
45	350	Josh	Inman	345	5	65.8
46	339	Peter	Boon	339	0	63.7
47	333	John	Sprague	333	0	62.6
47	331	Rosemarv	Clapham	328	3	62.2
48	329	John	Hodges	325	4	61.8
49	328	Dorothy	Cobb	324	4	61.7
50	*327	Ted	Goshulak	327	nc	61.5
51	324	Paul	Foth	321	3	60.9
52	324	Krista	Kaptein	317	7	60.9
53	321	Kathryn	Clouston	313	8	60.3
54	316	Janice	Arndt	314	2	59.4
55	310	Lee	Harding	310	0	58.3
56	307	Liam	Ragan	265	42	57.7
57	292	Eric	Newton	292	0	54.9
58	*224	Sandra	Eadie (ON)	224	nc	42.1

Canada: John Sprague added 27 to his list giving him the largest increase this year followed closely by Liam Ragan and Ken Willis.

CANADA - 691						
#	2022	Name	Name	2021	inc	%
1	559	Roger	Foxall	557	2	80.9
2	539	Tom	Plath	538	1	78.0
3	520	Mike	Toochin	520	0	75.3
4	514	Michael	Force	514	0	74.4
5	*507	Dan	Tvson	507	nc	73.4
6	505	Eric	Tull	505	0	73.1
7	503	Sharon	Toochin	503	0	72.8
8	497	Dale	Jensen	497	0	71.9
9	*496	Brian	Self	496	nc	71.8
10	486	Kevin	Neill	484	2	70.3
11	484	Peter	Candido	482	2	70.0
12	482	Carlo	Giovanella	480	2	69.8
13	478	Mike	McGrenere	478	0	69.2
14	*478	Russ	Tkachuk	478	nc	69.2
15	472	Andrew	Foxall	new		68.3
16	471	Keith	Riding	467	4	68.2
17	463	Len	Jellicoe	462	1	67.0
18	462	Rand	Rudland	459	3	66.9
19	462	Brian	Stech	472	-10	66.9
20	461	Monica	Nugent	445	16	66.7
21	459	Larry	Cowan	455	4	66.4
22	456	Barbara	Begg	456	0	66.0
23	456	Chris	Charlesworth	456	0	66.0
24	456	Hank	Vandervol	456	0	66.0
25	456	John	Voovs	454	2	66.0
26	446	Marv	Robichaud	new		64.5
27	446	John	Sprague	419	27	64.5
28	*442	Doug	Kragh	442	nc	64.0
29	441	Tony	Greenfield	438	3	63.8
30	431	Ouentin	Brown	427	4	62.4
31	429	Brvan	Gates	429	0	62.1
32	427	Ken	Morgan	437	-10	61.8
33	425	Don	Wilson	423	2	61.5
34	423	Gwynneth	Wilson	424	-1	61.2
35	422	John	Gordon	420	2	61.1
36	421	Josh	Inman	411	10	60.9
37	419	Sandra	Eadie	418	1	60.6
38	416	Garv	Davidson	416	0	60.2
39	406	Ken	Willis	384	22	58.8
40	405	Janice	Arndt	403	2	58.6
41	400	Andv	Buhler	400	0	57.9
42	400	Marilvn	Buhler	400	0	57.9
43	400	Laird	Law	400	0	57.9
44	384	Dorothy	Copp	382	2	55.6
45	383	Paul	Clapham	382	1	55.4
46	381	Liam	Ragan	356	25	55.1

47	378	John	Hodges	375	3	54.7
48	365	Peter	Boon	365	0	52.8
49	357	Krista	Kaptein	350	7	51.7
50	*352	Lee	Harding	352	nc	50.9
51	340	Rosemarv	Clapham	337	3	49.2
52	339	Kathryn	Clouston	new		49.1
53	*338	Eric	Newton	338	nc	48.9
54	*391	Ted	Goshulak	391	nc	56.6

ABA (Continental): Liam Ragan had an increase of 20 which gave him the largest gain in this category, as well. *Chris Charlesworth* added 14 to his list to cruise over the 700 plateau.

