

# BRITISH COLUMBIA RARE BIRD RECORDS

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The following is a list of casual and accidental bird species that have been recorded within the boundaries of British Columbia (B.C.). Most records here are supported by skin specimens (**sp**), photographs (**ph**), tape recordings (**rec**), or adequate field notes. Some records have either been rejected by local rarities committees (on identification or origin grounds) or are awaiting review, but these are included here for completeness with notes on any discrepancies. Except where the observation is obviously flawed or seriously lacking in details, no attempt has been made to unilaterally pass judgement on any sight records. This responsibility is best left to a proper Rare Birds Committee, which currently does not operate in the province.

Species and distinctive subspecies with fewer than 40 provincial records are included on this list. Several other species that were formerly considered casual or accidental have now been found with increasing frequency and, in some cases, have proven to be annual or nearly so. Some of these species have been observed to breed in British Columbia (indicated by an asterisk [\*]). Rare regularly occurring species include:

Emperor Goose	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	White-headed Woodpecker*
Tufted Duck	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Ash-throated Flycatcher
Murphy's Petrel	Ruff	Tropical Kingbird
Mottled Petrel	Little Gull	Loggerhead Shrike
White-faced Ibis	Iceland Gull	Northern Mockingbird
Ferruginous Hawk*	Slaty-backed Gull	Chestnut-sided Warbler*
Black-necked Stilt*	Thick-billed Murre*	Harris's Sparrow
Willet	Xantus's Murrelet	Indigo Bunting*
Bar-tailed Godwit	Parakeet Auklet	
White-rumped Sandpiper	Horned Puffin*	

The following abbreviations are used in this document:

**AOU:** American Ornithologists' Union

**BC:** British Columbia

**BCPM:** British Columbia Provincial Museum (Victoria)

**CMNH:** Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Pittsburgh)

**FSR:** Forest Service Road

**MVZ:** Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (University of California, Berkeley)

**NMC:** National Museum of Canada (Ottawa)

**PMNH:** Peabody Museum of Natural History (Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut)

**PRNP:** Pacific Rim National Park

**QCI:** Queen Charlotte Islands

**RBCM:** Royal British Columbia Museum (Victoria)

**UBC:** University of British Columbia (Vancouver)

**WSM:** Washington State Museum (University of Washington, Seattle)

All provincial records of the following species (and, in some cases, subspecies) are covered in this document:

Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Curlew Sandpiper	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Tundra [Bewick's] Swan	Spoon-billed Sandpiper	Northern Wheatear
Whooper Swan	American Woodcock	Blue Rock-Thrush
Falcated Duck	Laughing Gull	Dusky Thrush
Garganey	Black-headed Gull	Fieldfare
Baikal Teal	Black-tailed Gull	Brown Thrasher
Steller's Eider	Mew [Kamchatka] Gull	Siberian Accentor
Spectacled Eider	Herring [Vega] Gull	Eastern Yellow Wagtail
King Eider	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Gray Wagtail
Common Eider	Great Black-backed Gull	White Wagtail
Smew	Red-legged Kittiwake	Red-throated Pipit
Arctic Loon	Ross's Gull	American Pipit, <i>japonicus</i> ssp.
Short-tailed Albatross	Ivory Gull	Phainopepla
Greater Shearwater	Aleutian Tern	Blue-winged Warbler
Manx Shearwater	Least Tern	Virginia's Warbler
Black-vented Shearwater	Elegant Tern	Northern Parula
Red-tailed Tropicbird	Long-billed Murrelet	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Blue-footed Booby	Kittlitz's Murrelet	Hermit Warbler
Masked Booby	Least Auklet	Blackburnian Warbler
Magnificent Frigatebird	Whiskered Auklet	Yellow-throated Warbler
Least Bittern	Crested Auklet	Pine Warbler
Snowy Egret	Oriental Turtle-Dove	Prairie Warbler
Little Blue Heron	White-winged Dove	Prothonotary Warbler
Wood Stork	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Kentucky Warbler
Black Vulture	Black-billed Cuckoo	Hooded Warbler
White-tailed Kite	Lesser Nighthawk	Painted Redstart
Crested Caracara	Whip-poor-will	Scarlet Tanager
Eurasian Kestrel	Chimney Swift	Green-tailed Towhee
Eurasian Hobby	Xantus's Hummingbird	Eastern Towhee
Common Moorhen	Costa's Hummingbird	Black-throated Sparrow
Whooping Crane	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Sage Sparrow
Demoiselle Crane	Allen's Hummingbird	Lark Bunting
Lesser Sand-Plover	Red-headed Woodpecker	Baird's Sparrow
Snowy Plover	Acorn Woodpecker	Dark-eyed [Gray-headed] Junco
Piping Plover	Acadian Flycatcher	McCown's Longspur
Mountain Plover	Black Phoebe	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Eurasian Dotterel	Vermilion Flycatcher	Rustic Bunting
Terek Sandpiper	Great Crested Flycatcher	McKay's Bunting
Spotted Redshank	Thick-billed Kingbird	Northern Cardinal
Wood Sandpiper	Gray Kingbird	Blue Grosbeak
Little Curlew	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Painted Bunting
Bristle-thighed Curlew	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Dickcissel
Far Eastern Curlew	Black-capped Vireo	Great-tailed Grackle
Great Knot	Yellow-throated Vireo	Orchard Oriole
Red-necked Stint	Western Scrub-Jay	Hooded Oriole
Little Stint	Pinyon Jay	Lesser Goldfinch
Temminck's Stint	Sky Lark, <i>pekinensis</i> ssp.	
Long-toed Stint	Sedge Wren	

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*

This southern duck is known in B.C. from a single historical record. California populations of this species, which are presumably the origin of the individuals that occurred in B.C., have declined precipitously during the past century and today are nearly extirpated from the state. As such, it is highly unlikely that any additional observations of this bird will be made in this province.

