



# BC BIRDING

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**BC BIRDING** is published four times a year by **British Columbia Field Ornithologists (BCFO)**, P.O.Box 8059, Victoria, BC V8W 3R7. A Subscription to this quarterly is a benefit of membership in the society.

Members will also receive a copy of the annual journal, **British Columbia Birds**.

Membership in BCFO is open to anyone interested in the study and enjoyment of wild birds in British Columbia. Our 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.

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Send material for publication in any format to the editors. We especially welcome bird-finding information for our Site Guide series and any articles about birdwatching experiences, preferably but not necessarily, in British Columbia. **Deadline for receipt of material for publication is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the March, June, September and December issues.**

Advertising rates available upon request.

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## **EDITORS NOTES AND NOTIONS**

Things were a lot simpler with WP5.1!!! However, we hope you will appreciate the changes and, as always, we look forward to your input in the form of Society information, letters, articles and Site Guides. Any format is acceptable.

Be certain to read the enthusiastic promo for the AGM which Jack sent us. He and his crew are working hard to make this one of the best AGM's ever. Cameron and Derrick's articles compliment the AGM extension up into the Peace River area and provide good preparatory reading for all of you birders considering the trip. Both Tony and Gary sent us some thought provoking, Society-related input to help put a focus on field ornithology in BC. Rick kindly provided his data on the 1997 Interior Eagle and Swan counts. Ken has revived our Bird Lister's Column and we do appreciate his effort. It will appear in part, in this issue with more to come in a following issue. Eileen has sent us a diary of hummer activity in her garden and Allen sent an interesting observation on the behavior of swifts. We actually ran out of room for all articles received for this issue. WOW! Keep up the good work people. It really keeps your editors happy to have something in the in-basket.

**Birders Journal**, an excellent Canadian publication, has put a full page write-up for BCFO in volume 5(6): 306. Check it out and get acquainted with the journal too. We have asked the Directors to give us some direction regarding publication exchanges since editors from several major birding publications have started to notice our organization. ABA members will see that we (your Editors) have also been busy with an index for **BIRDING**, the bimonthly ABA journal. We were part of a volunteer indexing committee and have spent the last year indexing the last four years worth of **BIRDING**. This month Andy took an indexing course to see how we really should have tackled the job.

Do take time to read the advertisements we have received from the Creston Valley Wildlife Centre in this issue. Also read the **UPCOMING EVENTS** as there are lots of great trips offered which should really help get rid of these long winter blahs. Good Birding. We hope to see you all at the Seventh Annual BCFO AGM.

### *Thank You Everyone ...*

Thank you to everyone who submitted names for this newsletter. Each was given due consideration by directors and editors. Special thanks to Prue S. for suggesting we use a watermark of the Varied Thrush, to Russ T. for creating & donating the Varied Thrush, to Jack W. for the large **B** and **C** concept, and to Martin M. for giving us his thoughts on our next-to-last creation.

Send us your thoughts and comments as we are still evolving.

## President's Report

By Tony Greenfield

In *Birding* volume XXIX, No. 1, February 1997, BC's field ornithologists and authors garnered some first class press in this premier forum for birders. Alan Contreras in an article entitled 'Is Local Field Ornithology the Future of Birding?' quickly singles out **The Birds of British Columbia** by Campbell et al as the "best modern work of the genre". (The genre being the "definitive state or provincial bird book".) He goes on "...as far as I can tell (it) was written (superbly) by a task-force consisting of every birder with a pulse in the province".

We should take pride in this recognition, and also thank Wayne Campbell in particular, for marshaling the contributions of BC's army of ornithologists. We should also be grateful to Wayne for devoting an inordinate amount of his life to this monumental project. (The publication of volume 3 is imminent, with volume 4 still to come.)

Contreras goes on to mention some of his choices for the best local or regional publications, and he identifies the "splendid" **Birds of the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia** (Cannings et al 1987) as a paragon of the type. (In passing I should mention that the **Birds of Canada** by Earl Godfrey, published by National Museums of Canada, has been consistently rated at the very highest level by various ABA contributors.)

BC's field ornithologists are confidently marching into the future with a plethora of new publications ranging from local and regional checklists to the invaluable Site Guides in our own BCFO newsletter (called *BC Birding*.) In concert with the print-based dissemination of information some of our more visionary birders visualize on-line, real-time submission and access of our birding records. In this respect, Michael Price made an interesting presentation to BCFO's last executive meeting.

In conclusion, we should be proud to be part of this dynamic and critically acclaimed BC/Canadian ornithological scene.

## Notes From the Bird Records Committee

by Gary Davidson

The BCFO Bird Records Committee recently received a report and some good photos of a Whooper Swan. The bird was seen near Comox during the last week of July 1996. The description and the photos, provided by Doug Innes, leave very little doubt as to the identification of the bird. The problem here is one of origin. Is the bird truly wild? Or did it escape from a waterfowl collector? This is a question that this Committee, and similar committees everywhere, can rarely answer with certainty. Sometimes there are clues. Obviously if a nearby collector reports the recent loss of such a bird then the record would have to be rejected. However, most clues are not that conclusive. In the case of this Whooper Swan, there have apparently not been any known losses of this species from local collectors. Is it enough to check with only local collectors? Is it unreasonable to think that this bird could have flown from as far away as California or Alaska if, in fact, it had escaped from there? One member of the Committee reports that a pair of Whooper Swans were breeding on Attu in 1996, so is it that unreasonable to expect them here? However, to arrive at the end of July -- is that a very likely time for migrants to be arriving? As one member commented, how differently would this record be viewed if the bird had arrived in the fall with a few hundred Trumpeter Swans?

Clearly there are more questions than answers. For most members of the Committee, the likelihood of this being an escapee was just too great. The Committee voted not to accept the record. However, we want to thank Doug for his careful efforts in documenting this report. All reports are kept on file and can be reviewed again if new evidence becomes available. Only time will tell: was this an isolated event that remained forever a mystery? or was it the first step in the changing distributional pattern of a species? Such changes have happened many times before -- the first one often presents difficulties for Records Committees, or other authorities, everywhere!