ABA (Continental) - 1.015						
#	2022	Name	Name	2021	inc	%
1	810	Hank	Vandervol	805	5	79.8
2	795	Mike	Toochin	792	3	78.3
3	790	Roger	Foxall	787	3	77.8
4	*740	Russ	Tkachuk	740	nc	72.9
5	731	Brian	Stech	729	2	72.0
6	728	John	Voovs	*728	0	71.7
7	723	Dorothy	Copp	722	1	71.2
8	716	Dale	Jensen	716	0	70.5
9	713	Sharon	Toochin	710	3	70.2
10	711	Eric	Tull	710	1	70.0
11	705	Chris	Charlesworth	691	14	69.5
12	*689	Dan	Tvson	689	nc	67.9
13	*673	Brian	Self	673	nc	66.3
14	671	Andrew	Foxall	new		66.1
15	670	Peter	Candido	669	1	66.0
16	666	Garv	Davidson	666	0	65.6
17	657	Keith	Riding	655	2	64.7
18	649	John	Sprague	649	0	63.9
19	642	Kevin	Neill	640	2	63.3
20	641	Andv	Buhler	641	0	63.2
21	641	Marilvn	Buhler	641	0	63.2
22	632	Don	Wilson	631	1	62.3
23	631	Gwynneth	Wilson	632	-1	62.2
24	630	Monica	Nugent	621	9	62.1
25	626	Barbara	Begg	626	0	61.7
26	626	Carlo	Giovanella	626	0	61.7
27	625	Mike	McGrenere	*624	1	61.6
28	615	Tony	Greenfield	614	1	60.6
29	614	Len	Jellicoe	611	3	60.5
30	597	Sandra	Eadie (ON)	596	1	58.8
31	591	Rand	Rudland	588	3	58.2
32	588	Ken	Morgan	588	0	57.9

33	579	Larry	Cowan	574	5	57.0
34	572	Brvan	Gates	572	0	56.4
35	563	Val	George	561	2	55.5
36	562	Laird	Law	562	0	55.4
37	*539	Clive	Keen	539	nc	53.1
38	534	Josh	Inman	526	8	52.6
39	522	Ted	Goshulak	520	2	51.4
40	*470	Doug	Kragh	470	nc	46.3
41	*465	Lee	Harding	465	nc	45.8
42	450	Paul	Clapham	450	0	44.3
43	443	Janice	Arndt	441	2	43.6
44	432	Liam	Ragan	412	20	42.6
45	425	John	Hodges	421	4	41.9
46	410	Peter	Boon	410	0	40.4
47	407	Krista	Kaptein	402	5	40.1

ABA + Hawaii: Don Wilson had by far the largest increase at 30.

ABA + Hawaii 1.127						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	849	Mike	Toochin	848	1	75.3
2	833	Roger	Foxall	830	3	73.9
3	766	Sharon	Toochin	768	-2	68.0
4	*762	Dale	Jensen	762	nc	67.6
5	761	Eric	Tull	760	1	67.5
6	753	John	Voovs	752	1	66.8
7	*729	Brian	Stech	729	nc	64.7
8	*722	Dorothy	Copp	722	nc	64.1
9	687	Andrew	Foxall	new		61.0
10	*673	Garv	Davidson	673	nc	59.7
11	672	Don	Wilson	642	30	59.6
12	670	Kevin	Neill	663	7	59.4
13	658	Mike	McGrenere	657	1	58.4
14	658	Monica	Nugent	649	9	58.4
15	648	Barbara	Begg	648	0	57.5
16	648	Carlo	Giovanella	648	0	57.5
17	642	Gwynneth	Wilson	672	-30	57.0
18	622	Rand	Rudland	619	3	55.2
19	616	Larry	Cowan	611	5	54.7
20	606	Ken	Morgan	606	0	53.8
21	597	Sandra	Eadie	new		53.0
22	591	Val	George	589	2	52.4
23	586	Josh	Inman	580	6	52.0
24	583	Brvan	Gates	583	0	51.7
25	576	Michael	Force	576	0	51.1
26	572	Laird	Law	572	0	50.8
27	*568	Clive	Keen	568	nc	50.4

28	536	Ted	Goshulak	*541	-5	47.6
29	*480	Doug	Kragh	480	nc	42.6
30	477	Janice	Arndt	475	2	42.3
31	*474	Lee	Harding	474	nc	42.1
32	472	Paul	Clapham	471	1	41.9

World: Many of us managed to add some good numbers to our lists, 7 members added over 100 but **Kathryn Clouston** had the most at 399 which also took her over the 1,000 plateau. *Mike Toochin* hopped over the **5500** level with an increase of 75 while Sharon Toochin flew over the **5,000** level with 169. *Gary Davidson* popped over the 3,000 mark with 83 while Sandra Eadie's 80 took her over 2500. Mary Robichaud joined this listing with just over 1500.