1.(11) adults; September 20, 1905; Port Alberni (sp)<sup>1</sup>

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Although this Eurasian swan has been recorded on several occasions in B.C., several of these reports (both interior records, at least one coastal record) are known or suspected to refer to escaped individuals.

1.(1) adult; November 11, 1977; near Port Hardy

2.(1) adult; July 25-27, 1996; Seal Bay, Comox (ph)

3.(1) adult; November 5-7, 1998; Courtenay (ph)

4.(1) adult; November 7-17, 1999; Mamit Lake, 16 km south of Logan Lake (ph)

5.(1) adult; January 11, 2001; Fairmont Hot Springs, Columbia River (ph)

**Tundra [Bewick's] Swan** *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*

This Eurasian subspecies of the Tundra Swan, which is often regarded as a separate species, has occasionally been recorded from southern British Columbia. Observations of this form are tracked here because of their distinct morphology, Old World origins, and the possibility that full species status for this form may be resurrected in the future.

1.(1) adult; November 11, 1990-February 16, 1991; Westham Island, Delta

2.(1) adult; December 1-12, 2000; Kilby Provincial Park, Harrison River (ph)

3.(1) adult; January 2, 2002; Kilby Provincial Park, Harrison River

4.(1) adult; February 3 & 24, 2002; Abbotsford

5.(1) adult; March 30, 2002; Guichon Flats, Nicola Lake

6.(1) adult; January 12, 2003; Nicomen Island, Mission

7.(1) adult; January 15-March 25, 2006; Delta (ph)

8.(1) adult; February 9-10, 2006; Chilliwack (ph)

**Falcated Duck** *Anas falcata*

Other than a single historic sight record, the only documented occurrence of this species is of an adult male that returned to the Grice Bay mudflats near Tofino for three consecutive winters between 1994 and 1996. Males of this species are highly distinctive and unlikely to be confused with any other duck in North America. As with any exotic waterfowl, though, the potential captive origin of all sightings must be considered. The occurrence of presumably the same individual at the same location during three consecutive winters, however, strongly suggests a naturally-occurring bird.

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<sup>1</sup> RBCM Specimen 1561

- 1.(1) adult male; April 15-17, 1932; Swan Lake, Vernon
- 2.(1) adult male; April 19-22, 1994; Grice Bay, Tofino (**ph**)
  - (1) adult male; January 20- March 28, 1995; Grice Bay, Tofino (**ph**) (same individual)
  - (1) adult male; January 27- March 25, 1996; Grice Bay, Tofino (**ph**) (same individual)

### **Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Like other vagrant waterfowl, all records of this species must initially be considered questionable due to the possibility of escapees. Many records of this species in B.C., however, strongly suggest wild origin and it is likely that the majority of birds observed in the province have occurred naturally.

- 1.(1) adult male; May 14-31, 1977; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)<sup>2</sup>
- 2.(1) adult male; June 8-12, 1979; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)<sup>3</sup>
- 3.(1) juvenile; October 12, 1980; Port Alberni (**sp**)
- 4.(1) immature; October 18, 1982; Beach Grove Lagoon, Tsawwassen
- 5.(1) adult male; May 23-24, 1984; Penticton (**ph**)<sup>4</sup>
- 6.(1) adult female; July 4, 1989; Peace Island Park, Taylor
- 7.(1) adult female; May 8, 1990; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 8.(1) adult male; July 13, 1991; Wickaninnish Sewage Ponds, PRNP
- 9.(1) immature male; September 13-14, 1992; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 10.(1) adult male; April 11- May 4, 1993; Campbell River (**ph**)
- 11.(1) adult male; May 9, 1997; Princeton
- 12.(1) eclipse male; June 22-July 1, 2000; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 13.(1) eclipse male; July 30-August 11, 2006; Iona Island, Vancouver

### **Baikal Teal** *Anas formosa*

The male of this Asian duck is one of the most beautiful and gaudy waterfowl species to occur in British Columbia, even if it does so only extremely rarely. Most records of this species in the province suggest wild origin, and, with an increasing population in northeastern Asia and increasingly frequent records in western Alaska, it is possible that the number of reports along the Pacific coast of North America will continue to increase as well.

- 1.(1) immature male; November 20, 1957; Ladner (**sp**)<sup>5</sup>
- 2.(1) adult male; May 1, 1996; Sandspit, QCI
- 3.(1) adult male; March 8, 2002; Agassiz (**ph**)

### **Steller's Eider** *Polysticta stelleri*

This Bering Sea species is casual in marine waters of coastal BC. With few exceptions, the origin of the eiders and most other vagrant sea ducks is not as contentious as for dabbling ducks due to their relative scarcity in private collections and, as a result, all records of these species in BC are considered to be of wild origin.

- 1.(1) immature female; October 15, 1948; Masset Inlet, QCI (**sp**)<sup>6</sup>
- 2.(1) adult male; June 17, 1970; Mitlenach Island, Strait of Georgia (**ph**)<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> RBCM Photo 464

<sup>3</sup> RBCM Photo 713

<sup>4</sup> RBCM Photo 916

<sup>5</sup> UBC Specimen 8595

<sup>6</sup> RBCM Specimen 10227

- 3.(1) female; February 13-March 27, 1976; Sidney (ph)<sup>8</sup>
- 4.(1) adult male; late September, 1976; Tofino
- 5.(1) immature female; October 13-21, 1991; near Sandspit, QCI (ph)
- 6.(1) adult male; April 13, 2002; Sandspit, QCI
- 7.(1) immature female; September 30, 2006; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew
- 8.(1) immature male; May 26, 2007; Gordon's Beach, northwest of Sooke (ph)

### **Spectacled Eider** *Somateria fischeri*

This is the rarest eider species and the one that is least likely to occur south of its arctic haunts in the Bering Sea. Nonetheless, there are two sight records of this species from coastal B.C. These records have variously been treated as either hypothetical or confirmed, depending on the publication, and therefore their true status remains unknown at this time.