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
PRINCE GEORGE, BC  
JUNE 13-15, 1997**

Come one, come all to the central interior of B.C. and join the festivities!!! This year the BCFO AGM will be held at Esther's Inn in Prince George at the confluence of the mighty Fraser and Nechako Rivers. Situated amid forests of spruce, pine and hardwoods and criss-crossed by innumerable ponds, lakes and rivers, the area will be resounding with the songs of legions of birds returning briefly from their sub-tropical base to nest. Those who have never witnessed this outpouring of biological energy are in for a treat. Varied Thrushes and Steller's Jays are in the spruces; Magnolia Warblers, Swainson's Thrushes and Western Tanagers in the mixedwoods; Least Flycatchers, American Redstarts and White-throated Sparrows in the aspens; Yellow-rumped Warblers and Chipping Sparrows in the pines; Hermit Thrushes in the seral stands; Clay-colored and Lincoln's Sparrows in the meadows; Northern Waterthrushes along the ponds, and many, many more -- they all have their niches and we will explore as many as we can. Early risers will be treated to truly memorable dawn choruses -- thrush "grand slams" are easy with Varieds, Swainson's, and Hermits joined by Robins; add in White-throated Sparrows and various vireos, warblers and sparrows and the result is a beautiful avian symphony. Want to study those subtle differences between Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers? Well, there are places where both occur within paces of each other. Male Greater Yellowlegs stand guard on their backwoods territories ready to take on anything that ventures too close. You just may luck into all three of the sapsucker species within a day's drive, a textbook example of post-glacial recolonization. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Ovenbirds are two of the many species which have filtered in from east of the Rockies to make the area their summer home. Bobolinks reach their northern terminus here.

The weekend will follow the traditional AGM pattern:

- registration and social get-together on Friday night.
- morning field trips; afternoon speakers; AGM; dinner; keynote speaker; then owling 'til you drop on Saturday (sleep? what's that?).
- and last, but certainly not least, the set piece field trips on Sunday.

A trip to the Peace district of northeast B.C. is being planned for those wishing to extend their voyage of discovery into the following week. Information package enclosed.

There are notices and registration forms regarding the AGM weekend inserted in this issue. Please read the information, fill in and return the registration forms, mark your birding calendars, then get ready to attend one of the prime birding events of the year!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 5-17, 1997 **Southern Texas Birding.** Join David Sterling and Bruce Whittington on a tour of the birding hotspots of southern Texas. Highlights of this tour include Mexican specialties along the Rio Grande Valley, Whooping Cranes at Aransas and migrating warblers at High Island. Price \$1750.00 San Antonio to Houston. All proceeds from this tour will be donated to the Habitat Acquisition Trust. For more information please call Marilyn Lambert at (250) 477-5922.
- April 6-19, 1997 **Spring in South Texas.** Regal Whooping Cranes, as many as forty of the South Texas species and during the height of the spring migration (330 species possible). Very good accommodations, easy terrain, warm to fairly hot climate. Price based upon seven participants, 14 days at \$2750 (excluding meals) based on double occupancy from Victoria. Contact Derrick Marven (250) 748-8504.
- April 11-13, 1997 **Brant Wildlife Festival.** Come to Parksville-Qualicum Beach for the 1997 Brant Wildlife Festival. Weekend includes Big Day Birding competition, carving, exhibits, nature activities, talks, and more. For information please write to: Brant Festival, P.O.Box 327, Parksville, BC V9P 2G5. Phone (250) 248-4117. Web Site: <http://qb.island.net/~bfest/>
- April 13-20, 1997 **Celebration of Swans.** Everyone is welcome to join us for the annual return of the Trumpeter Swans on their way to their breeding grounds. Over 2000 Trumpeter and Tundra Swans congregate in M'Clintock Bay, just outside Whitehorse. Come and enjoy the long days of Spring at the spectacular Celebration of Swans. For more information contact Julie Lefebvre, Wildlife Viewing Coordinator, Yukon Renewable Resources. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6. Tel:(403) 668-8291 fax:(403) 393-6263 e-mail: [wildview@yknet.yk.ca](mailto:wildview@yknet.yk.ca). Also for the surfers out there visit the Yukon Bird Club Web Page: <http://www.yukonweb.wis.net/community/ybc/>
- April 17-20, 1997 **Wilson Ornithological Society 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting.** Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. Contact: John L. Zimmerman, Division of Biology, Ackert Hall, KSU, Manhattan, KS 66506-4901; phone (913)532-6659 or (913)532-6615.
- April 25-26, 1997 **Creston Valley Wildlife Area Osprey Festival.** Join us for a fun-filled weekend, participate in guided trail walks, nature talks, hands-on-activities in the wetland, craft workshops, riverboat tours, early morning bird-a-thon and osprey viewing. See boxed ad on page 20.
- May 1-10, 1997 **Wings Over the Rockies.** One hundred miles of Columbia River wetlands, flanked by grasslands, forests and alpine tundra, provides habitat for over 250 bird species and the regional setting for a ten-day festival celebrating the return of birds to the Columbia River headwaters. Activities include: guided hikes and river floats; owl prowls; presentations; photo, art and field naturalist work-shops; children's activities; juried contests and a book release. Contact Kootenay National Park, Box 220 Radium Hot Springs, BC V0A 1M0. phone: (800)347-9704, or email: [larry\\_halverson@pch.gc.ca](mailto:larry_halverson@pch.gc.ca).

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 11-24, 1997 **May in Southern Ontario.** Point Pelee at the height of spring migration. Up to 34 species of warblers, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager and up to 200 other species. We will also visit other well known birding areas such as Thicksen's Woods and Cardon Plain, looking for the specialties of these areas. Price based upon seven participants, 14 days at \$750 (excluding meals), based on double occupancy from Victoria. Contact Derrick Marven (250) 748-8504.
- May 17-24, 1997 **Birds and Wine 1997.** Travel in a comfortable 12 passenger van to visit riparian, open grassland, & upland forest habitat for daily expeditions. Early morning starts will get us out on the steppes and through the ponderosa pine woodlands listening for the distinctive calls and songs of Okanagan specialties. For several of the days picnic lunches will be supplied to allow a longer stay in exceptional habitat. After lunch, when light and temperatures discourage birding, our group will visit local wineries for tours and tastings. A complete meal including wine will be provided at a winery in Summerland. Contact Dannie Carsen (250) 727-0155 or Tom Gillespie (250) 361-1694.
- May 24, 1997 **Okanagan Mountain Park Bird Blitz.** Here's a good reason to travel to the Okanagan. Join valley birders on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> for the fifth annual count in Okanagan Mountain Park, winding up with the tally and a catered BBQ at Okanagan Lake Provincial Park north of Summerland. Nine groups offer terrain ranging from easy walking to mountain hiking. If you are interested in beginning at the Kelowna end of the park, call Eileen Dillabough (250) 862-8254 or send an e-mail to Denise\_Brownlie@mindlink.bc.ca. For those starting from Penticton, contact Eva Durance (250) 492-3158 or Laurie Rockwell (250) 494-7558.
- May 25-28, 1997 **Nature '97 at Lake Okanagan Resort.** The Central Okanagan Naturalist Club will be hosting the second annual retreat at Lake Okanagan Resort in Kelowna, BC. This three day event offers many birding opportunities during each day with "specialist guides" such as Chris Charlesworth. A highlight to the event will be the Interpretive Dinner featuring guest speaker Scott Alexander. Package price: \$149 per person. Information call: 1-800-663-3273. See you there!
- June 1-14, 1997 **Southern Alberta.** Visiting Brooks, Cypress Hills and the Milk River Valley area, looking for all the specialties of this prairie habitat such as Lark Bunting, McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs, White-faced Ibis, Ferruginous Hawk and Black-necked Stilt. 150 Species may be seen. Price based on seven participants, 14 days at \$1650 (excluding meals), based on double occupancy, from Victoria. Contact Derrick Marven (250) 748-8504.
- July 21-27, 1997 **Joint Meeting American Birding Association Conference and Association of Field Ornithologists 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.** Hosted by the Asociacion Ornitologica de Costa Rica, this exciting event will include fabulous field-trips, great birding, interesting speakers, evening programs, the opportunity to meet with other birders and ornithologists, and the chance to experience another culture. Contact Carol Wallace, registrar at (800)850-2473.