WORLD - 10.692						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	7.918	Keith	Riding	7.790	128	74.1
2	6.062	Roger	Foxall	6.024	38	56.7
3	6.008	Nigel	Mathews	6.008	0	56.2
4	5.526	Mike	Toochin	5.451	75	51.7
5	5.052	Peter	Candido	4.951	101	47.3
6	5.048	Tom	Plath	new		47.2
7	5.007	Sharon	Toochin	4.838	169	46.8
8	4.988	Eric	Tull	4.822	166	46.7
9	*4065	Brian	Self	4.065	nc	38.0
10	*4046	Peter	McIver	4.046	nc	37.8
11	3.858	Rand	Rudland	3.595	263	36.1
12	3.629	Laird	Law	3.589	40	33.9
13	3.458	Brian	Stech	3.374	84	32.3
14	3.433	Dorothy	Copp	3.352	81	32.1
15	*3374	Dale	Jensen	3.374	nc	31.6
16	3.284	Barbara	Begg	3.282	2	30.7
17	3.237	Hank	Vandermol	3.234	3	30.3
18	3.202	Val	George	3.198	4	29.9
19	3.030	Garv	Davidson	2.947	83	28.3
20	2.852	Don	Wilson	2.786	66	26.7
21	2.565	Sandra	Eadie	2.485	80	24.0
22	2.498	Josh	Inman	2.409	89	23.4
23	2.440	Michael	Force	2.440	0	22.8
24	2.418	Andrew	Foxall	new		22.6
25	2.397	Andy	Buhler	2.397	0	22.4
26	2.397	Marilyn	Buhler	2.397	0	22.4
27	2.385	Ken	Morgan	2.385	0	22.3
28	*2358	Lee	Harding	2.358	nc	22.1

29	2.232	Monica	Nugent	2.218	14	20.9
30	*2326	Chris	Charlesworth	2.326	nc	21.8
31	2.165	Paul	Clapham	2.118	47	20.2
32	2.120	Brvan	Gates	2.120	0	19.8
33	1.906	Rosemarv	Clapham	1.857	49	17.8
34	1.850	Ben	Keen	1.536	314	17.3
35	1.766	Mike	McGrenere	1.697	69	16.5
36	1.671	John	Hodges	1.669	2	15.6
37	1.659	Larrv	Cowan	1.649	10	15.5
38	1.603	Tonv	Greenfield	1.602	1	15.0
39	1.563	Marv	Robichaud	new		14.6
40	1.328	Kathryn	Clouston	929	399	12.4
41	1.274	Ken	Willis	1.062	212	11.9
42	1.190	Ted	Goshulak	new		11.1
43	*1105	Clive	Keen	1.105	nc	10.3
44	1.052	Peter	Boon	1.049	3	9.8
45	1.017	Kevin	Neill	1.011	6	9.5
46	951	John	Sprague	951	0	8.9
47	911	Liam	Ragan	new		8.5
48	*713	Eric	Newton	713	nc	6.7

World Families: Tom Plath had an increase of 6 for the largest gain in this category.

World Families 248						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	232	Peter	Candido	232	0	93.5
2	231	Roger	Foxall	231	0	93.1
3	224	Eric	Tull	224	0	90.3
4	221	Mike	Toochin	221	0	89.1
5	217	Tom	Plath	211	6	87.5
6	*217	Brian	Self	217	nc	87.5
7	215	Sharon	Toochin	213	2	86.7
8	213	Rand	Rudland	213	0	85.9
9	210	Laird	Law	209	1	84.7
10	202	Barbara	Begg	202	0	81.5
11	*193	Peter	McIver	193	nc	77.8
12	182	Sandra	Eadie	182	0	73.4
13	180	Ken	Morgan	180	0	72.6
14	176	Paul	Clapham	175	1	71.0
15	171	Rosemarv	Clapham	168	3	69.0
16	166	Josh	Inman	165	1	66.9
17	*157	Lee	Harding	157	nc	63.3
18	145	Brvan	Gates	145	0	58.5
19	124	Kevin	Neill	124	0	50.0
20	123	Liam	Ragan	new		49.6
21	119	Larrv	Cowan	119	0	48.0

North America: Although the World list shows many of our members got out of North America last year, obviously many stayed on our continent and added some good numbers, **Gary Davidson** had the most at 411. *Mike Toochin* added 22 to push himself over the 1500 threshold while *Josh Inman* cruised over the 800 plateau with 107.

North America 2086						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	1.635	Brian	Stech	1.632	3	78.4
2	1.620	Dorothy	Cobb	1.616	4	77.7
3	1501	Mike	Toochin	1.479	22	72.0
4	1.483	Roger	Foxall	1.475	8	71.1
5	1.462	Gary	Davidson	1.051	411	70.1
6	1.437	Keith	Riding	1.433	4	68.9
7	1.327	Tom	Plath	1.327	0	63.6
8	1.178	Rand	Rudland	1.178	0	56.5
9	1.121	Barbara	Begg	1.120	1	53.7
10	1.092	Peter	Candido	1.041	51	52.3
11	1.084	Eric	Tull	1.082	2	52.0
12	1.056	Monica	Nugent	1.046	10	50.6
13	997	John	Hodges	995	2	47.8
14	968	Laird	Law	967	1	46.4
15	944	Sandra	Eadie	943	1	45.3
16	868	Josh	Inman	761	107	41.6
17	866	Andrew	Foxall	new		41.5
18	860	Larrv	Cowan	855	5	41.2
19	826	Kathryn	Clouston	821	5	39.6
20	758	Paul	Clapham	759	-1	36.3
21	714	Ted	Goshulak	712	2	34.2
22	708	John	Sprague	708	0	33.9
23	693	Krista	Kaptein	689	4	33.2
24	673	Rosemarv	Clapham	671	2	32.3
25	*657	Doug	Kragh	657	nc	31.5
26	*611	Lee	Harding	611	nc	29.3
27	527	Liam	Ragan	505	22	25.3