- 1.(1) adult male; September 22, 1962; near James Island, off Sidney
- 2.(1) adult male; June 15, 1988; Alliford Bay, QCI

### **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*

The gorgeous King Eider is the most commonly encountered eider species in British Columbia and elsewhere along the Pacific coast of North America. Reports of this species occur in most years along the coast of B.C., with Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, and the Queen Charlotte Islands producing the majority of reports. Additional ornithological coverage of remote areas of western and northern Vancouver Island and the mainland coast north of Vancouver Island would undoubtedly show that this species occurs in the province every year in extremely small numbers.

- 1.(1) adult male; October 18, 1938; Hardy Bay, northern Vancouver Island (sp)<sup>9</sup>
- 2.(1) adult female; January 11, 1942; Sooke Harbour (sp)<sup>10</sup>
- 3.(1) adult female; December 4, 1945; Masset, QCI (sp)<sup>11</sup>
- 4.(1) adult female; December 15, 1971 - January 16, 1972; Queen Charlotte City, QCI
- 5.(1) immature male; November 17, 1973- May 20, 1974; Pt.Grey to Stanley Park, Vancouver (ph)<sup>12</sup>
- 6.(1) adult female; February 22, 1975; Chatham Sound, Port Edward
- 7.(1) adult female; May 14, 1977; Sandspit, QCI
- 8.(1) immature male; August 7- October 9, 1982; Iona Island, Vancouver (ph)<sup>13</sup>
- 9.(1) adult female; November 17, 1983-February 19, 1984; Stanley Park, Vancouver (ph)<sup>14</sup>
- 10.(1) adult male; November 4, 1984-April 6, 1985; Vancouver to Deep Cove (ph)<sup>15</sup>
- 11.(1) adult female; November 17, 1985-April 9, 1986; Stanley Park, Vancouver
- 12.(1) adult male; April 6-May 23, 1986; Stanley Park, Vancouver
- 13.(1) adult female; July 14-15, 1989; Cape Eden Shaw, QCI
- 14.(1) adult female; January 19-February 19, 1990; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 15.(1) adult female; January 29, 1992; Iona Island, Vancouver

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<sup>7</sup> RBCM Photo 7

<sup>8</sup> RBCM Photo 449

<sup>9</sup> MVZ Specimen 99553

<sup>10</sup> RBCM Specimen 8966

<sup>11</sup> RBCM Specimen 10226

<sup>12</sup> RBCM Photo 326

<sup>13</sup> RBCM Photo 988

<sup>14</sup> RBCM Photo 1111

<sup>15</sup> RBCM Photos 1089, 1196

- 16.(2) adult females; January 8-15, 1994; off Tofino (**ph**)
- 17.(1) adult male; June 20, 1995; Flores Island
- 18.(1) near-adult male; December 21, 1997-January 1, 1998; Royston, Vancouver Island
- 19.(1) adult male; March 13- April 16, 1998; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 20.(1) immature male; January 20- March 10, 2005; Roberts Creek, Sunshine Coast (**ph**)
- 21.(1) immature male; April 1-13, 2000; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 22.(2) female; August 13, 2001; Rose Spit, QCI
- 23.(1) near-adult male; January 10-March 21, 2002; Longbeak Spit, Denman Island (**ph**)
- 24.(1) adult female; November 21, 2002; near Skidegate, QCI
- 25.(1) near-adult male; May 6-17, 2003; Deep Bay, Vancouver Island (**ph**)
- 26.(1) immature male; November 5, 2003-January 5, 2004; Deep Bay, Vancouver Island (**ph**)
- 27.(2) immature male & female; February 8, 2004; near Moresby Island, off Sidney
- 28.(1) near-adult male; February 10-March 8, 2004; Fanny Bay, Vancouver Island (**ph**)
  - (1) near-adult male; March 20-March 22, 2004; Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island (same individual)
  - (1) near-adult male; March 22-March 26, 2004; Parksville (same individual)
  - (1) near-adult male; March 27-April 3, 2004; French Creek, Parksville (same individual)
  - (1) near-adult male; April 9-April 12, 2004; Lantzville, Vancouver Island (same individual)
- 29.(1) immature male; March 20, 2005; Gibsons, Sunshine Coast
- 30.(1) sub-adult male; October 30-Dec 3, 2005; Dundarave Pier-Stanley Park, Vancouver (**ph**)
  - (1) near adult male; April 11-15, 2006; Iona Island, Vancouver (same individual)

### **Common Eider *Somateria mollissima***

This beautiful arctic sea duck is extremely rare in British Columbia and few records are supported by tangible evidence (photo, specimen); as a result, many of these records are cited here with caution. The Common Eider is currently the only eider species that has been recorded away from the coast in B.C. (at Prince George).

- 1.(1) immature female; October 26-27, 1934; Hardy Bay, Vancouver Island (**sp**)<sup>16</sup>
- 2.(1) adult male; October 31, 1949; 6 miles east of Prince George (**sp**)<sup>17</sup>
- 3.(1) adult female; April 6, 1996; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew
- 4.(1) adult female; May 13, 1996; Skidegate Inlet, QCI
- 5.(1) immature (becoming adult) male; November 11, 1996- April 6, 1998; West Vancouver to Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 6.(1) adult female; August 8, 2007; Columbia Beach, Parksville
- 7.(1) adult female; August 16, 2007; Gordon's Beach, northwest of Sooke
- 8.(1) adult male; February 25, 2008; Little Qualicum River estuary, Parksville

### **Smew *Mergellus albeolus***

This small Eurasian diving duck, which is related to the mergansers, has been reported on a number of occasions from British Columbia as well as elsewhere along the west coast of North America south to California. Both sexes are highly distinctive, and identification is rarely a concern with this species, but it is also an attractive species that is regularly kept in captivity and thus has the potential to escape. As a result, all B.C. records must be treated with caution due to the potential for captive-bred individuals escaping into the wild.

