



BC BIRDING

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

ISSN 1206-1611

Volume 9 Number 2

June 1999

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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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Membership Dues:

Individual memberships	\$25.00
Library subscriptions	\$25.00
Junior memberships (age under 18)	\$10.00
U.S. and foreign memberships	(US) \$25.00

Memberships are for the calendar year.

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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 birding experiences, preferably but not necessarily, in British Columbia.

Deadline for receipt of material for publication is the 15th of the month preceding the March, June, September & December issues.

Advertising rates available upon request.

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Missing Some Earlier Issues?

BCFO still has a limited selection of back copies of both the annual peer-reviewed journal **British Columbia Birds** and this quarterly newsletter **B.C. BIRDING** available for sale. The prices (which include postage and handling) are \$8.00 for the journal and \$3.00 for the newsletter. Contact: Editors c/o PO Box 8059, Victoria, BC V8W 3R7.

EDITORS' NOTES & NOTIONS

It's AGM time again! Time to get together with fellow birders from around the province and enjoy some great presentations, conduct a bit of business, and list a few lifers. It is also an occasion when you can consider how you might be able to assist our organization grow and develop.

Your editors had their first (in 1999) taste of birding in the Okanagan with our annual trek to Kelowna to assist in the Okanagan Mountain Bird Blitz. Although the "official" count was canceled for this year we were invited to assist with an unofficial tally. Total bird numbers were down - we only counted 15 Calliope Hummingbirds rather than the high of 65 for our route, but our group still tallied 48 bird species.

Since we had only one day we did not get anywhere near the impressive tally that Bob and Starr write about but we enjoyed the company and the birding. Tony lets us know about a possible new raptor migration route in BC and Peter, who discovered a Golden Eagle migration route between Alberta/BC, lets us know about other birds seen in the Pine Pass area of Northeastern BC. On the Island, Mabel shares her yard birds with us and we offer you several letters received in response to our banded Harlequin Duck sighting. Les Gyug needs summer American Avocet sightings and Martin keeps us up to date with upcoming meetings and events plus awards to newsworthy BC naturalists. Watch for Peregrine Falcons in Kelowna and check out the books published by Sonotek Press. Twined into this publication is also some imperative reading for members. There are a number of Constitution and By-law modifications published herein which must be considered and be voted upon at the AGM.

Okanagan birding is always a pleasure and we ask members attending the AGM to share the highs and lows of the trips taken and birds seen with fellow BCFO members who might not be lucky enough to get to the Okanagan this year. We would especially like to get some more Site Guides but are always pleased to find Letters, Reports, Anecdotes, etc. in our mailbox.

We look forward to seeing many of you again at this year's AGM. Until we do, keep happy and healthy, and brush up on those White-headed Woodpecker calls and identifying characteristics.

Andy & Marilyn, Editors

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's Annual General Meeting (AGM) time again, when BCFO's far-flung members have an opportunity to gather together, meet each other, and see some birds. This will be the ninth AGM and so far we have peregrinated around the province from Tofino (1992) to Revelstoke (1993), and Creston (1998) to Prince George (1997) with stops at Delta (1991), Kamloops (1994), Victoria (1995) and Manning Park (1996).

It has always been the intention of the Executive that an AGM be held in the Okanagan. This year an organizing committee stepped forward and finally we're off to the Okanagan. I'd like to thank, in advance, the Organizing Committee of Glenda Ross, Marg Holm, Laurie Rockwell and Eva Durance for picking up the ball and running with it. The Executive are grateful to these dedicated people for operating independently and freeing the directors' time for other "fun" items like redrawing the constitution!

I'm sure I don't need to dwell on the fact that the Okanagan is a must-see for all Canadian birders. The bunchgrass, sagebrush, antelope-brush ecosystem of the southern Okanagan is unique in Canada, but highly restricted and highly threatened. It is the home of many sought-after Canadian and BC birds. We hope to encounter such goodies as Common Poorwill, Williamson's Sapsucker, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bobolink, Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

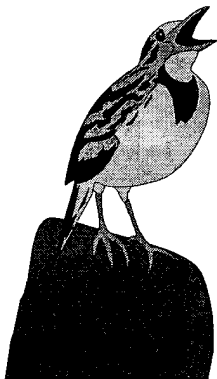
Many of us will have already birded in the Okanagan, and have maybe seen the birds numerous times ... but we always return.

We also encourage you to stay for an extra two days after the AGM when we will split into groups to explore and catalogue some of the less frequently visited parts of the south Okanagan ecosystem. There is a rumour, which I have been unable to verify, that White-headed Woodpeckers have been ordered to appear by the Organizing Committee.

See you there. Good Okanagan birding.



Tony Greenfield



♪♪♪ BCFO ♪♪♪

Come One! Come All!

The 9th BCFO Annual General Meeting

will be held in

Oliver, BC

from

18-20 June 1999

with

exploratory surveys to follow on

21 & 22 June 1999.

**CHANGES TO THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS'
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

CONSTITUTION:

Item 2c. "To foster co-operation between amateur and professional ornithologists, and to support the research programs of the Royal British Columbia Museum, federal and provincial wildlife agencies, and the universities by promoting co-operative research projects such as nest record programs, bird migration and population surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, and bird atlas projects" to read:

"To foster co-operation between amateur and professional ornithologists, and to support ornithological research programs."

Item 2d. "To support natural history and conservation organizations in their efforts to preserve birds and their habitats" to read:

"To support natural history and conservation efforts to preserve birds and their habitats."

Items #2c & #2d are changed for text simplification reasons and to be able to pertain to individuals.

BY-LAWS:

In General: *Convert all gender specific terms to neutral equivalents.*

Item 1-1. "Any person, family, corporation..." to read:

"Any person, corporation..."

All members of a family registered with the organization should be considered an equal member.

Item 1-3. "The amount of the annual membership dues in each membership category shall..." to read:

"The annual membership dues shall..."

For text simplification reasons.

Item 1-6. "Each individual, corporate, or institutional member shall have one vote at an Annual General Meeting or any other meeting of the Society. Each family membership shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting. A corporate ..." to read:

"Each member shall have one vote at an Annual General Meeting or any other meeting of the Society. A corporate ..."