AOS North (AOU): Mike Toochin had the best increase with 22. *Sharon Toochin* joined this listing just over the 1100 plateau.

AOS North (AOU) 2.160						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	*1632	Brian	Stech	1.632	nc	75.6
2	*1616	Dorothy	Cobb	1.616	nc	74.8

3	1.550	Mike	Toochin	1.528	22	71.8
4	*1206	Rand	Rudland	1.206	nc	55.8
5	1.133	Eric	Tull	1.129	4	52.5
6	1101	Sharon	Toochin	new		51.0
7	977	Laird	Law	977	0	45.2
8	944	Sandra	Eadie	943	1	43.7
9	896	Larry	Cowan	891	5	41.5
10	*779	Paul	Clapham	779	nc	36.1
11	728	Ted	Goshulak	new		33.7
12	*689	Krista	Kaptein	689	nc	31.9
13	*671	Rosemarv	Clapham	671	nc	31.1
14	*667	Doug	Kragh	667	nc	30.9
15	615	Ken	Morgan	615	0	28.5

ATPAT: Larry Cowan added the most "ticks" with 100. *Sandra Eadie* and *Larry Cowan* both reached the 1,000 plateau by adding 32 and 100 respectively.

All Ticks Provinces And Territories - 5.313						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	3.039	Eric	Tull	3.035	4	57.2
2	2.986	Roger	Foxall	2.976	10	56.2
3	1.511	Janice	Arndt	1.500	11	28.4
4	*1502	Dan	Tyson	1.502	nc	28.3
5	1356	Rand	Rudland	1.312	44	25.5
6	1.275	Barabara	Begg	1.274	1	24.0
7	1.258	Laird	Law	1.256	2	23.7
8	1258	John	Sprague	1.258	0	23.7
9	1197	Garv	Davidson	new		22.5
10	1.195	Josh	Inman	1.102	93	22.5
11	1.116	Liam	Ragan	new		21.0
12	1.017	Sandra	Eadie	985	32	19.1
13	1.011	Paul	Clapham	new		19.0
14	1010	Larry	Cowan	910	100	19.0
15	*918	Brian	Stech	918	nc	17.3
16	*838	Doug	Kragh	838	nc	15.8
17	*760	Dorothy	Copp	760	nc	14.3
18	554	Rosemarv	Clapham	513	41	10.4
19	392	Ted	Goshulak		392	7.4

BC Winter: "Winter" - Dec/Jan/Feb to Dec. 31.
Paul Foth had the best increase at 10.

B.C. Winter List - Dec / Jan / Feb					
#	2022	Name		2021	incr
1	*311	Dan	Tyson	311	nc
2	310	Mike	Toochin	308	2
3	*292	Tom	Plath	292	nc

4	251	Carlo	Giovanella	250	1
5	244	Roger	Foxall	243	1
6	228	Larry	Cowan	228	0
7	217	Paul	Clapham	214	3
8	197	Eric	Tull	196	1
9	181	Paul	Foth	171	10
10	138	Janice	Arndt	138	0

Canada Winter: All those with submissions managed to increase their totals.

Canada Winter					
#	2022	Name		2021	incr
1	*312	Dan	Tyson	312	nc
2	*312	Tom	Plath	312	nc
3	311	Mike	Toochin	309	2
4	307	Roger	Foxall	306	1
5	257	Eric	Tull	256	1

Alberta: Monica Nugent added 10 for the largest increase of the group. Not far behind with 9 is *Janice Arndt* which took her over the 200 plateau.

ALBERTA - 432						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	360	Eric	Tull	360	0	83.3
2	323	Hank	Vandernol	323	0	74.8
3	273	Tom	Plath	273	0	63.2
4	249	Roger	Foxall	241	8	57.6
5	*244	Chris	Charlesworth	244	nc	56.5
6	*235	Dan	Tyson	235	nc	54.4
7	225	Monica	Nugent	215	10	52.1
8	222	Bryan	Gates	222	0	51.4
9	*220	Garv	Davidson	220	nc	50.9
10	215	Len	Jellicoe	214	1	49.8
11	209	Josh	Inman	209	0	48.4
12	202	Janice	Arndt	193	9	46.8
13	190	Larry	Cowan	190	0	44.0
14	185	Tony	Greenfield	185	0	42.8
15	184	Mike	Toochin	184	0	42.6
16	181	Dale	Jensen	181	0	41.9
17	157	Laird	Law	157	0	36.3
18	*146	Barbara	Begg	146	nc	33.8

Yukon Territory: Monica Nugent joined the list.