## Birding the La Biche River, Yukon

by Cameron Eckert  
1402 Elm Street  
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June 4th, 1995

*The weather during the 250 km flight from Watson Lake to the La Biche River Valley in a loaded down Cessna 206 exceeded my worst expectations. Low clouds and heavy rain obscured any sense of direction. As we flew low over the mountains from ridge top to ridge top with dense storm clouds closing in from above and the valleys below lost in fog I asked the pilot, "does there come a point when you turn back?". He responded, "when you can't see the next mountain top." Moments later we plunged into a wall of clouds that made the search for the next mountain top seem like an obscure theoretical exercise.*

The southeast Yukon is known to birders as one of the richest areas in the Yukon for songbirds. Recent studies of the forest bird communities along the Liard River Valley near Watson Lake and a few trips to Toobally Lakes, 125 km east of Watson Lake have revealed that bird communities found in this area are very different from those found elsewhere in the Yukon. Species such as Western Tanager, White-throated Sparrow, American Redstart and Magnolia Warbler, previously thought to be rare in the Yukon, are common in southeast Yukon. However, until very recently virtually nothing was known about the songbird communities of the extreme southeast corner of the territory. In June 1995, the Southeast Yukon Forest Bird Project, sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Service and Yukon Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch, explored the forests along the Beaver River and 50 km southeast on the La Biche River in the extreme southeast Yukon. The results were dramatic with eight new species added to the Yukon checklist.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> our team of six biologists flew 250 km east from Watson Lake to the La Biche River Valley. It did not take long for us to recognize that the La Biche River is unique in the Yukon. Flying into the La Biche River Valley the extensive cover of deciduous trees throughout the lowlands was obvious. While setting up camp I was startled by the resonating song of an Ovenbird, a first for the Yukon, rising from the adjacent forest. High above a Red-eyed Vireo, only the second Yukon record, sang from balsam poplars. Within 24 hours we were astonished to realize that these and other species, not seen before in the Yukon, were common in the rich La Biche forests.

The La Biche River Valley lies within the Muskwa Plateau Ecoregion of which only a very small portion extends into the Yukon. The waters of the La Biche River flow south from the Yukon into the Liard River and then north to the Mackenzie River and on to the Beaufort Sea. The forests of the La Biche River lowlands are unlike any found elsewhere in the Yukon. White spruce is dominant but there is a significant deciduous component comprised of very large balsam poplar, trembling aspen and white birch. These mixed forests are extensive adjacent to the La Biche River and throughout the lowlands areas. A rich shrubby undergrowth permeates much of the forest. Other vegetation reflects the unique nature of these forests. Nowhere else in the Yukon have I encountered Devil's Club, and wading through two metre high ostrich fern was most impressive. Strong winds are a significant natural force in the area and fallen trees have contributed to structurally complex forests which provide exceptionally rich songbird habitat.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> the birds began singing long before the first light of dawn and by sunrise the forests were a virtual wall of song. The absolute density of birds was extraordinary. The usual afternoon lull never happened as the birds sang right through the

day. Our first breakfast was happily interrupted by the high song of the Yukon's first Black-and-white Warbler. We spent our first day at the La Biche River exploring the forests and trying to make sense of the very complex and diverse habitats found in the area. It was a day of inspired birding as we encountered many species whose existence in the Yukon had long been the subject of deep-winter debates. Crossing the La Biche River a flycatcher flew out from under the bridge and perched on a riverside log. Its plain greyish-brown back contrasting with a whitish throat and pale yellowish belly and tail pumping behaviour identified this bird as an Eastern Phoebe; a species only seen once or twice before in the Yukon. Just past the bridge a melodious song, like a Robin's but faster and more fluid caught our ear. A boldly beautiful Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Yukon first, sang from tall shrubs. A sharp "kik" note drew our attention to a nearby female. In the adjacent mature white spruce forest we heard a very high song with three or four inflected notes. Searching through the upper canopy I caught sight of the small songster -- the Yukon's first Bay-breasted Warbler.

The rich habitats of the La Biche River Valley seemed to yield endless potential for discovery. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, en route to our dawn surveys we spotted a colourful warbler with a dark grey hood contrasting with bright yellow undersides singing a raspy "chur chur chur chorie chorie". As the bird perched in the open we quickly noted that it clearly lacked the white eye crescents of a MacGillivray's Warbler. Here was the Yukon's first Mourning Warbler. Well beyond its known range, this species was relatively common along the La Biche River. After our June 8<sup>th</sup> surveys, we returned to camp and while preparing the morning cafe lattes I spotted a pair of vireos which I expected to be Warbling Vireos. However, unlike the Warbling Vireo these birds had distinct yellow breasts. The lattes were put on hold as we watched the two birds, Yukon's first Philadelphia Vireos, foraging in tall shrubs along the river. June 10<sup>th</sup> found us on an endurance trek -- bushwacking through a thickly tangled forest and braving the bite of Devil's Club. Our efforts were well rewarded with the Yukon's first Canada Warbler. On June 13<sup>th</sup> Helmut Grünberg indicated that he was going in search of "rare sparrows" in the low shrub wetlands near the La Biche River airstrip. Hours later Helmut returned and shared that he had found "le sparrow de Monsieur Le Conte." Helmut had found one of North America's most elusive sparrows -- the Le Conte's Sparrow, extremely rare in the Yukon. In the days that followed we found that there were at least 10 singing males in that area. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, we set out to explore one of the few small lakes in the area. We were wading around the edge of the lake when the chattering song of the Yukon's first Marsh Wren burst from the tall aquatic vegetation, drawing us in well over our boot tops.