For text simplification, also for reason given in item 1-1.

Item 2-8. "The Annual General Meeting shall be held prior to October 31 each year" to read:

"The Annual General Meeting shall be held prior to June 30 each year"

To meet the BC Society Act requirements.

Item 3-18. "The directors shall serve from the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected until the following Annual General Meeting, at which time they shall retire and their successors shall be elected. No Director shall serve for more than six consecutive one-year terms" to read:

"The directors shall serve from the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected until the Annual General Meeting in the year in which the second year of their term would end. No Director shall serve for more than three consecutive two-year terms".

One-year terms are too short. To enable a director to carryover experience, the minimum one-year to be changed to a two-year term. The maximum contiguous term to remain six years.

Item 3-23. "No director shall be remunerated for being or acting as a director, but a director shall be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by him while engaged in the affairs of the society, with the exception of travel expenses to and from meetings of the directors" to read:

"No director shall be remunerated for being or acting as a director, but a director may be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by him/her while engaged in the affairs of the society, according to the society policies and guidelines. The policies and guidelines and any subsequent revisions will be approved by the members by majority vote at an Annual General Meeting prior to implementation"

Directors are prohibited from recovering any portion of their travel expenses to and from directors meetings. To allow some form of restitution, the by-laws should enable the organization to determine appropriate forms of restitution as it sees fit.

Item 4-30. *Delete this item.*
Item is redundant.

Item 4-28. "Each committee chairperson shall report on the activities and decisions of the committee at each meeting of the directors." to read:

"Each committee shall report on the activities and decisions of the committee as often as deemed appropriate by the committee and/or directors."

This means that either a director who is on the committee or a committee member could also report instead of only the chairman. Appropriate reporting eliminates the potential repetitiveness of obligatory reporting.

Item 5-35. "The Secretary ...shall maintain the register of members." to read:

"The Secretary ...shall keep a record of the register of members."
This allows the Secretary to delegate.


Item 8-45. "On being admitted ...shall receive from the society without charge..." to read:

"On being admitted ...shall receive from the society on request without charge..."

This allows only interested members to receive the constitution and by-laws.

Item 8-46. Following paragraph, if applicable, to be added to the final By-laws Item:

These by-laws are as modified during the Annual General Meeting held at Oliver, BC during 19 June 1999.

This ensures that one is dealing with the current by-laws. 

B.C. BIRDING NEWS BRIEFS

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

Cooke Selected as Plenary Speaker at Historic Conference - Dr. Fred Cooke of Simon Fraser University and the Canadian Wildlife Service will be one of five plenary (keynote) speakers at a conference on the German island of Helgoland to celebrate the 100th anniversary of "regular" bird banding/ringing. Dr. Cooke's presentation will be, "The use of bird rings in the study of population dynamics," a topic for which he is well suited, having studied population dynamics and genetics of Snow Geese at Cape Churchill, Manitoba for many years when he was a professor at Queen's University (*Ornithol. Newsletter* 129:8, 1999).

Summer American Avocet Sightings Needed

The Central Okanagan Naturalists Club is spearheading a project partnering with the City of Kelowna, BC Environment, Okanagan University College and BC Field Ornithologists to try and conserve American Avocets as a breeding bird in British Columbia. The only American Avocet colony that we know of that is used regularly and with more than two nests in BC is at the contaminated wetland at the City of Kelowna Landfill Site and is destined to be filled in a few years. Jason Weir has previously published articles on this colony in *BC Birding* (Sept. 1997) and in *British Columbia Birds* (Vol. 7, 1997). We are looking for ways to create new wetlands or to enhance existing wetlands in the area as American Avocet breeding habitat.

We commissioned an American Avocet status report for BC, and this has just been completed by Martin Gebauer. What we still need to know is just how widespread American Avocets are in BC during the breeding season. We are monitoring the Kelowna area wetlands several times a week, and the breeding sites daily, but need any sightings from further afield. We would like to know of any and all sightings of American Avocets that you may have made, or will be making, this spring and summer (**up to the end of July**). If you could contact Les Gyug (250-769-5907, or Les_Gyug@bc.sympatico.ca) with any of these sightings, it would be appreciated. Thanks.


\$\$\$\$\$ MEMBERSHIP DUES \$\$\$\$\$

NOTE: if you have not paid your 1999 membership dues, this will be the last Newsletter that you receive. In the event that you wish to renew your membership, please forward a cheque for \$25.00 (for individual membership) along with your name, mailing address, telephone # and, if applicable, e-mail address to: **BRITISH COLUMBIA FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS, P.O. Box 8059, Victoria, BC V8W 3R7.**