<sup>16</sup> MVZ Specimen 99537

<sup>17</sup> NMC Specimen 47595

- 1.(1) adult male; November 14-23, 1970; Stanley Park, Vancouver
- 2.(1) immature male; February 28-March 21, 1974; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner (ph)
- 3.(1) adult male; January 14- March 30, 1975; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner (ph)<sup>18</sup>
- 4.(1) adult female; September 28, 1979; Christie Point, Saanich
- 5.(1) adult male; January 16, 1986; Beach Grove Lagoon, Tsawwassen
- 6.(1) adult male; March 27, 1987; Saltspring Island
- 7.(1) adult male; December 30, 1989-February 1, 1990; Sunrise Lake, Langley (ph)
- 8.(1) adult male; February 16-23, 1992; Sunrise Lake, Langley (ph)
- 9.(1) adult male; November 15, 2001; Little River, Comox

### **Arctic Loon *Gavia arctica***

This Asian species, which breeds sporadically in western Alaska, is similar to the coastally abundant Pacific Loon, and therefore most records that have not been accompanied by photographic evidence have been cited with caution. However, several of these sight records have been well observed and made by people familiar with the species and/or all potential confusion species. Furthermore, increasingly frequent observations elsewhere along the Pacific coast (Washington-California), several of which are supported by photographic evidence, suggest either an increase in the number of individuals occurring in this region or closer scrutiny being applied to Pacific-type loons by observers.

- 1.(2) adults; December 20, 1999; Ganges Harbour, Saltspring Island
- 2.(1) adult; February 7, 2001; Lantzville, north of Nanaimo
- 3.(1) adult; March 18 & 23, 2001; Roberts Creek, Sunshine Coast
- 4.(1) adult; March 9, 2002; Active Pass, between Mayne Island and Galiano Island
- 5.(1) adult; November 14 & 17 & December 7, 2003; Ganges Harbour, Saltspring Island
- 6.(1) adult near breeding plumage; May 21, 2007; Gordon's Beach, northwest of Sooke (ph)
- 7.(1) juvenile; October 5, 2007; Cape Lazo, Comox
- 8.(1) adult; December 12, 2007; Oak Bay, Victoria (ph)
- 9.(1) adult; December 26, 2007; Quadra Island
- 10.(1) adult; December 29, 2007; Gordon's Beach, northwest of Sooke

### **Short-tailed Albatross *Phoebastria albatrus***

This list includes only observations made since 1960. Historically (prior to 1900), this species was a regular component of the pelagic avifauna of the Pacific coast, but nearly became globally extinct by the 1930s. A recent population rebound has resulted in increasingly frequent observations of this species along the coast from Alaska to California. Records in B.C. waters follow this trend closely.

- 1.(1) immature; June 11, 1960; 64 km west of Vancouver Island (ph)<sup>19</sup>
- 2.(1) immature; February 23, 1996; 70 nm west of Ucluelet-Tofino
- 3.(1) sub-adult; October 22, 1996; off the north coast of the QCI (ph)
- 4.(1) immature; January 19-22, 1999; Whaleback Fishing Grounds, off Langara Island, QCI [54°09'N, 133°37'W] (ph)
- 5.(1) immature; July 25, 1999; north east of Kunghit Island, off Cape St. James, QCI (ph)
- 6.(1) immature; September 2, 2001; east of Moresby Island, QCI [52°21'N, 130°45'W] (ph)

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<sup>18</sup> RBCM Photo 395

<sup>19</sup> RBCM Photo 296

- 7.(1) immature; October 16, 2002; off Solander Island, west coast of Vancouver Island
- 8.(1) immature; August 8, 2003; 50 nautical miles off Cape Flattery
- 9.(1) adult; November 11-19, 2003; radio tagged and tracked in BC waters
- 10.(1) adult; September 12, 2006 - November 1, 2006; radio tagged and tracked in BC waters
- 11.(1) immature; January 7, 2008; off Ucluelet (ph)
- 12.(1) immature; September 2-4, 2008; nw of Langara Island, QCI (ph)

**Cook's Petrel** *Pterodroma cookii*

The only record of this deepwater pelagic species is a single amazing bird that was recovered after striking a house at Lillooet in the southern interior. Although alive when first discovered, the individual died the following day. This bird was presumably blown inland during a severe westward-moving storm that had swept across the Pacific Northwest several days earlier.

- 1.(1) subadult; December 4, 2007; Lillooet (sp)

**Greater Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*

The single British Columbia record of this species is remarkable given that the bird's entire population is essentially restricted to the Atlantic Ocean throughout the year. Nonetheless, there are a handful of additional records of this species from the Pacific coast of the United States, suggesting that occasional birds will wander up the Pacific coast of the Americas from their breeding grounds in the southern Atlantic Ocean.

- 1.(1) adult; June 24, 2000; 28 nm southwest of Cape Beale [48°24.3'N, 125° 37.0'W]

**Black-vented Shearwater** *Puffinus opisthomelas*

This small shearwater of Mexico and California is notably irruptive along the Pacific coast of North America north of central California, and observations of this species in B.C. are often tied to warm-water events such as El Niño. Unlike many other shearwaters, this species often occurs close to shore and can be observed from land-based locations.