Also striking was our discovery of many more species previously considered rare in the Yukon which are relatively common in the extreme southeast Yukon. These included Pied-billed Grebe, Eastern Kingbird, Winter Wren, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Cape May Warbler, and Le Conte's Sparrow. It was unclear whether the common occurrence of Cedar Waxwings in the area was typical or part of an apparent invasion that this normally rare Yukon species exhibited across southern Yukon during the breeding season in 1995. Evening Grosbeak has been considered somewhat of an enigma in the Yukon. While this species has recently become a regular winter visitor to bird feeders in southern Yukon, there have been very few summer observations. We found Evening Grosbeak to be common at both the La Biche and Beaver Rivers.

Our observations at the Beaver River just 50 km northwest of the La Biche indicated that some species are very close to the northwest extent of their range in the extreme southeast Yukon. Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler and Canada Warbler were relatively common at the La Biche River but not observed at the Beaver River despite the existence of apparently appropriate habitat. Mourning Warbler was relatively common at the La Biche River but observed only once at the Beaver River. While Le Conte's Sparrow was not observed at the Beaver River, we were not able to explore suitable habitat



in that area. A few species were more commonly observed at the Beaver River than at the La Biche River. Cape May Warbler was only briefly heard once on the La Biche River but appeared to be relatively common in mixed black spruce-white birch forests around a small lake near the Beaver River. Golden-crowned Kinglet, a species known to be relatively common in old growth white spruce forest further west in the southern Yukon, was not observed at the La Biche River but was found in old growth white spruce forests near the Beaver River.

While our study focused primarily on songbirds, we were also impressed by the relative diversity of other species groups such as owls. We had fine observations of "northern specialties" such as Boreal Owl, Great Gray Owl and Northern Hawk-Owls. In just two weeks we had countless opportunities to watch bears, moose, wolves and Nahanni bison. The number of black bears at the La Biche River was remarkable. We generally observed three to seven bears each day and the staff at the Anderson Gas Plant estimated that up to 24 black bears inhabited the area. The very special nature of the La Biche River was also reflected by our discovery of a new Yukon amphibian species, the chorus frog. Wood frogs were very common and we also observed boreal toad.

These forests are among the Yukon's richest and most scenic. There is considerable interest in the area's timber resources and extensive clear-cut logging operations are proceeding in the area. The forests along the La Biche River are extremely important to unique communities of birds, animals and plant life. The health of these communities will depend on extremely careful management and the recognition of the exceptional nature of this very beautiful corner of the Yukon.

#### Acknowledgments

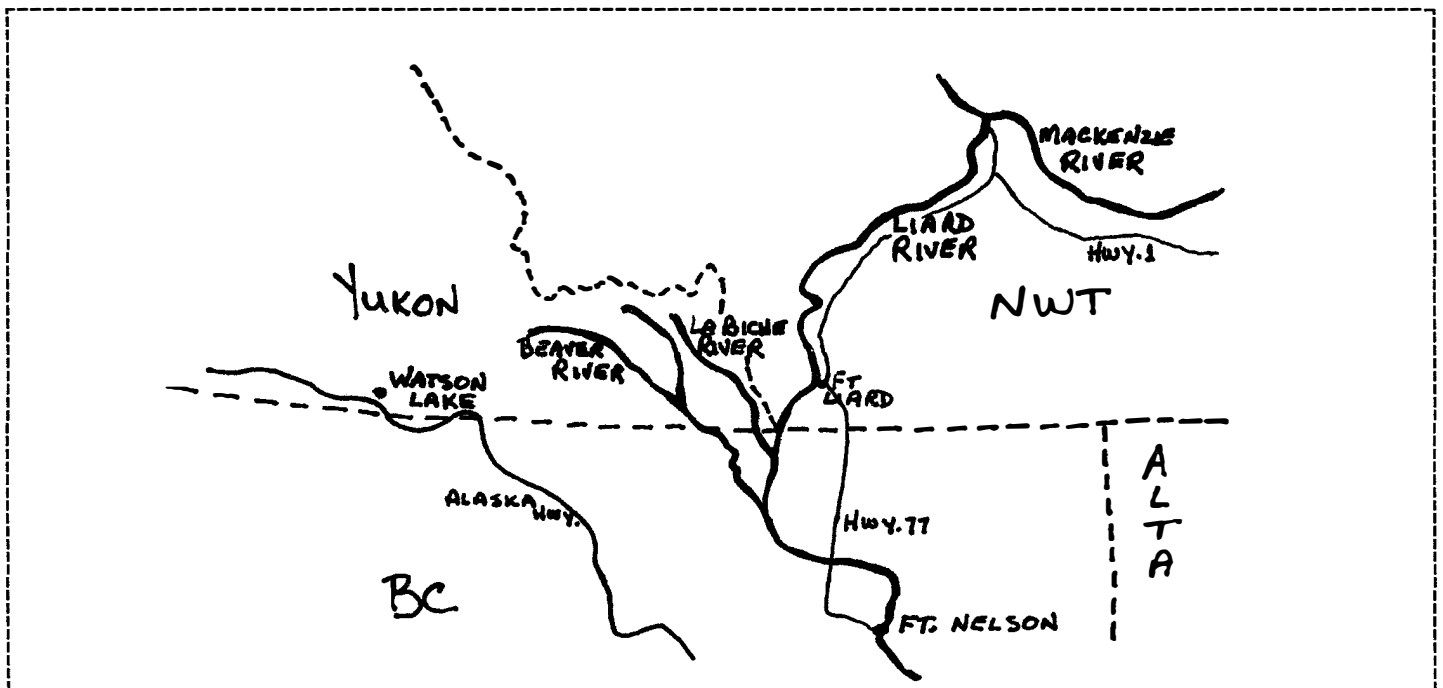
Observers on the project were Cameron Eckert, Wendy Nixon, Pam Sinclair, Helmut Grünberg, Bruce Bennett and Jennifer Staniforth. The staff of the Anderson Gas Plant at the La Biche River kindly provided logistical support. Frances Nande welcomed us at the Beaver River, shared his knowledge of the area and ensured that our stay was quite comfortable.