☺☺☺ We look forward to hearing from you soon ☺☺☺

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

compiled by Martin K. McNicholl

- June 3-6 1999 **WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 24th ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Anchorage, Alaska. Contact: Theodore G Tobish, Jr, 2510 Foraker Drive, Anchorage, AK 99517, ph (907) 248-2153; Robert E Gill, Jr., NBS, Alaska Research Center, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503, ph (907) 786-3514; or Stanley E Senner, Box 102264, Anchorage, AK 99510-2264, ph (907) 278-8012.
- June 4-6 1999 **MOUNT ROBSON 12th ANNUAL BIRD BLITZ**. Expect a tally of at least 100 species. For full details please contact: Nancy Kruger (250) 563-7896 or Gail Ross (250) 563-1017.
- June 5-6 1999 **STRATHCONA PARK BIRD SEARCH**. For participation, checklist, or information contact: Betty Brooks phone/fax (250) 337-8180, or email ejbrooks@mars.ark.com.
- June 10-13 1999 **WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 80th ANNUAL MEETING**, Waterville, Maine. Contact: W Herbert Wilson, Department of Biology, Colby College, Waterville ME 04901, phone (207) 872-3432.
- June 18-20+ 1999 **BC FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST'S 9th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, Oliver, BC. Always a great time. Contact: Glenda Ross (250) 493-7500 or Margaret Holm (250) 496-4049 for details. See insert in *BC Birding* 9(1), 1999 for other details. We hope to see you there!
- July 29-
Aug 5 1999 **SOCIETY OF CARIBBEAN ORNITHOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING**, Santo Domingo, Dominion Republic. Contact: Kate Wallace [no address given]; phone (809) 238-5345.
- Aug 5-7 1999 **ENDANGERED SPECIES: 1999 ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS**, Montreal, Quebec. Contact: Gilles Seutin, Department of Geography, McGill University, 805 Sherbrooke West, Montreal, PQ H3A 2K6.
- Aug 10-14 1999 **AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION 117TH STATED MEETING**, Ithaca, New York. Contact: David Winkler, Section of Ecology & Systematics, Corson Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-2701, USA.
- Sept 24-26 1999 **WESTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**, Reno, Nevada. Contact: Alan Gubanich, Department of Biology/314, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557, USA; phone (775) 784-6652.
- Sept 29-
Oct 3 1999 **BIRD RINGING 100 YEARS** (a special meeting to celebrate the 100th anniversary of systematic banding), Helgoland, Germany. Contact: Dr. Franz Bairlein or Ommo Huppopp, Institut fuer Vogelforschung, Vogelwarte Helgoland, An der Vogelwarte 21, D-26386, Wilhelmshaven, Germany; phone (int) 49-4421-96890.
- Oct 4-10 1999 **VI NEOTROPICAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**, Monterey & Saltillo, Mexico. Contact: Ernesto C. Enkerlin, Centro de Calidad Ambiental, Sucursal de Correos J., Monterey, NL., 64849, Mexico.
- Oct 14-17 1999 **BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL'S XXII WORLD CONFERENCE**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Contact TBA.
- Oct 25-30 1999 **1999 ANNUAL MEETING, WATERBIRD SOCIETY**, Grado, Italy. Contact TBA. 

BCFO OLIVER 1999 AGM PROGRAM

Friday 18 June

- * 19:00-21:30: Registration and Reception (wine cheese/fruit)
(no host bar, games/entertainment)
- * 21:30: Owling or video on Barn Owls by Bob Chappell

Saturday 19 June

- * 0530-0630: Continental breakfast (muffins/bagels/juices/coffee/tea/fruit)
- * 0600-1100: Early birding
- * 1100-1300: Lunch (fend for ourselves)
- * 1300-1500: Presentations
 - ✓ "New Coastal Water Bird Surveys and Other Census Initiatives by Bird Studies Canada," Dick Cannings, Biologist, Consultant.
 - ✓ "Pesticides and Birds in the South Okanagan," Laurie Wilson and John Elliot, Biologists, Canadian Wildlife Service.
 - ✓ "The Aristocratic Avocet: British Columbia's only known breeding colony," Jason Weir, Biology student, Canadian University College, Alberta.
 - ✓ "Reproductive Ecology of Brewer's Sparrows in the South Okanagan," Nancy Mahoney, Graduate Student, Centre for Applied Conservation Biology, U.B.C.
- * 1500: Coffee/juice break
- * 1515-1615: Annual General Meeting
- * 1830: Happy Hour (no host bar - outside weather permitting)
- * 1900-2100: Banquet and Guest Speaker
 - ✓ (buffet dinner: fresh breads, salads, carved top round of beef, chicken "chasseur", wild mushroom sauce, pasta, vegetables, dessert, coffee-tea)
 - NOTE: *could be subject to minor changes*
 - ✓ "Birding at the Edge of the Universe", Peter Hamel. (see bio notes below)
- * 2115: Owling (or video?)

Sunday 20th June

- * 0530-0630: Continental breakfast
- * 0600-1100: Early birding
 - ✓ extended day trips west and north for participants heading home Monday and Tuesday, 21st and 22nd June
 - ✓ Post Meeting trips (see following page for further information)

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO PETER HAMEL, OUR BCFO BANQUET SPEAKER

We are very privileged to have Rev. Peter Hamel addressing us at our BCFO AGM Banquet in Oliver, BC on 19 June 1999. Peter is from Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, where he has been the Rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church for approximately 16 years.

The title of Peter Hamel's presentation is "Birding at the Edge of the Universe", which will describe Peter's birding experiences in his beloved Haida Gwaii.

As Peter has birded for approximately 49 years, what an experience this has been! He has attained numerous records in Canada, BC, and in the Queen Charlottes, including the amazing one of 506 (or has he a larger number under his belt?) bird species for Canada! It turns out that the total held by Jo Ann and Hugh MacKenzie, of Surrey, BC is 507 bird species for Canada, and as the latter two birders will be also attending the BCFO AGM and banquet, we are going to be honoured to have present, Canada's three premiere birders!

Behind Peter Hamel's numerous and extensive birding activities, is a man who has a deep love of nature, and who believes that we should and could live in harmony with

nature. He has not only extensively published and spoken eloquently on this and related subjects, but also lives a life that reflects this philosophy.

It is with great expectations, that we look forward to meeting and listening to Peter, and hope that you will be joining us in this experience.


POST AGM ACTIVITIES

After the AGM, there will be the opportunity for birders to carry out two days of research bird surveys, on 21 and 22 June 1999, under the general direction of Dick Cannings.


These surveys will take place within easy driving distance in the South Okanagan, and accordingly participants can operate from the Southwind Inn, Oliver (the same location as the AGM). The species of interest are Long-billed Curlew, Gray Flycatcher (always a remote chance for a White-headed Woodpecker in the same pine forests!), Sage Thrasher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Brewer's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow and Bobolink

The idea is to obtain better records of numbers and locations for the above species.


There are plans for a participant count-down meeting on Monday evening, and probably Tuesday late afternoon (evening?). This will probably be held in the Southwind Inn in Oliver.

Maps, forms and other details will be available for interested birders at the AGM. 