- 1.(2) adults [m/f]; October 24, 1891; east of Albert Head, Strait of Juan de Fuca (sp)<sup>20</sup>
- 2.(2) adults [m/unkown]; November 1891; east of Albert Head, Strait of Juan de Fuca (sp)<sup>21</sup>
- 3.(1) adult [m]; February 1895; east of Albert Head, Strait of Juan de Fuca (sp)<sup>22</sup>
- 4.(1) adult; July 15, 1940; west of Cape Scott, northern Vancouver Island
- 5.(1) adult; August 14, 1948; Goose Island Group, north of Vancouver Island
- 6.(1) adult; September 28, 1953; Strait of Juan de Fuca Strait, off Victoria
- 7.(1) adult; July 3, 1954; west of Solander Island
- 8.(1) adult; July 24, 1967; west of Cleland Island
- 9.(1) adult; July 17, 1976; well off QCI [52°51'N, 136°01'W]
- 10.(1) adult; October 14, 1984; off Buck Point, QCI
- 11.(1) adult; September 28, 1986; west of Amphitrite Point, Ucluelet
- 12.(1) adult; September 7, 1987; off Amphitrite Point, Ucluelet
- 13.(1) adult; July 17, 1988; Hecate Strait, QCI
- 14.(1) adult; September 11, 1988; west of Brooks Peninsula, western Vancouver Island
- 15.(1) adult; September 20, 1994; mouth of Masset Inlet, QCI

<sup>20</sup> RBCM Specimens 1494, 1495

<sup>21</sup> RBCM Specimen 89; USNM Specimen 153194

<sup>22</sup> NMC Specimen 1982



- 16.(1) adult; May 18, 1996; 10 km west of Pt. Grey, Vancouver
- 17.(1) adult; May 26, 1996; 4 km before Active Pass, Victoria side
- 18.(1) adult; November 26, 1997; Queen Charlotte Sound, northern Vancouver Island
- 19.(1) adult; May 25, 1999; off Amphitrite Point, Ucluelet
- 20.(1) adult; June 6, 2000; off northern tip of Vancouver Is.
- 21.(1) adult; September 24, 2007; Hecate Strait, QCI

### **Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus***

Remarkable records of this north Atlantic shearwater first began occurring along the Pacific coast of North America (Alaska-northern Mexico) several decades ago. In the past decade, reports of this species in the region have continued to increase almost exponentially and it is now recorded annually in all jurisdictions from B.C. to California. It almost certainly breeds somewhere in the region, with sites in Washington (Tatoosh Island, Destruction Island) and British Columbia (Triangle Island, Queen Charlotte Islands) perhaps some of the more likely potential locations. This species is expected to become a regular component of B.C.'s pelagic avifauna within the next 5-10 years. As with the closely-related Black-vented Shearwater, this species often occurs in inshore waters and can be observed from land.

- 1.(1) adult; July, 1994; Triangle Island (**rec**)<sup>23</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; May 18, 1998; northern tip of Vancouver Island [50°45'N , 129 °34'W]
- 3.(1) adult; June 6, 1998; ~24 nm east of Lyell Island, Hecate Strait, QCI [52°41.7'N, 130°42.8'W]
- 4. (1) adult; July 20, 2004; Hecate Strait, QCI
- 5.(1) adult; August 8, 2004; off Race Rocks, Metchosin (**ph**)
- 6.(1) adult; June 2, 2005; near Dare Pt., West Coast Trail, PRNP
- 7.(1) adult; June 20, 2005; 15 nm northeast of Lawn Point, Hecate Strait
- 8.(1) adult; July 10, 2006; Goose Bank, Queen Charlotte Sound, northern Vancouver Island [51° 37' N, 128° 43' W]
- 9.(1) adult; August 28, 2006; Jordan River
- 10.(1) adult; September 27, 2006; north of Hope Island, Fitz Hugh Sound, northern Vancouver Island
- 11.(1) adult; July 22, 2007; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew
- 12.(1) adult; August 11, 2007; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew
- 13.(1) adult; October 7, 2007; Gordon's Beach, northwest of Sooke
- 14.(1) adult; November 18, 2007; Jordan River
- 15.(1) adult; August 16, 2008; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew
- 16.(1) adult; August 22, 2008; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew
- 17.(2) adults; August 24, 2008; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew
- 18.(1) adult; August 30, 2008; Tower Point, Metchosin
- 19.(1) adult; September 2, 2008; Hecate Strait, QCI
- 20.(1) adult; September 2, 2008; off West Coast Trail, sw Vancouver Island
- 21.(2) adults; September 24, 2008; Shirley, nr Sooke

### **Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricaudus***

One of the most bizarre and exciting bird records in B.C., the remains (skeleton, feathers) of this tropical seabird were recovered from the floor of an old-growth coniferous forest in the centre

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<sup>23</sup> Calls of this species were recorded at night from the massive seabird colonies on Triangle Island. This is strongly (though not conclusively) suggestive of breeding at the site.

of Vancouver Island, far from any marine waters. The only other records of this species in North America are from offshore waters off southern California. The bird presumably wandered inland to Buttle Lake and was killed or recovered by a Bald Eagle, which subsequently consumed the bird from a high perch and left the remains at the base of the tree. Curiously, there are several unconfirmed anecdotal reports of a tropicbird-like bird from the northern Strait of Georgia (specifically, near Mitlenatch Island and off the mouth of the Oyster River) in the weeks preceeding the discovery of the remains at nearby Buttle Lake.

1.(1) June 5, 1992; Buttle Lake, Strathcona Provincial Park, Vancouver Island (**sp**)<sup>24</sup>

### **Blue-footed Booby** *Sula nebouxii*

The only record of this species in the province has not been unanimously accepted, although detailed field notes were provided. This eastern Pacific seabird has been recorded on several additional occasions in the Pacific Northwest, including more than one record for northwestern Washington.