YUKON TERRITORY - 297						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	166	Tonv	Greenfield	166	0	55.9
2	155	Eric	Tull	155	0	52.2
3	142	Roger	Foxall	142	0	47.8
4	126	Laird	Law	126	0	42.4
5	*123	Garv	Davidson	123	nc	41.4
6	113	John	Sprague	113	0	38.0
7	112	Rand	Rudland	112	0	37.7
8	*102	Brian	Self	102	nc	34.3
9	92	Monica	Nugent	new		31.0
10	*91	Dan	Tyson	91	nc	30.6
11	86	John	Hodges	86	0	29.0
12	80	Mike	Toochin	80	0	26.9
13	*80	Dale	Jensen	80	nc	26.9
14	*64	Dorothy	Copp	64	nc	21.5
15	*64	Brian	Stech	64	nc	21.5
16	*53	Paul	Clapham	53	nc	17.8

NWT: Monica Nugent also joined this listing.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - 297						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	189	Laird	Law	189	0	63.6
2	180	Eric	Tull	180	0	60.6
3	155	Tonv	Greenfield	155	0	52.2
4	133	Rand	Rudland	133	0	44.8
5	129	Janice	Arndt	129	0	43.4
6	105	Roger	Foxall	105	0	35.4
7	*98	Brian	Self	98	nc	33.0
8	*97	Barbara	Begg	97	nc	32.7
9	86	Mike	Toochin	86	0	29.0
10	84	John	Sprague	84	0	28.3
11	77	Paul	Clapham	77	0	25.9
12	77	Rosemary	Clapham	77	0	25.9
13	54	John	Hodges	54	0	18.2
14	53	Monica	Nugent	new		17.8
15	*53	Garv	Davidson	53	nc	17.8

Yukon - NWT - Nunavut - 385						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	205	Eric	Tull	205	0	53
2	204	Laird	Law	204	0	53
3	196	Tonv	Greenfield	196	0	51
4	170	Rand	Rudland	170	0	44
5	127	Barbara	Begg	127	0	33
6	120	Paul	Clapham	120	0	31

US Lower 48: All members had slight increases.

Lower Forty Eight US - 933						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	690	Roger	Foxall	688	2	74.0
2	664	Mike	Toochin	662	2	71.2
3	*651	Brian	Stech	651	nc	69.8
4	*648	Dorothy	Copp	648	nc	69.5
5	634	Eric	Tull	633	1	68.0
6	*486	Sandra	Eadie	486	nc	52.1

United States (minus Hawaii) - 1,007						
#	2022	Name		2021	incr	%
1	763	Mike	Toochin	759	4	75.8
2	690	Roger	Foxall	new		68.5
3	*661	Eric	Tull	661	nc	65.6
4	*606	Garv	Davidson	606	nc	60.2
5	486	Sandra	Eadie	486	0	48.3
6	*416	Laird	Law	416	nc	41.3
7	409	Larry	Cowan	408	1	40.6
8	379	Ken	Morgan	379	0	37.6

WASHINGTON STATE - 521						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	*338	Dan	Tyson	338	nc	64.9
2	327	Mike	Toochin	327	0	62.8
3	*311	Brian	Self	311	nc	59.7
4	302	Tom	Plath	302	0	58.0
5	*286	Hank	Vanderpol	286	nc	54.9
6	265	Roger	Foxall	265	0	50.9
7	*256	Keith	Riding	256	nc	49.1
8	252	Brian	Stech	252	0	48.4
9	*249	Doug	Kragh	249	nc	47.8
10	*236	Dale	Jensen	236	nc	45.3
11	233	Eric	Tull	231	2	44.7
12	223	Larry	Cowan	223	0	42.8
13	216	Paul	Foth	213	3	41.5
14	196	Josh	Inman	194	2	37.6
15	232	Dorothy	Copp	232	0	44.5
16	174	Garv	Davidson	174	0	33.4

ALASKA - 561						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	317	Mike	Toochin	315	2	56.5
2	216	Eric	Tull	216	0	38.5
3	206	Dorothy	Copp	206	0	36.7
4	*196	Brian	Stech	196	nc	34.9

5	*163	Bruce	Whittington	163	nc	29.1
6	151	Monica	Nugent	151	0	26.9
7	*66	Rand	Rudland	66	nc	11.8

Vancouver: I will continue Larry's method of listing all eBird and the historical checklist area totals as one. **Roger Foxall and Brian Stech** registered the best increase with 7. *Rosemary Clapham* added 2 to ease her over the 300 threshold.