OKANAGAN SITE GUIDES REVIEW

The BCFO AGM will be held in the Southern Okanagan this year. You might wish to review some of our previous Site Guides to the Okanagan and its surrounds. These include: McKinney Road in Oliver 1(3):11-13, 1991; Princeton "Outback" pt.1 2(1):7-9, 1992 & pt.2 2(2):7-10, 1992; Kelowna area 4(2):11-13, 1994 & 5(1):12-13, 1995; Vernon area 3(2):8-11, 1993; and, if you go via Kamloops or Merritt, we have done some Site Guides for those too. Do you know of any other great birding locations which we have not yet showcased in our ongoing Site Guide series? We know there are still many excellent locations within BC which have not been written about in **BC BIRDING**. Why not help out your fellow birders and tell us about them? Thanks in anticipation. The EDITORS. 

GUIDELINES FOR SITE GUIDES

Site Guides should be about two to three pages in length. They should include a map (hand-drawn is fine) with distances to viewing areas clearly indicated from the starting point. Landmarks and terrain should be noted, along with the birds seen in season. Any unusual or special species should be given and a local contact person is always helpful information. Hazards and closed areas should also be indicated so that we may all experience safe birding. Items of historical or geological interest along the route should also be noted. Many birders are interested in a broad range of natural history areas and it is nice to be able to stimulate the grey cells while patiently and quietly awaiting the possible appearance of an elusive lifebird. 

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Banded Harlequin Ducks - Some Correspondence

Dear Ken/Trudy;

Yesterday (6 March 1999) at about 3 pm we were at Clover Point in Victoria. We saw about a dozen Harlequin Ducks swimming/feeding in the area but there were two females hauled out on the rocks. One female had a silver band on the left leg and a red band with something like 40 or 4G on the right leg reading from the foot toward the body. I hope this information is still useful to you both. If you could let us know where the bird was banded we might be able to include a note in the next BC BIRDING.

Good Birding

Andy and Marilyn Buhler
Editors BC BIRDING

Dear Andy and Marilyn;

Thanks for this observation. The female red 4G was banded on the Macleod River, near Hinton, Alberta - August 14, 1997 as a juvenile. I can't find any record of a 40. I'll pass this observation along to the researchers that are working there.

The Macleod River study is to monitor the effect of a large-scale open pit coal mine that is planned to proceed imminently and threatens breeding Harlequin Ducks from the Strait of Georgia.

Please let me know how certain you are that it was a "G" and not an "O"
Cheers,

Kenneth G. Wright
6090 Blink Bonnie Road
West Vancouver, BC V7W 1V8


Hello Andy and Marilyn;

Ken passed your band reading on to me, as I work on Harlequin Ducks in Banff National Park and on the coast here. The bird you saw would be "4G" - I have observed her twice at Clover Point. The first time was in January 1998 (I don't have that notebook with me), and again last fall on November 5/98. She was banded as a duckling in the summer of 1997 on the Macleod River in Alberta. It is east of Jasper National Park. You can contact biologist, Beth McCallum, to advise her of the sighting.

Also on November 5/98 I read a yellow band with black letters, "B6" at Amity Drive near Sidney. This bird was banded in Washington State, I believe near Port Townsend.

A pair of Harlequin Ducks from the Macleod River, and a male from the Bow River, winter at Whiffin Spit, at Sooke.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Smith
Cooke Lab, Biological Sciences
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1S6 

Bird Highlights from Pine Pass Area, Northeastern BC
October 3-15, 1998

by Peter Sherrington
RR #2
Cochrane, Alberta T0L 0W0

Observations made by Peter Sherrington and Harvey Kuzmaniuk, joined by Sandra Kinsey and Laird Law (October 10-12), Jack and Caroline McGhee (October 10) and Bruce Harrison (October 14). Comparisons are made with the **Checklist of North-Central BC Birds, 1996 Edition**. A total of seventy bird species were recorded during the period. The high-lights are noted below. A full report will be prepared later. Weather was mainly rain and snow throughout with only brief clearing. Temperature variation between -1°C and $+7^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Pacific Loon

Oct 4, 14:10, Pine Pass. All birds migrating in tight flocks towards the west. Between 13:10 and 14:00 twelve hundred and sixty (1,260) birds passed. The movement was: 13:10 (300), 13:23 (250), 13:32 (200), 13:44 (150), 13:51 (30), 13:55 (150), 14:00 (180), and 16:22 (150). Such numbers strongly suggest that this may be a regular migration route for this species that was hitherto believed to migrate almost exclusively around the coast of Alaska. Oct 5, (2): West Pine River near Mount LeMoray. Birds landed on the river at 14:20 where they spent the rest of the day. Photographed.

Tundra Swan

Oct 11, (25): Pine Pass. A single flock migrating from west to east down the pass at 10:59. A second flock of swans, probably also Tundras moved to the east at 16:59.

Osprey

Oct 10, (1): Pine Pass, migrating to the south, Murray Range. Very late (not recorded later than September: checklist).

Bald Eagle

Seen almost daily with some migratory movement during clear periods. Highest counts were: Oct 4, (8); Oct 15, (7).

Northern Harrier

Non-migrating birds seen almost daily at most sites. Most common hunting on Willow Flats east of Crassier Creek.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Highest counts were: Oct 4, (5): Oct 10, (5): Oct 11, (4).

Northern Goshawk

Single non-migrating birds on October 4 and 6.

Red-tailed Hawk

A total of seven (7) non-migrating birds. All birds were *B.j.calurus* (two (2) light morph and five (5) dark or rufous morph). All but one of the birds were in the foothills zone in the Crassier Creek/ Willow Creek area.

Rough-legged Hawk

A total of twelve (12) birds, both migrants and hunting/perched birds. Mostly seen in the foothills in the Willow Creek and Falls Mountain areas.