Editors' Note: We have reprinted this article as the area mentioned abuts an area of British Columbia which has been little birded.\* This article, originally forwarded to us by Bruce Bennett, is reprinted with permission of the author. It first appeared in the Fall 1995 issue of **Yukon Warbler**. Bruce also noted that: "... this area has been logged and is at present the focus of some of the heaviest logging pressures in the Yukon. This jewel that has only recently been explored by Yukon birders may soon be drastically altered by clear-cut logging of the white spruce forests. It is interesting that this level of logging has been approved due to the amount of blowdown in the forest, yet our initial findings suggest, and it is no surprise, that it is within these blowdown areas that the greatest diversity of life occurs." A more recent, and similar version of this article, complete with some great color photographs taken by Cameron Eckert, was published in **BIRDERS JOURNAL** June 1996 5(3): 145-149. See page 10 of this newsletter for a complete listing of birds seen by the Eckert group as they birded the La Biche River area from June 4-18, 1995.

\*A companion article, written by Derrick Marven, is to be found on page 11 of this issue. We have included a line drawing map on page 10 which can be consulted for either article.

A complete list of the birds we observed at the La Biche River, June 4-18, 1995.

- |                          |                         |                        |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Swainson's Thrush        | Philadelphia Vireo      | Bald Eagle             |
| Tennessee Warbler        | Spotted Sandpiper       | Boreal Owl             |
| Magnolia Warbler         | Canada Warbler          | Brown-headed Cowbird   |
| White-throated Sparrow   | Dark-eyed Junco         | Bufflehead             |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler    | Black-and-white Warbler | Canada Goose           |
| Bay-breasted Warbler     | Mourning Warbler        | Cape May Warbler       |
| Chipping Sparrow         | Swamp Sparrow           | Cliff Swallow          |
| Northern Waterthrush     | Belted Kingfisher       | Common Merganser       |
| American Redstart        | Cedar Waxwing           | Common Nighthawk       |
| Hammond's Flycatcher     | Lincoln's Sparrow       | Common Raven           |
| Warbling Vireo           | Red-breasted Nuthatch   | Common Snipe           |
| Least Flycatcher         | Ruffed Grouse           | Eastern Kingbird       |
| Western Tanager          | Common Goldeneye        | Eastern Phoebe         |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Pine Siskin             | Great Gray Owl         |
| Yellow Warbler           | American Kestrel        | Green-winged Teal      |
| American Robin           | American Wigeon         | Killdeer               |
| Ovenbird                 | Black-backed Woodpecker | Le Conte's Sparrow     |
| Gray Jay                 | Common Yellowthroat     | Mallard                |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak   | Northern Flicker        | Marsh Wren             |
| Red-eyed Vireo           | Red-winged Blackbird    | Northern Goshawk       |
| Boreal Chickadee         | Ruby-crowned Kinglet    | Northern Hawk-Owl      |
| White-winged Crossbill   | Sharp-shinned Hawk      | Pine Grosbeak          |
| Varied Thrush            | Solitary Sandpiper      | Olive-sided Flycatcher |
| Alder Flycatcher         | Three-toed Woodpecker   | Pied-billed Grebe      |
| Fox Sparrow              | Tree Swallow            | Red-tailed Hawk        |
| Purple Finch             | Winter Wren             | Ring-necked Duck       |
| Solitary Vireo           | Black-capped Chickadee  | Song Sparrow           |
| Hairy Woodpecker         | Blue-winged Teal        | Sora                   |
| Evening Grosbeak         | Bohemian Waxwing        | Western Wood-Pewee     |



Line Map of SE Yukon & NE British Columbia

## Birding the Liard River Area, British Columbia

by Derrick Marven  
1887 Frances Street  
Duncan, BC V9L 4Z9

In early September 1996 I was lucky enough to be part of a group from Madrone Consultants of Duncan, BC to do a mapping project between the Liard River and the Beaver River in northeastern British Columbia.

My part in this project was to identify habitat suitability and capability for certain species of birds and mammals. We were in the area for eight days and we encountered every possible type of weather from brilliant sunshine to three inches of snow. The main methods of travel were four-wheeled drive motorbike and helicopter.

Our trip started with us being stuck in Nanaimo by a severe thunderstorm, leaving nearly two hours late for our flight to Vancouver and having to run to catch our flight to Prince George. From Prince George we transferred to another flight to Fort Nelson, only to find that our luggage was still in Vancouver. So, instead of taking the 2½ hour drive to Fort Liard, we had to spend the next 24 hours in Fort Nelson because there was only one flight a day. I spent most of the time keeping out of the torrential rain. The only trip I did make out that day was to the local dump to see black bears. We were told that during the previous week up to fifty bears had been seen feeding on the garbage. When we arrived there were only six bears, but we were lucky enough to find one brown bear with them, a lifer for me.

The next day, a very windy and wet day, it was back out to the airport to await the arrival of the plane. We watched as the plane came in to land. The pilot accelerated and took off the other end of the runway. This is commonly called a "flyby". He circled widely and then came in for a second time and landed safely. Low and behold he had all our bags.

Then started the 2½ hour drive north. Birds seen on the way included Ruffed Grouse, Sandhill Crane and Common Raven. On arrival at Fort Liard, NWT, many American Robins and Bohemian Waxwings were feeding in trees along the main street. We drove our van down to the dock on the Liard River to load our luggage into the boat for the nearly two hour boat ride up-river to the Beaver Higrade main line, remembering all rivers flow north up here. Upon arrival at camp we found the most beautiful of tents set up for our week long stay. Somehow, however, my tent had sprung a leak during the torrential rain.

Each morning started with a nice cooked breakfast and off to work along the Beaver main line checking different habitats along the way. We would check soils, plants, and wildlife. On the first day many Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees were seen, as were Gray Jays, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Every now and again a Sharp-shinned Hawk would chase American Robins and American Pipits along the road. This area of north-eastern BC is known for breeding warblers and during the course of the week I was lucky to see Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Tennessee Warblers and an American Redstart. All of these are common breeders in this area. One of the better finds was an Ovenbird on September 3, a possible latest record date for this species in BC.

As this was fall many of the species had left and the rest were congregated in feeding groups. The area around the Beaver Airstrip, which is approximately 20 kilometres from the Liard River had Say's and Eastern Phoebe, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Merlin and a very rare sight for this area, Western Meadowlark. This area around the airstrip was also a great place for butterflies with numbers of Angelwings, and Tortoiseshells in the hundreds.

There are many mammals to be found in this area including black bear, moose, elk, and woodland bison. Anybody traveling this area should carry either bear spray or a bear banger as bears are seen regularly everyday at all locations.