1.(1) adult; July 15, 1995; east of Hecate Strait, QCI

### **Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*

One to two individuals of this pantropical seabird were observed on multiple occasions and by multiple different observers within the Strait of Georgia during the summer of 2007. This is among the least likely of the Pacific booby species to occur in our region, but detailed field notes made during the observation and the highly distinctive plumage and traits of this species strongly support the identification.

1.(1) adult; May 23, 2007; Top Bridge Trail, Parksville

(2) adults; May 23, 2007; off Lasqueti Island (pres. same individual)

(1) adult; July 23, 2007; Discovery Passage, Campbell River (pres. same individual)

### **Red-faced Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax urile*

This cormorant of Alaska and northeast Asia is easily confused with the common and widespread Pelagic Cormorant, particularly the larger northern subspecies of the Pelagic (*P.p.pelagicus*) that occurs along the northern coast of B.C., and some unsubstantiated records likely pertain to that species. Nonetheless, photographic documentation as well as additional detailed field observations by experienced observers both support the periodic occurrence of this species along the coast of British Columbia.

1.(1) adult; June 1987; Hudson Rocks, QCI

2.(1) adult; April 10-14, 1988; Masset Sound, QCI (**ph**)<sup>25</sup>

3.(1) adult; April 14, 1988; Campbell River

4.(3) adult; June 8, 1988; Hecate Strait, QCI

5.(1) adult; May 7, 1997; Skonum Point, Masset, QCI

6.(1) adult; June 20, 1999; Dixon Entrance, 6 miles northwest of Learmonth Banks, QCI

7.(1) adult; January 14, 2001; French Creek, Parksville

8.(1) adult; December 14, 2003; Strait of Juan de Fuca, ~6 miles south of Victoria

9.(1) adult; April 3, 2005; west of Clover Point, Victoria

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<sup>24</sup> RBCM Specimen 23668

<sup>25</sup> RBCM Photo 1246

10.(1) adult; February 26, 2007; Halibut Bight, north of Skidegate, QCI

11.(1) adult; May 31, 2008; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew

### **Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens***

This widespread tropical and subtropical seabird wanders widely and has been recorded on a number of occasions in B.C. waters. This species is highly distinctive, and several additional anecdotal reports from fishermen off the west coast suggest a more frequent occurrence in our region than the 9 records listed here suggest.

1.(1) immature; August 22-25, 1981; Egeria Bay, south of Coho Point, QCI (ph)<sup>26</sup>

2.(1) immature; January 7, 1989; Saanich Inlet, near Victoria

3.(1) adult male; July 28, 1993; West Vancouver

4.(1) immature; August 31- September 7, 1996; Flores Island to Tofino

5.(1) adult male; July 18, 1997; near Tofino

6.(1) immature/sub-adult; May 9, 2001; Flores Island

7.(1) immature female; January 14, 2004; between Bonilla Island and Sandspit, QCI  
[53°43.5'N, 131°10.8'W] (ph)

8.(1) immature or female; May 21, 2005; Horseshoe Bay, Nanaimo

9.(1) adult male; June 27, 2006; Sooke

### **Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis***

Only two summer records of this species exist for British Columbia, both of which are substantiated by photographic evidence.

1.(1) adult; July 30, 1955; Vernon (ph)

2.(1) adult; June 16, 1974; Musqueam Flats, Vancouver (ph)<sup>27</sup>

### **Snowy Egret *Egretta thula***

This small heron has been recorded on numerous occasions in B.C. It is a common species throughout much of the southern and central United States (including areas along the Pacific coast south of Canada), and, given its propensity to wander, it is not surprising that a number of individuals have been detected in this province.

1.(1) immature; August 28, 1946; Crescent Beach, White Rock (sp)

2.(1) adult; May 23-25, 1972; Pitt Meadows (ph)<sup>28</sup>

3.(1) immature; August 23-28, 1972; Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood (ph)<sup>29</sup>

4.(1) immature; September 11, 1976; Serpentine Fen, Surrey

5.(1) adult; April 17, 1985; Serpentine Fen, Surrey

6.(1) adult; May 11, 1985; Gibsons, Sunshine Coast (ph)<sup>30</sup>

7.(1) immature; November 18-19, 1986; Cowichan Bay, Duncan

8.(1) immature; November 19, 1986; Nitnat Lake, Vancouver Island

9.(1) adult; May 23-27, 1987; Hastings Flats, Saanich (ph)

10.(1) adult; September 30, 1991; Duncan

11.(1) immature; September 25, 1994; Kalamalka Lake, Vernon (ph)

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<sup>26</sup> RBCM Photo 656

<sup>27</sup> RBCM Photo 352

<sup>28</sup> RBCM Photo 244

<sup>29</sup> RBCM Photo 239

<sup>30</sup> RBCM Photo 1096

- 12.(1) immature; October 10, 1994; Salmon Arm
- 13.(1) immature; November 6-8, 1994; near Kilby Provincial Park, Harrison River (ph)
- 14.(1) adult; May 15-16, 1999; Richmond
- 15.(1) adult; May 18, 1999; Hammond Cedar Mill, Maple Ridge
- 16.(1) adult; July 23, 1999; Salmon Arm
- 17.(1) adult; July 30-31, 1999; Williams Lake
- 18.(1) adult; May 26, 2001; Robson, West Kootenay
- 19.(1) adult; June 1, 2001; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 20.(1) adult; June 3-10, 2002; Quick's Bottom, Saanich
- 21.(1) adult; July 9, 2004; between Ladysmith and Chemainus, Vancouver Island
- 22.(1) adult; July 12-13, 2004; Shoal Island log sort operation, Crofton
- 23.(1) immature; September 3, 2006; Beach Grove Lagoon, Tsawwassen

### **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*

This small heron is common in much of southeastern North America, but is among the least likely heron species to wander north and west into western Canada following the breeding season. However, two remarkable and well-documented sightings have occurred on the south coast which suggest an occasional northwestward dispersal or pattern of vagrancy.