Golden Eagle

The prime object of the expedition was to establish the route of the migratory population of Golden Eagles that we have been studying since 1992 through North-Eastern

British Columbia. The first two weeks of October were selected as this normally coincides with maximum fall passage (Average median passage date is October 12). The bad weather that almost exactly coincided with our visit delayed the migration this year, but we were able to establish that the birds do cross Pine Pass and that the dynamic is very similar to that in the Front Ranges of Western Alberta. Under downslope conditions birds would move to the east of the cloud front, often in the high foothills (e.g. Falls Mountain), and under upslope conditions the birds would move to the west along the Continental Divide (Mount Garbitt-Murray Range). Under ideal conditions (of which we saw little!) the preferred routes appeared to be the two ridge systems to the east of the Murray Range, which I have called the Solitude and Pyramis Routes after Solitude Mountain and Pyramis Peak respectively. During days when the ridges were obscured Golden Eagles could be seen on most days hunting low in the valley bottoms or feeding on carrion. The summary of observations was (with comparison to the Mount Lorette site in the Kananaskis Valley:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Migrants</u>	<u>Non-migrants</u>	<u>Mount Lorette</u>
Oct 3	0	2	40
Oct 4	10	6	6
Oct 5	0	2	1
Oct 6	15	0	56
Oct 7	1	0	61
Oct 8	0	0	43
Oct 9	24	5	9
Oct 10	74	0	4
Oct 11	13	0	28
Oct 12	0	2	32
Oct 13	15	3	14
Oct 14	1	1	35
Oct 15	<u>94</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	247	21	329

The movements on October 10 and 15 were both in the afternoon and were the only times that there was extensive clearing within the mountains. It is interesting to note that on October 16 Mount Lorette recorded ninety-six (96) birds that represented the beginning of the main movement with two thousand four hundred and twenty-nine (2,429) birds passing between the October 16 and the end of the month. The numbers at Pine Pass and Lorette during the first half of October are broadly comparable and October 15 probably represents the start of the main movement in Pine Pass - just as we had to leave!

American Kestrel

Oct 5, (1) male: Crassier Creek area. Oct 10-11, (1) male: Pine Pass area, somewhat late.

Merlin

Single birds recorded on five days. All birds *F.c.columbarius*.

Sandhill Crane

Oct 11, (3): moving to the east down Pine Pass. Late (*not recorded after the first week of October: checklist*).

Common Snipe

Oct 4, (2): flying to the east above the Pine River at Pyramis Peak site. Oct 6, (1): flushed from a recent clearcut near Falls Mountain where it had apparently been feeding, very distant from any aquatic habitat!

Gull spp.

Oct 4, (5): small passage of birds from east to west through the pass including one probable California Gull and twelve Herring Gulls.

Great Horned Owl

Single birds singing on October 4 and 11: Pine Pass near Silver Sands Lodge.

Northern Pygmy Owl

Oct 6, (1): singing in morning. Called in to about five metres, Crassier Creek area. Somewhat north of normal range. (Description available).

Barred Owl

Single bird singing almost nightly: Pine Pass, Silver Sands Lodge.

Boreal Owl

Oct 12, (1): singing in a steady rainfall: Pine Pass, Silver Sands Lodge. This is the first time I have heard a Boreal Owl sing during the fall. In Alberta they normally do not begin to sing again until December.

Black-backed Woodpecker

Oct 10, (2): Pine Pass, Solitude Mountain area.

Downy Woodpecker

All birds recorded probably ascribable to the race *P.p.leucurus* apart from a single bird on October 10 in Pine Pass that showed the characters of *P.p.nelsoni*.

Northern Shrike

Oct 13, (1): Falls Mountain area. Oct 14, (1): Pyramis Peak area.

Steller's Jay

Common, with up to ten (10) recorded in a single day. One observed catching and trying to kill a Mountain Phenacomys [Heather Vole] at Silver Sands Lodge, 07:30 October 6.

Mountain Chickadee

Oct 6, (1): Crassier Creek area (only record).

Boreal Chickadee

Oct 6, (2): Crassier Creek area (only record).

White-breasted Nuthatch

Oct 15, (1) male: Highway 97 at Crassier Creek Crossing. Showing the characters of *S. c. tenuissima*: considerably north of normal range.

Winter Wren

Still fairly common throughout the period (*cf.* "extremely lucky to find": checklist), e.g. five (5) birds on October 7 and 13.

American Dipper

Recorded at three different sites on West Pine River, on several days.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Common, e.g. Oct 7, (35): Pine Pass area.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Surprising numbers for mid-October, e.g. Oct 14, (7).

Townsend's Solitaire

Present in small numbers (up to three (3)) throughout the period.

American Robin

Present throughout. Highest numbers include: Oct 11, (61): flocks migrating to east down Pine Pass. Oct 13, (200): feeding in fields, Willow Creek Flats east of Crassier Creek.

Varied Thrush

Common throughout period, e.g. Oct 14, (23): mainly in Falls Mountain area.

Magnolia Warbler

Oct 13, (1) immature: Pyramis Peak observation site. Closely observed on three occasions between 10:30 and 11:50. Very late (not recorded later than end of August: checklist). Detailed description available.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Oct 11, (1): Pine Pass, Mount Garbitt site ("Myrtle"). Oct 13, (4): Pyramis Peak observation site (all "Myrtle"), in same mixed flock as Magnolia Warbler. Late.

American Tree Sparrow

Oct 13, (6): Crassier Creek area. Oct 15, (1): Pine Pass, Mount Garbitt site

Savannah Sparrow

Oct 5, (1): Pyramis Peak observation site (only record). Late.

Golden-crowned Sparrow

Oct 13, (1): Pyramis Peak observation site. Late.

Dark-eyed Junco

Not recorded until October 9, then numbers steadily increasing to maximum of one-hundred and four (104) on October 14.

Lapland Longspur

Oct 9, (5): Willow Creek Flats, east of Crassier Creek. Late.

Snow Bunting

Oct 12, (17): Pyramis Peak observation site.


Common Redpoll

First recorded Oct 14, flock of fifty (50): Fall Mountain area.

Pine Siskin

Very common throughout period with most flocks moving to the west through Pine Pass e.g., Oct 4, (156); Oct 13, (208); Oct 15, (211).

Evening Grosbeak

Oct 13, (5): Mount LeMoray (only record). 

Return of the Peregrine Falcons

Peregrine Falcons have been absent in the Okanagan for over 40 years. Young falcons were released to a monitored site on the Landmark Building in Kelowna last year. At time of going to press we had not heard whether last year's birds had yet returned. It is our understanding that eight more young Peregrine Falcons will be released in the Kelowna area this year. Should you see a Peregrine Falcon in the Okanagan, whether banded or not, please call (250) 861-9474, fax (250) 861-7090 or email falcon@silk.net. Provide time, date, location, band numbers and colors (looking for red and silver).