VANCOUVER AREA - 421						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	385	Mike	Toochin	379	6	91.4
2	366	Carlo	Giovanella	360	6	86.9
3	*366	Dan	Tyson	366	nc	86.9
4	364	Sharon	Toochin	358	6	86.5
5	359	Roger	Foxall	352	7	85.3
6	*358	Brian	Self	358	nc	85.0
7	355	Tom	Plath	355	0	84.3
8	354	Keith	Riding	350	4	84.1
9	353	Peter	Candido	349	4	83.8
10	343	Ouentin	Brown	343	0	81.5
11	340	Brian	Stech	333	7	80.8
12	333	Larry	Cowan	330	3	79.1
13	315	Paul	Clapham	314	1	74.8
14	315	John	Voovs	312	3	74.8
15	314	John	Gordon	310	4	74.6
16	301	Rosemary	Clapham	299	2	71.5
17	299	Kevin	Neill	296	3	71.0
18	289	Monica	Nugent	287	2	68.6
19	*284	Doug	Kragh	284	nc	67.5
20	278	Ted	Goshulak	278	0	66.0
21	275	Ken	Willis	270	5	65.3
22	251	Josh	Inman	245	6	59.6
23	235	Brvan	Gates	235	0	55.8
24	234	Don	Wilson	234	0	55.6
25	213	Eric	Tull	213	0	50.6
26	194	John	Hodges	192	2	46.1

Vancouver Island: Kathryn Clouston had the largest increase with 12 with *Eric Tull* topping the 300 plateau with his increase of 8.

Vancouver Island - 435						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	376	Mike	McGrenere	370	6	86.4
2	*360	Guv	Montv	360	nc	82.8

3	354	Barbara	Begg	353	1	81.4
4	351	Brvan	Gates	351	0	80.7
5	344	Marv	Robichaud	new		79.1
6	327	Mike	Toochin	324	3	75.2
7	324	Kevin	Neill	315	9	74.5
8	*317	Bruce	Whittington	317	nc	72.9
9	304	Eric	Tull	296	8	69.9
10	298	Tom	Plath	298	0	68.5
11	288	Ken	Morgan	288	0	66.2
12	284	Krista	Kaptein	275	9	65.3
13	271	Roger	Foxall	271	0	62.3
14	*271	Dan	Tyson	271	nc	62.3
15	270	Liam	Ragan	new		62.1
16	265	Peter	Boon	265	0	60.9
17	261	Kathryn	Clouston	249	12	60.0
18	212	Larry	Cowan	212	0	48.7
19	207	John	Sprague	207	0	47.6

Victoria: Liam Ragan got the largest increase of 31. *Kevin Neill & Monica Nugent* also had double digit increases of 10 & 16 respectively to put them over the 300 and 200 thresholds.

Victoria Area - 390						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	361	Mike	McGrenere	355	6	92.6
2	341	Marv	Robichaud	new		87.4
3	339	Barbara	Begg	338	1	86.9
4	337	Brvan	Gates	337	0	86.4
5	*305	Bruce	Whittington	305	nc	78.2
6	301	Kevin	Neill	291	10	77.2
7	287	Eric	Tull	278	9	73.6
8	278	Mike	Toochin	new		71.3
9	259	Liam	Ragan	228	31	66.4
10	*249	Tom	Plath	249	nc	63.8
11	*235	Keith	Riding	235	nc	60.3
12	*229	Dan	Tyson	229	nc	58.7
13	209	Monica	Nugent	193	16	53.6
14	177	Larry	Cowan	177	0	45.4
15	133	Ted	Goshulak	133	0	34.1

Okanagan: Don Wilson topped the 300 mark with a list best improvement of 15. *Michael force* also topped the 300 mark with an increase of 3.

Okanagan Valley - 349						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	329	Chris	Charlesworth	325	4	94.3
2	313	Don	Wilson	298	15	89.7
3	300	Michael	Force	297	3	86.0
4	299	Gwynneth	Wilson	311	-12	85.7
5	283	Hank	Vanderbol	278	5	81.1
6	277	Mike	Toochin	276	1	79.4
7	*269	Doug	Kragh	269	nc	77.1
8	*265	Garv	Davidson	265	nc	75.9
9	*260	Dan	Tvson	260	nc	74.5
10	*255	John	Voovs	255	nc	73.1
11	*235	Tom	Plath	235	nc	67.3
12	*235	Keith	Riding	235	nc	67.3
13	234	Tonv	Greenfield	234	0	67.0
14	224	Laird	Law	224	0	64.2
15	*201	Brian	Stech	201	nc	57.6
16	196	Larry	Cowan	188	8	56.2
17	193	Brvan	Gates	193	0	55.3
18	175	Eric	Tull	175	0	50.1
19	174	Paul	Foth	new		49.9
20	162	Dorothy	Copp	162	0	46.4

North Pacific Pelagic: Mike Toochin added an impressive 19 to his list.