There are no accommodations in this area so you have to camp, the nearest motel being in Fort Liard where a room for the night costs approximately \$120.00; or back in Fort Nelson where the cost is a lot less. There are many guides in the Fort Liard area who can, for many dollars, supply you with a boat and/or a four-wheel drive motorcycle. I would suggest driving and camping the area along Highway 77, which is the Liard Highway, north from Fort Nelson. You will be rewarded with one of the best areas for eastern species in BC and the NWT. This area would make a good side trip for anybody going to the Annual General Meeting in Prince George in 1997 and please take your bug spray or suffer the consequences.

### Vaux's Swift Utilizing a Fresh Water Pond

by G. Allen Poynter  
1276 Saltspring Place  
Parksville, BC V9P 2T5

While enjoying lunch by the shoreline of Yew Lake in Cypress Park, West Vancouver on one of those warm July days in 1991, I was fascinated by the activities of the Vaux's Swifts and Violet-green Swallows using this small forest lake to feed, bathe and drink.

For a period of twenty minutes three Vaux's Swifts and two Violet-green Swallows were flying and feeding both over and from the glassy surface of the lake. Using 10x40 optics at 15-20 meters, I was able to appreciate the small details of their activity that are usually missed in casual observations.

There was a small, light-green species of fly active over the lake's surface, with the occasional individual falling or settling on the water's surface. The swifts were feeding almost entirely on this insect. Flying slowly over the water's surface the birds would neatly pick up the downed insects on the wing, leaving only a very small water ring to show their passage.

On five occasions, swifts were seen to fly slowly over the water surface with no attempt to feed on the abundant insect population. They would either lower body and feet to the water surface with wings kept high, or fly with deepening wing beats to cause large amounts of water to splash over the birds as the wing tips beat the water surface. This activity extended over a distance of up to two meters at which point the birds would rise to a considerable height to circle the lake.

On two passes over the water the observed swifts left a one meter ripple on the surface by skimming the water delicately with their bills only. With no insects involved or, indeed, even in the flight path of these birds, indications were these birds were drinking on the wing.

## Hummingbird Watch

by Eileen Chappell  
2050 Fisher Road  
Kelowna, BC V1W 2H2

This is the sixth year that our garden in Kelowna has played host to Black-chinned Hummingbirds. They were probably originally attracted by the masses of red and yellow non-scented honeysuckles on the pergola below which the two feeders hang. Our garden is abuzz from May to early August as hummers feed, challenge, and possibly even nest nearby.

Since we are often away or, at times, just plain busy, there are gaps in this diary but I hope these few notes will allow you to share with us our delightful little visitors.

- April 7, 1996      *unidentified hummingbird observed over the heather plant; put out feeder*
- April 16, 1996    *Calliope appears briefly. Various hummers (Calliope and Rufous) during next few weeks.*
- May 17, 1996      *Male Black-chinned seen on his usual perch at the tip of a 20' tall spruce tree; also seen at feeder, briefly.*
- May 18, 1996      *aerial display; diving other four or five hummingbirds.*
- May 19, 1996      *Black-chinned dives down and drives off a bird of undetermined species.*
- May 21, 1996      *8:00 am, female Black-chinned feeding, she feeds for a long time (20+ sips); two others BOOM across the yard (male chasing off another male?)*
- May 26, 1996      *Several females feeding, Black-chinned male remains on tree perch and seldom comes to feeder.*
- June 5, 1996      *Black-chinned male feeding, noted five times today (Honeysuckle fully out, he seems to prefer it to the feeder).*
- June 17, 1996     *Male seen frequently, feeding at feeder, at honeysuckle, and on one of the tree perches (Where are the females? on a nest?).*
- July 11, 1996     *have not seen male Black-chinned for several days. Small green female seen.*
- July 15, 1996     *female feeding 8:00 pm.*
- July 16, 1996     *Black-chinned male feeding 7:00 pm, two females observed morning and evening (or are they the young?).*
- July 17, 1996     *Black-chinned and other small hummers, all friendly, no chasing.*
- July 18, 1996     *7:00-8:00 pm frequent visits to feeders, first time two on the feeder, all appear to be young or female, all friendly.*
- August 15, 1996   *have not seen the Black-chinned.*

Usually the Black-chins have driven off the other hummers during the course of the summer, and we see only a few stray Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds. The Black-chinned Hummingbirds are very territorial and can be quite ferocious! There must be several other breeding pairs in Kelowna by now but I know of only one other place where they have been seen regularly.

## Bird-Lister's Corner

by Ken Morgan  
1945 Land's End Road  
Sidney, BC V8L 5J2

Welcome back to Bird-Lister's Corner! This is the first lister's column since June 1994 -- let's hope that more of you will help make it a success. By the deadline for submissions (31 January 1997), only 27 people had sent forms to me. Reports were submitted for 13 of the 15 areas first suggested in volume 6(3) of the **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST**. In addition, totals for 12 other areas were submitted. A reminder, please include either an accurate description of a suggested area or refer to boundaries if already described (eg. in a checklist).

To try to renew interest, I have included most of the additional lists. To show how people's lists have changed, I have also included the last totals reported. As interest grows, I expect that I will have to restrict the number of areas covered and/or impose the 50% sighting rule.

If you notice any errors in the total number of species for an area, or you can provide boundaries for the areas that were not defined, please forward them to me. I look forward to your contributions next year. Happy Birding.

### Listing Data to 31 December 1966

#### CANADA (620 species)

NAME	TOTAL	PERCENT	1993 TOTAL (- = not listed)
Peter Hamel	502	80.9	484
Tom Plath	481	77.6	466
David Sterling	469	75.6	464
Derrick Marven	445	71.8	369
Dick Cannings	438	70.6	434
Eric MacBean	431	69.5	391
Audrey Viken	427	68.9	421
Mike McGrenere	425	68.5	421
Stefan Zarembo	424	68.4	413
Hank Vanderpol	415	66.9	395
Allen Wiseley	413	66.6	399
Barb Begg	406	65.5	386
Don Cecile	403	65.0	380
Keith Riding	402	64.8	-
Ken Morgan	401	64.7	390
Lloyd Esralson	400	64.5	385
Tony Greenfield	397	64.0	387
Elsie Nykyfork	397	64.0	359
Allan Schutz	386	62.3	-
Aziza Cooper	380	61.3	359
Burke Korol	377	60.8	-
Tom Gillespie	362	58.4	-
Laurie Rockwell	299	48.2	-