If you are passing through Kelowna, check with the staff at Morningstar Enterprises, 212-1708 Dolphin Avenue, Kelowna, BC (contact numbers above) and get an update and possibly a sighting of the introduced birds.

Mill Bay Yardlist

by Mabel Crocker
2418 Mill Bay Road, RR#1
Mill Bay, BC V0K 2P0

After many years in Mill Bay I have acquired a yard list of sixty-six species. Regular species include as many as nine Steller's Jays at a time, lots of Dark-eyed Juncos, Fox Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and House Sparrows. Every winter there are Golden-crowned Sparrows and in the Spring I often have a White-throated Sparrow visit me. One of my favorite birds is the little Red-breasted Nuthatch, a pair of whom, along with a Downy Woodpecker and the occasional Northern Flicker, come regularly to my suet feeder. I used to have more flickers but now that my 2.2 acre lot is surrounded by subdivision I get fewer flickers and a different mix of other birds than I did in previous years. I still get the occasional Varied Thrush but at one time I used to get flocks of them. Also I have not had any Evening Grosbeaks in recent years.

One of my unusual species was a female Black-headed Grosbeak which only came once. I also had a Cassin's Finch which joined a flock of House Finches already at the feeder. The larger size and more brilliant crown made the bird very noticeable in the flock. One day in my yard I had an Eastern subspecies of the Fox Sparrow - it took a real search through the guides to identify him. I have had very good looks at a Great Horned Owl on a pole in my yard and also at a Northern Pygmy-Owl which arrived to chase after my juncos. Although I do not count heard-birds I know I have heard the unmistakable call of a Barred Owl as it flew past my place one night.

Thirty-three other species, not included on my yard list, have been observed only a few minutes walk away along the Mill Bay beach. Included in this tally are four species of loon (including Yellow-billed Loon), three merganser species (including Hooded Merganser), six species of gulls, both species of goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, and rarely, an Oldsquaw. Common Tern has been observed and Black Swift have been seen in migration.

Among my favorite birds are the warblers. I have seen Orange-crowned, Wilson's, MacGillivray's, Townsend's, and Black-throated Gray Warblers in the yard and a Nashville Warbler at the beach. Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes inhabit my woods but are seldom seen. A spectacular Pileated Woodpecker is more often heard than seen. The woods also host Bewick's and House Wrens, Ruffed Grouse, Band-tailed Pigeons, California Quail and Cedar Waxwings in season. I have seen a Bohemian Waxwing but it stayed over in the neighbour's yard rather than visiting mine. Bald Eagles are common overhead in Spring but Osprey and hawks are seldom seen anytime, although I have had both Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks pass by.

Birds seen on or over my yard include:

Great Blue Heron	Belted Kingfisher	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Mute Swan	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Ruby-Crowned Kinglet
Turkey Vulture	Downy Woodpecker	Townsend Solitaire
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern Flicker	Swainson's Thrush
Golden Eagle	Pileated Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Bald Eagle	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	American Robin
Merlin	Violet Green Swallow	Varied Thrush
Ring-necked Pheasant	Barn Swallow	European Starling
Ruffed Grouse	Steller's Jay	Warbling Vireo
California Quail	Northwestern Crow	Orange-crowned Warbler
Glaucous-winged Gull	Common Raven	MacGillivray's Warbler
Band-tailed Pigeon	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Wilson's Warbler
Great Horned Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Bewick's Wren	Townsend's Warbler
Common Nighthawk	House Wren	Western Tanager
Rufous Hummingbird	Winter Wren	Spotted Towhee

Black-headed Grosbeak	Golden-crowned Sparrow	House Finch
Evening Grosbeak	White-crowned Sparrow	Cassin's Finch
Savannah Sparrow	Dark-eyed Junco	Red Crossbill
Fox Sparrow	Red-winged Blackbird	Pine Siskin
Song Sparrow	Brown-headed Cowbird	American Goldfinch
White-throated Sparrow	Purple Finch	House Sparrow



AUTHORS IN THIS ISSUE

Mabel Crocker

Mabel, born on Vancouver Island, has been birding since she retired some seventeen years ago. Although she regularly birds around Vancouver Island she really enjoys birding trips and her all-time favorite destination is Point Pelee.

A. G. (Tony) Greenfield

Former president of the Sechelt Marsh Protective Society, and current president of BC Field Ornithologists, Tony has been an active birder on both the Sunshine Coast and around the province for over 20 years.

Peter Sherrington

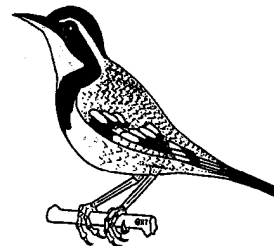
Peter Sherrington has become a respected ornithologist through a personal dedication to bird research and study. He immigrated from England in the early 70's and worked as a researcher in petroleum geology and a manager in foreign petroleum development for Petro-Canada. He became a self-employed bird researcher in the early 90's in the wake of a war-shortened project in Jordan and downsizing in the company. Since then he has worked on several consulting projects on birds in Alberta and BC. However, Peter's principal project has involved the description and study of the primary migration route of the Golden Eagle along the ranges near the border of the two provinces.

Bob Machover & Starr Saphir

Bob and Starr took a quick birding trip around the lower Mainland, the Kamloops / Merritt area and the south Okanagan / north Okanogan (WA) areas and obtained an admirable total of 186 species for the trip [185 (BC) plus one extra species (WA)]. The annotated list of species seen can be found on Kevin Slagboom's excellent web site at <http://birding.bc.ca/travelogs.htm>. Space limitations prevented us from publishing it here. Their article was published in BC BIRDING with the permission of Bob Machover who, at Dannie Carsen's request, forwarded us an e-mail copy.

EDITORS' NOTE: As this tour approximates the route to be taken by many members to the AGM this year, let's see if we can do as well as Bob and Starr did!