- 1.(1) immature; October 15, 1974-January 5, 1975; Judson Lake, Abbotsford (ph)<sup>31</sup>
- 2.(1) immature; September 19, 1993; Courtenay Airpark Lagoon, Courtenay (ph)

### **Wood Stork** *Mycteria americana*

Incredibly, the only record of this tropical and subtropical species is from the remote far northwestern corner of the province.

- 1.(1) adult female; September 15, 1970; Telegraph Creek (sp)<sup>32</sup>

### **Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus*

Most records of this species in B.C. have been supported by either detailed field notes or photographic evidence, although the origin of all records is uncertain and some (or all) may refer to escapees.

- 1.(1) adult; May 3, 1975; northeast of Keremeos, Similkameen Valley
- 2.(1) adult; September 23, 1976; Quadra Island
- 3.(1) adult; June 25, 1981; 1 km south of Okanagan Falls, Okanagan Valley
- 4.(1) adult; June 16, 1982; north of Osoyoos Lake, Okanagan Valley (ph)<sup>33</sup>
- 5.(1) immature; October 1-28, 2008; Kincolith, mouth of the Nass River (ph)

### **White-tailed Kite** *Elanus leucurus*

Although first detected in B.C. as recently as 1990, reports of this species in the province have continued with increasing frequency. This pattern is also mirrored in northwestern Washington, where this species is becoming much more frequent than it has previously been. The vast majority of records of the White-tailed Kite in B.C. have come from southern Vancouver Island and, especially, the lower Fraser Valley east to Chilliwack. This species is now encountered

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<sup>31</sup> RBCM Photo 373

<sup>32</sup> RBCM Specimen 11627

<sup>33</sup> RBCM Photo 1860

annually on the south coast and is expected to continue to increase in our area. This species will likely become a regular component of the avifauna of the south coast over the next several decades.

- 1.(1) adult; April 26, 1990; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner
- 2.(1) adult; May 20, 1990; Delta
- 3.(1) adult; June 5, 1990; Delta
- 4.(1) sub-adult; June 7, 1990; Pitt Meadows
- 5.(1) adult; March 9, 1992; Richmond
- 6.(1) adult; April 21, 1992; Victoria International Airport, North Saanich
- 7.(1) adult; April 26, 1992; Triangle Mountain, Colwood
- 8.(1) adult; May 2, 1992; Miracle Beach, Black Creek, Vancouver Island
- 9.(1) adult; September 23, 1992; Duncan
- 10.(1) adult; April 28, 1994; Delta
- 11.(1) adult; April 30, 1994; Ladner & Richmond
- 12.(1) adult; April 18-22, 1995; Pitt Meadows
- 13.(1) adult; April 28, 1995; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner
- 14.(1) adult; March 20, 1999; Pitt Meadows
- 15.(1) adult; April 14, 1999; Pitt Meadows
- 16.(1) adult; April 18-20, 1999; Sea Island, Richmond (**ph**)
- 17.(1) adult; April 21, 1999; Richmond
- 18.(1) adult; April 21, 1999; Kilby Provincial Park, near Chilliwack
- 19.(1) adult; April 24, 1999; Cloverdale
- 20.(1) adult; April 25, 1999; Aldergrove
- 21.(1) adult; April 26-28, 1999; Yellow Point, Nanaimo
- 22.(1) adult; May 9, 1999; Langley
- 23.(1) adult; August 18, 1999; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 24.(1) adult; September 14, 1999; Rocky Point, Metchosin (**ph**)
- 25.(1) adult; April 14-18, 2003; Burnaby (**ph**)  
(1) adult; April 18-21, 2003; Pitt Meadows (pres. same individual) (**ph**)
- 26.(1) adult; April 29, 2003; Chilliwack
- 27.(1) adult; June 1, 2003; Pitt Meadows
- 28.(1) adult; July 21, 2003; south west of Vernon
- 29.(1) adult; December 14, 2003; Sidney
- 30.(1) adult; May 14, 2004; Delta (**ph**)
- 31.(1) adult; January 11, 2006; Kilby Provincial Park, near Chilliwack
- 32.(1) adult; April 1 & 15, 2007; Chilliwack
- 33.(1) adult; May 3, 2007; Chilliwack
- 34.(1) adult; September 17, 2007; Mount Matheson, Metchosin
- 35.(1) adult; July 20, 2008; Nanaimo

### **Crested Caracara** *Caracara cheriway*

These remarkable records are complicated by the possibility that they pertain to escaped individuals. However, their occurrence in relatively remote portions of the province, away from likely sources of escapees, suggests that the records may indeed be valid, as does an increasing number of presumably natural vagrants along the Pacific coast of the United States (particularly California).

- 1.(1) adult; May 4- June 3, 1998; Drury Inlet, east of Port Hardy (ph)<sup>34</sup>  
2.(1) adult; August 18, 2008, Fort Fraser (ph)

**Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

The only record of this Eurasian species in B.C. is a historical specimen from the central interior, although recent findings suggest that this individual may have been an escaped falconer's bird. Nonetheless, recent records from northwestern Washington and California imply that this falcon may potentially be reported again in B.C.