## Bird-Lister's Corner (continued)

BRITISH COLUMBIA (468 species)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>1993 TOTAL</u>
David Stirling	404	86.3	397
Tom Plath	401	85.7	387
Dick Cannings	385	82.3	382
Tony Greenfield	385	82.3	374
Audrey Viken	370	79.1	367
Peter Hamel	369	78.8	354
Mike McGrenere	362	77.4	357
Hank Vanderpol	361	77.1	347
Keith Riding	359	76.7	326
Lloyd Esralson	357	76.3	344
Eric MacBean	355	75.9	334
Barb Begg	354	75.6	334
Stefan Zarembo	354	75.6	346
Derrick Marven	340	72.7	282
Ken Morgan	332	70.9	325
Aziza Cooper	330	70.5	308
Elsie Nykyfork	310	66.2	285
Alan Schutz	310	66.2	-
Tom Gillespie	300	64.1	268
Laurie Rockwell	296	63.2	288
Larry Cowan	294	62.8	-
Don Cecile	290	62.0	-
Jerry Herzig	288	61.5	-
Burke Korol	278	59.4	-
Allen Wisely	256	54.7	-

VANCOUVER ISLAND (366 species)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>1992 TOTAL</u>
David Stirling	316	86.3	306
Hank Vanderpol	305	83.3	282
Barb Begg	303	82.8	284
Mike McGrenere	302	82.5	283
Aziza Cooper	292	79.8	248
Derrick Marven	285	77.9	-
Tom Gillespie	266	72.7	-
Don Cecile	255	69.7	-
Ken Morgan	255	69.7	244
Lloyd Esralson	152	41.5	-
Burke Korol	103	28.1	-

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS (250 species\*)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>1992 TOTAL</u>
Peter Hamel	223	89.2	188
Ken Morgan	113	45.2	-
Laurie Rockwell	69	27.6	-

(\* P. Hamel, personal communication)

EDITORS' NOTE: more listings will be printed in an upcoming issue.

**BC Interior Swan Count, 1997**

Prepared by Rick Howie, 20 January 1997.

January 12, 1997 marked the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Interior Swan count as 70 members of seven naturalist clubs with the Federation of BC Naturalists tallied traditional areas in the Thompson, Shuswap, Okanagan, Nicola and Nicola drainages. **The totals were 28 Tundra Swans and 316 Trumpeter Swans for a grand total of 344 birds.**

**Discussion**

The tally of 28 Tundra Swans was the second lowest ever for the history of the count but the 25 found in 1975 were only tallied on the South Thompson River, so more may have been present. In 1997 juveniles comprised 25% of the population which is within the range of 17-29% that has been recorded over the period of the count. The ten year average for juveniles during the period 1973-83 was about 26%.

Trumpeter Swans rebounded to 316 birds from the 1996 total of 258. Juveniles comprised only 9.5% of the population which is well below the average of 21% that we have come to expect. It is interesting to note that on January 5, 1997, there were only 92 Trumpeters on the South Thompson and the percentage of juveniles was 16.3%. On January 12, there were 185 Trumpeters on the river and juveniles comprised 10.3%, so clearly, there is a lot of mobility on the wintering grounds in ways that we do not as yet quite understand. Where did the influx come from?

The absence of Tundra Swans on the South Thompson River (0) was dramatic when one contrasts this with the historic high count of 685 in 1985. Cold temperatures in November and extensive icing conditions along with slightly higher water levels have all undoubtedly been factors to cause the Tundras to vacate this area once again. Conflict with Trumpeter Swans has likely increased and the larger birds may have dominated the limited aquatic foraging sites. The Tundra Swans appeared to have left the area by early December, leaving only Trumpeters behind.

The wintering Tundra Swan population has declined dramatically on six occasions during the past 24 years. These low populations have ranged from 25 to 130 birds. The intervals between low populations has decreased from eight years between the initial two depressions to 5, 2, 3 & 1 years between the successive depressions. In all cases, foraging conditions on the main wintering habitat along the South Thompson River have not been ideal for the smaller Tundra Swans. During five of the six winters, excessive shore ice has made traditional foraging sites unavailable.

We lack critical information about the amount of forage available along the South Thompson River but there is no doubt that we are seeing a dramatic shift in the species composition of this swan population during harder winters. It will be most interesting to tally the numbers during a milder winter such as we have been having more frequently during the past decade. It may well be that Tundra numbers will only remain higher during milder winters, particularly now that a larger, more hardy and aggressive population of Trumpeters has developed here.

The 30 Trumpeters at Savona are fewer than past high counts but this year, a collared bird was of considerable interest. Details are not available yet, but it looks as if this bird was banded in Alaska. In conjunction with other band data that we have received over the years, it is apparent that we have swans wintering from two different breeding populations. The Rocky Mountain population breeding in northern Alberta and BC comprise one source of our birds. Alaska is the other general area that some of our wintering Trumpeters and Tundras come from.



Results by Area					
AREA	TUNDRA		TRUMPETER		TOTAL
	ad	juv	ad	juv	
A	0	0	1	0	1
B	0	0	17	1	18
C	0	0	3	0	3
D	0	0	0	0	0
E	0	0	146	18	164
F	0	0	3	0	3
G	0	0	74	6	80
H	2	0	4	0	6
I	1	2	0	0	3
J	0	0	8	2	10
K	4	2	2	1	9
L	1	0	28	2	31
M	11	3	0	0	14
N	2	0	0	0	2
O	0	0	0	0	0
P	0	0	0	0	0
Q	0	0	0	0	0
R	0	0	0	0	0
S	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>344</b>

For Area Codes see page 19.

This recent Trumpeter band adds further credence to a position advanced by Rick McKelvey of the CWS that Trumpeters migrate down the interior of BC from Alaska and then move out to the coast through corridors in the western mountain ranges. Some birds may go into the USA interior to winter and others may "shortstop" here in the BC interior.

The 80 Trumpeters on Shuswap Lake at Sicamous is somewhat atypical but if conditions are favorable there, we might watch for a continuation of this situation as has happened at Savona on Kamloops Lake. Certainly the Shuswap River and lake in this area may have the capacity to winter a few birds if they are hardy enough. The number of birds found in the Okanagan Valley was in many respects typical of most years although nearly double the 1996 count (20) at 38 birds including both Trumpeters and Tundras. Traditionally, the big lakes/ivers in the valley have not wintered large numbers of birds and the trend continues.

### Moving Right On Up the Food Chain...

by Andy Buhler

On Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> Marilyn and I went over to Vancouver to look for Snowy Owls. We found 21 of them lazing in the sunshine, probably replete with luncheon voles. However, while we were looking at the snowies we happened to turn our glances toward the Bay where we saw a Short-eared Owl drop down, then rise with its own vole tightly grasped in its talons. This was just too much for a roving Northern Harrier which flew over and harassed the Short-eared Owl. "Aha", said a Rough-legged Hawk who came over to join the fray. He chased off the harrier then circled higher and higher after the owl. With the owl and the hawk so visible a Peregrine Falcon could not contain himself so he screamed in and plunged at the owl. The owl dropped the vole, the falcon caught it in midair then left with what he thought was lunch. While still on the wing the falcon nibbled at the vole - this alerted a second falcon to give chase. Away they flew, out of our vision. What a grand spectacle! (ps. We also saw shrikes and Bald Eagles nearby. Location: the foot of 64<sup>th</sup> St. at Boundary Bay.)