Good birding!



Western Birding Through Eastern Eyes

"Sometimes it takes visiting birders to show us just how rich B.C. birdlife is.
Bob Machover and Starr Saphir spent 11 days in B.C. last June
and came away with 185 (6?) species!!" -KS

1998

6/27: Arrived at Vancouver Airport at 6:30 PM, picked up our rental car and headed to 1st & Wylie in an industrial neighborhood near downtown Vancouver. As we parked in the lot of Maynard's Antiques, Starr saw two Crested Mynas flying away. Half an hour later, we both had close looks at one elegant adult on a patch of lawn and watched it fly onto the roof of the antique store. That out of the way, we drove to Horseshoe Bay where we lucked out with the last room at an overpriced motel. Had fourteen trip birds.

6/28: Caught the early morning ferry to the Sunshine Coast where we had an appointment to see the Xantus's Hummingbird at a feeder in Gibsons. After a delightful hour and a half at Lynn T.'s (about five excellent looks at the Xantus's), we birded along the Sunshine Coast as far north as Field Rd. (flock of Black Swifts) in Wilson's Creek. Took the 4 PM ferry to Nanaimo on Vancouver I., where we watched Violet-green Swallows feeding chicks on the nest while sitting in a patio eating a barely edible Pub dinner and spent a couple of delightful pre-sunset hours birding in Hemer Provincial Park, south of Nanaimo. Stayed in a motel about 30 km south of Nanaimo. Had 64 trip birds by the end of the day.

6/29: Arrived rather late (after 11 AM) at Willingdon Rd. at the south edge of the Victoria Airport but had no problem finding at least six Eurasian Skylarks in the short grass on the north side of the road. Birded some on the Saanich Peninsula and at Clover Pt. in Victoria and then caught the 4 PM ferry from Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen on the mainland. Drove from there east to Hope at the base of the Cascade Mtns. Motel in Hope. Had 75 trip birds by the end of the day.

6/30: Birded all morning in Manning Provincial Park, stopping at various places including Strawberry Flats (booming Blue Grouse) and the Beaver Pond. Watched and photographed Gray Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers and a baby Flicker in a nest hole before eating a superb lunch at the Manning Park Resort. Drove in the afternoon to the Okanagan Valley, turning onto Nighthawk Rd. where we found a Sage Thrasher singing non-stop for over half an hour from the top of a wire and many, many Common Nighthawks. A delicious take-out dinner from the Boundary Café in Osoyoos and night at the Inkaneep Point Resort, on the lake a few km north of Osoyoos. Had 123 trip birds by the end of the day.

7/1: Birded in the early morning up No.22 Road and walked to the base of "The Throne" looking (no luck) for Prairie Falcon. We did find Canyon and Rock Wrens, White-throated Swifts, singing Grasshopper Sparrow and a Lewis's Woodpecker going into its nest carrying food. By 9 AM we were on our way to McKinney Rd. and the Mt. Baldy Rd. where we birded for most of the day. After dinner, a brief trip to #22 Road and the parking lot at the base of The Throne got us our first Golden Eagle but no Prairie Falcon. Night again at Inkaneep Pt. Resort. Had 144 trip birds by day's end.

7/2: Early morning on McKinney Rd. again as far as the end of the Indian Reserve. No Gray Flycatcher evident. Then headed south over the US border to spend a wonderful day birding in the Okanogan Valley and highlands. Returned to Inkaneep Point for our third night there. Trip bird total up to 157.

7/3: Birded marsh near No.22 Road, then McIntyre Creek Rd., Shuttleworth Creek Rd. and Venner Meadows. Couldn't find a Williamson's Sapsucker or Three-toed Woodpecker despite intensive searching. Night in a cabin south of Vernon. Only added five trip birds for the day to get to 162.

7/4: Excellent day's birding starting south of Vernon, then along the whole of Douglas Lake Road to Monck Provincial Park and then north on Rte 5A to Kamloops. Among the highlights were White Pelicans on the Douglas Lake Reserve and many waterfowl and one alternate plumaged Forster's Tern at Beaver Flats Wildlife Viewing area on 5A, north of Nicola Lake. High one day count of 113 species. Night at Kamloops Econo Lodge. Trip birds at 172.

7/5: Early morning on Ord Road in Kamloops where we found a flock of Chukars with chicks close to the road. Then excellent birding along Goose Lake Road SW of Kamloops where we managed to misidentify a Dusky Flycatcher that moved its tail up and down slowly and looked a lot like a Gray Flycatcher. [Rick Howie found probably the same individual the next day and identified it as a Dusky by song - for us, an exciting experience while it lasted and most instructive afterwards!] The afternoon spent driving SW to Abbotsford, across into Washington State and on up to the base of the Mt. Baker Rd. Stayed in a charming cabin in Maple Falls, WA. Trip birds inched up to 175.

7/6: All morning on the Mt. Baker Rd. in WA. Fantastic mountain scenery. Afternoon along the WA coast from Bellingham to the border. Night at a motel in White Rock, BC. Added three trip birds bringing the total to 178.

7/7: Morning in Cypress Provincial Park in West Vancouver where we found a few missing species but no Hutton's Vireo. The afternoon on Sea Island and Iona Island where we spent some enjoyable hours with Rick Toochin looking at lots of peeps but no Red-necked Stint. Night back at our motel in White Rock. Day ended with 182 trip birds.

7/8: Morning at Boundary Bay, Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal and Iona Island before our 1 PM flight home. Added four species for a final trip list of 186.

An annotated species list may be found at Kevin Slagboom's excellent website which you will find located at <http://birding.bc.ca>. Noteworthy is the lack of nightbirds. We drove around The Throne area after dark for an hour without hearing any Poorwills and we did zero owling. Given the season (few calling owls, long daylight hours, need for sleep) and our lack of tapes, we decided to leave them for some other trip. A few misses (rarer woodpeckers, American Dipper, Hutton's Vireo, Heermann's Gull, RED-NECKED STINT) didn't spoil a wonderful trip.