North Pacific Pelagic Waters					
#	2022	Name		2021	incr
1	203	Michael	Force	203	0
2	155	Mike	Toochin	136	19
3	105	Ken	Morgan	105	0
4	87	Tom	Plath	87	0
5	72	Kevin	Neill	71	1
6	45	Brvan	Gates	45	0
7	*70	Brian	Self	70	nc
8	*79	Bruce	Whittington	79	nc

Peace River Area - 304						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	244	Laird	Law	245	-1	80.3
2	228	Tom	Plath	228	0	75.0
3	209	Tonv	Greenfield	209	0	68.8
4	207	Mike	Toochin	207	0	68.1
5	184	Brvan	Gates	184	0	60.5
6	*164	Dan	Tvson	164	nc	53.9
7	155	Larry	Cowan	155	0	51.0
8	*129	Brian	Stech	129	nc	42.4
9	*128	Dorothy	Copp	128	nc	42.1

Prince George: Larry Cowan added 11 to his list for the largest gain.

Prince George Area - 297						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	284	Laird	Law	283	1	95.6
2	*280	Cathv	Antoniazzi	280	nc	94.3
3	193	Don	Wilson	193	0	65.0
4	*168	Dan	Tvson	168	nc	56.6
5	155	Larry	Cowan	144	11	48.5
6	*133	Garv	Davidson	133	nc	44.8

West Kootenay Area - 339						
#	2022	Name		2021	incr	%
1	303	Garv	Davidson	303	0	89.4
2	266	Janice	Arndt	264	2	78.5
3	*257	Peter	McIver	257	nc	75.8
4	91	Larry	Cowan	91	0	26.8

Creston Valley Area - 311						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	222	Paul	Foth	220	2	71
2	*219	Peter	McIver	219	nc	70
3	*193	Garv	Davidson	193	nc	62
4	177	Janice	Arndt	177	0	57

Fraser Valley - 334						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	262	John	Voovs	260	2	78.4
2	*252	Dan	Tvson	252	nc	75.4
3	237	Paul	Foth	234	3	71.0
4	221	John	Gordon	218	3	66.2
5	*208	Lee	Harding	208	nc	62.3
6	163	Larry	Cowan	163	0	48.8

Manning PP - 227						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	157	Mike	McGrenere	156	1	69.2
2	*111	Dan	Tvson	111	nc	48.9
3	*110	Brian	Self	110	nc	48.5
4	91	Larry	Cowan	91	0	40.1

Sunshine Coast - 307						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%

1	285	Tonv	Greenfield	284	1	92.8
2	278	Rand	Rudland	275	3	90.6
3	268	John	Hodges	266	2	87.3
4	*257	Russ	Tkachuk	257	nc	83.7
5	*179	Dan	Tyson	179	nc	58.3
6	113	Larrv	Cowan	113	0	36.8

Comox Strathcona: Krista Kaptein added 9 to her list.

Comox Strathcona - 323						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	266	Krista	Kaptein	257	9	82.4
2	247	Kathryn	Clouston	241	6	76.5
3	*239	Guv	Montv	239	nc	74.0
4	177	Brian	Gates	177	0	54.8

Salt Spring Island: Marian Porter added 4 to her list which was the largest gain.

Salt Spring Island - 239						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	192	Ren	Ferguson	191	1	80.3
2	174	John	Sprague	174	0	72.8
3	140	Marian	Porter	136	4	58.6

Haida Gwaii: Kevin Neill joined the list.

Haida Gwaii - 190						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	134	Mike	Toochin	134	0	70.5
2	*110	Bruce	Whittington	110	0	57.9
3	97	Laird	Law	97	0	51.1
4	79	Krista	Kaptein	79	0	41.6
5	60	Kevin	Neill	new		31.6

Westham & Reifel Islands: Mike Toochin had double digit gains to hold onto first place.