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**BC Interior Eagle Count, 1997**

Prepared by Rick Howie, 20 January 1997.

On January 12, 1997, 70 members of seven interior naturalist clubs (FBCN affiliates) conducted an eagle count in conjunction with the annual swan count.

One hundred and sixteen (116) Bald Eagles (92 adults, 24 sub-adults) were tallied along with 14 adult Golden Eagles. This was a decrease of 48 Bald Eagles over the 1996 count thus equalling the 1995 count. The sub-adult population comprised 21% of the total as opposed to 32% in 1995 and 38% in 1996. The fall of 1996 is one of the lower cycle years for sockeye spawning in the Adam's River and the number of eagles there was about 7% of the numbers present in 1996 that followed the sub-dominant spawning cycle during the fall of 1995.

Bald Eagle numbers elsewhere in the count area did not fluctuate dramatically from 1996, with some minor decreases/increases or geographic shifting occurring, but nothing as impressive as the drop in numbers at the Adam's River.

It is encouraging to see a three-fold increase in the numbers of Golden Eagles but it is not unreasonable to expect some variation in count results for this species. They range over wide areas and are often found in circumstances that make them less visible than Bald Eagles so they are a little more of a "hit or miss" species.

AREA	Results by Area				TOTAL ALL
	Bald		Golden		
	ad	juv	ad	juv	
A	10	0	0	0	10
B	0	0	0	0	0
C	3	1	1	0	5
D	2	1	2	0	5
E	3	0	0	0	3
F	3	0	0	0	3
G	5	1	0	0	6
H	4	0	0	0	4
I	7	1	2	0	10
J	10	2	1	1	14
K	6	1	0	0	7
L	0	0	0	0	0
M	7	3	0	0	10
N	10	7	5	0	22
O	4	2	0	0	6
P	0	0	0	0	0
Q	0	0	0	0	0
R	9	4	2	0	15
S	9	1	0	0	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>130</b>

For Area Codes see page 19.



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## BC Interior Swan and Eagle Count Areas and Participants

### Area Descriptions

A	Merritt to Douglas Lake
B	South Thompson River -- Kamloops Lake east to Hwy. #5
C	South Thompson River -- Hwy. #5 to cement plant
D	South Thompson River -- cement plant to Pritchard
E	South Thompson River -- Pritchard to Chase
F	Chase to Anglemont -- Little and Big Shuswap Lakes
G	Tappen to Sicamous -- Shuswap Lake
H	Sicamous to Enderby -- Shuswap River, Mara Lake
I	Peachland to Osoyoos and USA border
J	Mabel Lake
K	Enderby to Mabel Lake -- Shuswap River
L	Kamloops Lake to Savona
M	Kelowna Area -- Okanagan Lake
N	Vernon Area -- Okanagan Lake
O	Sterling Creek -- Princeton -- Allison Lake
P	Osoyoos -- Sterling Creek along Similkameen drainage
Q	Adams Lake
R	Kettle River -- Christian Valley
S	Merritt to Spences Bridge

### Participants

#### Kamloops Area

Lily Chan, Jo Chipperfield, Ros Eldridge, Mary Ellen Grant, Sue Hammond, Willy Haras, Rick Howie, Wayne Jennings, Eric McAlary, Syd Roberts, Jack Robinson, Ken Taylor, Angie West.

#### Shuswap Area

Doris Kime, Frank Kime, Sandi Rathbone.

#### Vernon Area

Kay Bartholomew, Colleen Bauer, Mary Collins, Catherine Dawson, Noni Jackson, Phil Jones, Terry Lodge, Terri Lodge, Pat McAllister, Ernie McNaughton, Bob McVicar, Daphne Manning, Peter Mayfield, Hylda Mayfield, Norbert Mertens, Harry Nash, Joyce Nash, Elsie Nykyfork, John Quirk, Shirley Quirk, Jeff Spedding.

#### Kelowna Area

Bill Baker, Dorothy Baker, Joan Burbridge, Chris Charlesworth, Elke Fischer, Walter Fischer, Betty Greenwood, Bill Greenwood, Carl Herbert, Lois Moss, Netty Overhoff, Leslie Robertson, Lorraine Scott, Judy Thoms, Don Wilson, Gwynneth Wilson, Jason Weir, Robin Yellowlees.

#### South Okanagan Area

Jean Cannings, Steve Cannings, Eva Durance, Stanny Harding, Susan McIver, Laurie Rockwell, Glenda Ross, Jim Shaver.

#### Princeton Area

Jerry Herzig, Kim Herzig.

#### Nicola Valley

Dave Crack, Morgan Kirk, Catherine Shewchuck, Wayne Weber.

#### Kettle River

Bruce Morgenstern, Pearl Morgenstern.

## AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE

## Eileen Chappell

A member of the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club, Eileen credits the members of that organization with improving birding skills she had started to develop as a birder in Saskatchewan. She lives in Kelowna and has a back yard that would encourage any birder and is obviously favored by Black-chinned hummers.

## Cameron Eckert

Cameron, an energetic birder, is also a great nature photographer, a writer, the editor of **Yukon Warbler**, and webmaster of the Yukon Bird Club page located at <http://www.yukonweb.wis.net/community/ymbc>. Keep up the good work Cameron.

## Rick Howie

Rick, a naturalist with many years of birding experience, has contributed to much of our knowledge about the Flammulated Owl in BC. He is a knowledgeable and ardent birder who coordinates the annual Interior Swan and Eagle counts.

## Derrick Marven

Thirteen years ago, while sitting on his porch awaiting employment, Derrick saw, and was enthralled by a hummingbird. A neighbour, Dr Murray Spiers, encouraged this budding interest in birds and now Derrick monitors the whole Duncan-Cowichan Bay area and leads birding trips to Ontario, the Okanagan and points further afield.

## G. Allen Poynter

Allen Poynter, who has birded since his teens in England, has had a special interest in seabirds. He has been active with both the Vancouver and Victoria Natural History Societies and also with the Canadian Nature Federation.

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For further information contact:

Creston Valley Wildlife Area Osprey Festival,  
Box 640, Creston, BC, V0B 1G0. Phone (250) 428-3260 or Fax (250) 428-3276.