We had a copy of Keith Taylor's "The Birder's Guide, British Columbia", the Vancouver Natural History Society's "Bird Watching Guide to the Vancouver Area", Kevin Slagboom's "Greater Victoria Birding Notes & Best Viewing Locations", a 1987 edition of Terry Wahl and Dennis Paulson's "A Guide to Bird Finding in Washington" a printout from the internet of Nanaimo sites (thus Hemer Park), and a printed copy of Dannie Carsen's itinerary for a trip he led in late-May to the Okanagan area and Douglas Lake Rd. Given our route, Keith's book and Dannie's itinerary were indispensable. The only thing missing was our lack of a detailed map of the areas east of Vancouver, which meant we struggled a couple times getting our geographic bearings - but never to the point of getting lost.

Finally, our thanks to the BC birders whom we spoke to and who gave us suggestions and directions to various sites: Rick Howie (Chukar, Clay-colored Sparrow), Rick Toochin (Bewick's Wren, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Black-throated Gray Warbler), Kevin Slagboom (all the internet material assembled before our trip) and Dannie Carsen, who was kind enough to print a copy for us of his wonderful itinerary. [NOTE: An annotated species list with dates and locations, can be found at: <http://birding.bc.ca/travelogs.htm>]

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Hawk Migration on the Sunshine Coast

by Tony Greenfield
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In the December 1981 issue of *Marsh Wrenderings*, the newsletter of the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society, I authored an article entitled "A New hawk Watching Site in south-west British Columbia".

On 11 October 1981, I was hiking/birding at about 900 metres elevation along the logging roads on Mt. Elphinstone. Elphinstone is the prominent mountain above Gibsons, that forms the most south-easterly extension of the ridge that encircles the Georgia Depression on the west side of Howe Sound. In other words, it's part of the eastern wall of the funnel that is the Strait of Georgia.

It was mid-afternoon on a clear blue day, and the first raptors I noted were a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks lazily soaring on the thermals. Soon I noticed another pair and then another, and another, - before long I put two and two together and realized I was in the middle of a hawk migration - a phenomenon I had never previously suspected along the Sunshine Coast.

In 2.5 hours that afternoon I saw 30+ accipiters with a Sharp-shinned Hawk to Cooper's Hawk ratio of about 10:1. All the birds were soaring on the thermals in sharp contrast to their hunting style. After the first accipiters, I began to see other species, first a Red-tailed Hawk, then a Northern Harrier gliding over the logging slash, and a distant flier I thought was a Peregrine Falcon. Further along the road a Bald Eagle was sitting atop a snag and finally on another snag an immature Northern Shrike. In 2.5 hours I recorded over forty raptors.

That a hawk migration does exist on the Sunshine Coast is not totally unexpected. As reported in *American Birds* (March, 1980), one of Vancouver's legendary birders, Barry Sauppe, devoted many hours to hawk watching at Cypress Provincial park in September-October 1979. He recorded 620 migrating raptors in 55 hours, at an average rate of 11.3 per hour. His best results were during high pressure systems with northerly winds and clear skies, exactly the conditions that prevailed on October 11. The Elphinstone rate of 16+ per hour was somewhat higher than Sauppe's average rate, and October 11 was also later than his last viewing date. Sauppe found that Sharp-shinned Hawks constituted 68% of all raptors sighted, whilst the Elphinstone count was about 70-75%. Sauppe's second most common species was Red-tailed Hawk, again supported by the local count. Sauppe also comments that, "A few Northern Harriers pass south along the mountain ridges of the BC Coast range".

It's hard to believe that all happened 17 years ago! In 1998, Doug Brown and Arnold Skei, two of the Sunshine Coast's active birders, visited the same location a few times during September/October and the raptors were still there. Their records are as follows:

<u>September 20</u>		<u>October 10</u>	
Northern Harrier	3	Bald Eagle	20
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Sharp-shinned Hawk	18
Cooper's Hawk	4	Cooper's Hawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	2	Red-tailed Hawk	15
American Kestrel	2	Golden Eagle (immature)	1
Merlin	5	Peregrine Falcon	1
Northern Shrike	2		

NB: On October 10 Doug and Arnold also recorded four Clark's Nutcrackers - described by Campbell, et al., in *Birds of British Columbia, Volume III* as rare and erratic in the Georgia Depression.

October 12

Sharp-shinned Hawk	8
Red-tailed Hawk	8
Golden Eagle (immature)	1

October 17

Sharp-shinned Hawk	10
Red-tailed Hawk	2

This is a tiny data set and I would be loathe to start analyzing it. However, a myriad of research possibilities come to mind, and perhaps there is a project here for BCFO! Some questions that spring to mind are:

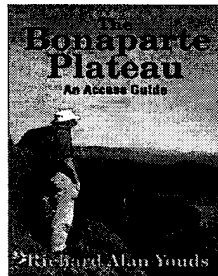
1. When does the migration begin?
2. When does the migration end?
3. What and when is the high daily count?
4. What is the species composition of the migration through the Georgia Depression?
5. What are the total numbers of migrating raptors?
6. Is there a parallel migration along the east side of the Georgia Depression?
7. Is there a migration along the west coast of Vancouver Island?
8. It would be interesting to tie these questions/answers to the data collected at Rocky Point on the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Is there any interest in making this a BCFO research project?

Hawk watches are, of course, very time consuming, but if we could mobilize the manpower of BCFO we could gather some significant data. On the Sunshine Coast we have four active birders and I'm sure it would be possible to share the load. We also have members strung out along the east coast of Vancouver Island, in Campbell River, Courtenay, Nanaimo, Duncan, etc. More coverage of the North Shore in Vancouver would obviously be paramount following Sauppe's work in 1979.

If you have any interest in pursuing this idea, call Tony at (250) 885-5539.

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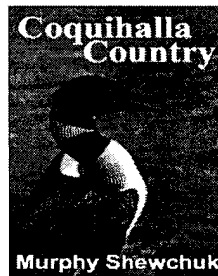


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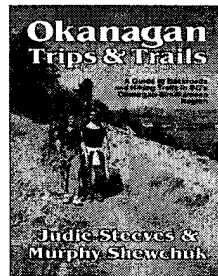


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