Westham & Reifel Islands (Vanc) - 280						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	235	Mike	Toochin	225	10	83.9
2	*233	Brian	Self	233	nc	83.2
3	215	Tom	Plath	215	0	76.8
4	*211	Dan	Tyson	211	nc	75.4
5	167	Paul	Clapham	167	0	59.6

6	161	Larrv	Cowan	160	1	57.5
7	143	Rosemarv	Clapham	140	3	51.1

Sea & Iona Islands (Vanc) - 300						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	293	Mike	Toochin	292	1	97.7
2	280	Tom	Plath	280	0	93.3
3	*245	Dan	Tyson	245	nc	81.7
4	208	Paul	Clapham	208	0	69.3
5	183	Rosemarv	Clapham	181	2	61.0
6	182	Larrv	Cowan	181	1	60.7

Blackie Spit (Vanc) - 237						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	*181	Dan	Tyson	181	nc	76.4
2	*132	Brian	Self	132	nc	55.7
3	122	Larrv	Cowan	122	0	51.5
4	105	Paul	Clapham	new		44.3

Semiamhoo Peninsula (WA) - 245						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	233	Carlo	Giovannella	231	2	95.1
2	229	Roger	Foxall	227	2	93.5
3	*221	Dan	Tyson	221	nc	90.2
City of Pitt Meadows - 229						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	210	Larrv	Cowan	206	0	91.7
2	*114	Kaitie	York	114	nc	49.8

Non-Motorized Transport: Paul Foth made great gains by adding 78 to his list.

Non-Motorized Transport						
#	2022	Name		Centre	2021	inc
1	322	Mike	McGrenere	Victoria	319	3
2	186	Paul	Foth	108 Mile	108	78
3	170	Janice	Arndt	Nelson	169	1
4	117	Larrv	Cowan	Pitt	116	1
5	*115	Barbara	Begg	Sidnev	115	nc

eBird Regions

eBird Regions						
Region	2022	Name		2021	inc	
Cariboo	242	Paul	Foth	237	5	
Central	227	Paul	Foth			
East	230	Jo Ellen	Floor	225	5	
Thompson-	194	Paul	Foth			

ARDAT (All Regional Districts Added Together):
Only listing totals supplied this year by members are included.

eBird - All Regional Districts Added Together - 8.465						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	*3311	Dan	Tyson	3.311	nc	39.1
2	2706	Joshua	Brown	2.545	161	32.0
3	2667	Garv	Davidson	new		31.5
4	2416	Krista	Kaptein	2.032	384	28.5
5	2096	Paul	Foth	1.944	152	24.8
6	2008	Larry	Cowan	1.884	124	23.7
7	1961	Liam	Ragan	new		23.2
8	*1125	Doug	Kragh	1.125	nc	13.3

Year Lists						
British Columbia - 532						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	*334	Keith	Riding	334	nc	62.8
2	290	Mike	Toochin	289	1	54.5
3	269	Liam	Ragan	new		50.6
4	251	Paul	Foth	new		47.2
5	*193	John	Hodges	193	nc	36.3
Vancouver - 350						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	%
1	*264	Roger	Foxall	264	nc	75.4
2	*261	Keith	Riding	261	0	74.6
3	245	Mike	Toochin	265	-20	70.0
East Kootenav - 307						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	
	211	Jo Ellen	Floor	212	-1	
Canada - 685						
#	2022	Name		2021	inc	
	290	Mike	Toochin			

The rest are for areas with 1 or 2 submissions, grouped where possible, by the BC Tourism Zones.

Vancouver Coast	2022	Name		2021	inc
ATMAT (Vanc) **	2525	Carlo	Giovanella	2.495	30
Colonv Farm RP	173	Larry	Cowan	173	0
Iona	279	Mike	Toochin		
Iona	262	Sharon	Toochin		
Nathan Creek	90	Ted	Goshulak		
Richmond + Sea &	305	Mike	Toochin		
Vancouver Winter	234	Carlo	Giovanella	234	0
** ATMAT - All The Months Added Together					
Vancouver Island	2022	Name		2021	inc

Saturna Isl	102	Tony	Greenfield	102	0
Kootenay/Rockies	2022	Name		2021	inc
Mt. Robson	148	Laird	Law	148	0
Thompson/Okanagan	2022	Name		2021	inc
Princeton	110	Larry	Cowan	110	0
Princeton	129	Tom	Plath	129	0
USA	2022	Name	Name	2021	inc
USA + Hawaii	817	Mike	Toochin		
Other	2022	Name	Name	2021	inc
ABA(c) Photo'ed	661	Brian	Stech	658	3
Africa	1029	Peter	Candido	new	
AOU Area	693	Krista	Kaptein	new	
BC / Alaska	544	Mike	Toochin		
Canada Audio	219	Liam	Ragan	New	
Canada Photo'ed	355	Liam	Ragan	new	
NA + Hawaii	921	Josh	Inman	814	107
Over 1.500m	113	Mike	McGrenere	113	0
Word Audio	293	Liam	Ragan	new	
World Photo'ed	3264	Peter	Candido	3.196	68
World Photo'ed	2448	Brian	Stech	*2.352	96
World Photo'ed	691	Liam	Ragan	new	

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. See:

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

*Below: Pacific Black Ducks in New South Wales.
See page 27.*