- 1.(1) immature female; December 10, 1946; Alkali Lake, south of Williams Lake (sp)<sup>35</sup>

**Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

This small Eurasian falcon has been reliably reported only once in B.C. (Sooke), although there is an earlier unconfirmed record from the southern interior. A recent record from northwestern Washington (Seattle) supports this species' occasional presence along the west coast of North America, although, as with all out-of-range raptors, the possibility of escaped falconer's birds cannot always be dismissed. As well, the Eurasian Hobby is well known for its habitual use of offshore boats as hunting posts. Thus, the possibility of ship assistance with some or all records cannot be discounted.

- 1.(1) adult; May 22, 1982; near Merritt  
2.(1) juvenile; September 29, 2006; Sooke

**Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis***

Although several prior records were on file, reports of this species began to abruptly increase in eastern B.C. in the 1990s. It is unclear whether these populations had always existed in this region, but had been overlooked, or whether they were recent immigrants from established populations in northern Alberta. Nonetheless, this trend continues to the present time, and the Yellow Rail is now essentially reported annually from the Peace River lowlands of northeastern B.C. (often from multiple locations in a given year and/or multiple birds at a single location). It almost certainly nests in this region of the province, although direct nesting evidence has so far eluded detection. The vast majority of records of this bird in B.C. are of males heard giving their distinctive territorial calls from wet sedge meadows and grassy marshes and few visual observations have been made in the province. This small, extremely elusive rail appears to be locally established in eastern portions of the province and records are expected to continue to increase as observers become more familiar with its presence in the region.

- 1.(1) adult; June 29-July 9, 1964; Lake Lillian, east Kootenay  
2.(1) adult; August 9, 1979; near Lone Pine Hill, Creston  
3.(1) adult; June 10, 1989; Boundary Lake, east of Fort St. John  
4.(1) adult; June 10, 1994; Kickinghorse River, Yoho National Park  
5.(1) adult; June 20, 1994; Yoho National Park  
6.(1) adult; August 26, 1995; Cranberry Marsh, near Valemount (ph)<sup>36, 37</sup>  
7.(2-3) adults; June 3-July 13, 1997; Pine River, east of Chetwynd  
8.(2-3) adults; Jun 9- July 30, 2001; Swan Lake, Tupper

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<sup>34</sup> BC Photo 1854

<sup>35</sup> RBCM Specimen 15934

<sup>36</sup> BC Photo 1776

<sup>37</sup> There is some sentiment that this photograph may in fact be of a juvenile Sora (*Porzana carolina*)

- 9.(3) adults; May 29, 2002; Del Rio area, northeast of Chetwynd
- 10.(3) adults; June 10 & 23, 2002; Del Rio area, northeast of Chetwynd
- 11.(1) adult; June 26, 2003; Del Rio area, northeast of Chetwynd
- 12.(3) adults; June 7-July 10, 2004; Del Rio area, northeast of Chetwynd
- 13.(1) adult; July 1, 2004; Swan Lake, Tupper
- 14.(1) adult; June 2, 2005; Boundary Lake, east of Fort St. John
- 15.(1) adult; June 14, 2005; Valleyview, north of Dawson Creek
- 16.(1) adult; June 23, 2005; North Moberly area, northwest of Dawson Creek
- 17.(1) adult; June 19, 2007; Del Rio area, northeast of Chetwynd
- 18.(1) adult; June 22, 2007; Boundary Lake, east of Fort St. John

**Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***

This wetland-inhabiting species occurs no closer to B.C. than California and rarely wanders north of that state, although there is some pattern of vagrancy north as far as southern Oregon. A lack of reports for Washington suggests that the single B.C. record is of significant rarity.

- 1.(1) adult; May 26-June 3, 1981; Iona Island, Vancouver (ph)<sup>38</sup>

**Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo***

The single observation of this Asian crane in British Columbia is extremely enigmatic. In the winter of 2001-2002, a Demoiselle Crane of unknown origin wintered with a flock of Sandhill Cranes in California's San Joaquin Valley, subsequently disappearing with the spring departure of this wintering flock. This flock was tracked during its northward migration because one of the Sandhill Cranes had been fitted with a radio-tracking device, and was detected moving through British Columbia. It was later encountered in the Bulkley Valley of northern B.C., at which time the single Demoiselle Crane was again photographed. The Demoiselle Crane then continued migrating north with this flock to breeding grounds in Alaska. Thus, although the initial origin of the Demoiselle Crane was suspect, its migration north with a flock of wild Sandhill Cranes provided at least some support to the possibility of a naturally-occurring bird. Unfortunately, this bird was not banded and was never observed again and any assessment of its origin will always be conjectural.

- 1.(1) adult; May 2, 2002; Telkwa, southeast of Smithers

**Whooping Crane *Grus americana***

This very rare species is reported almost annually in B.C., but due to frequent misidentifications and confusion with species such as Sandhill Crane and American White Pelican, most records are treated with extreme skepticism. These controversial records have been omitted from this treatment, and only records that are either confirmed or plausible are included. A recent phenomenon has been the documented occurrence of this crane at various locations across the central interior during the breeding season. This region of the province is vast and remote, and supports large areas of suitable boggy breeding habitat. As a result, the possibility that this species is breeding in tiny numbers somewhere in this portion of the province cannot be ignored. Hopefully, future excursions to this region will continue to document its presence and, ideally, uncover some evidence of breeding in B.C.

- 1.(30) adults (and immatures?); September 1955; near Fort Nelson

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<sup>38</sup> RBCM Photo 727

- (6) adults (and immatures?); September 1955; near Fort Nelson (same individuals)
- 2.(6) adults; April 25-26, 1962; Alexandria, near Quesnel
- 3.(1) adult; March 23-25, 1967; near Alkali Lake
- 4.(1) adult; August 13, 1976; Summerland
- 5.(4) adults; September 10, 1985; over Nita Lake, Kelsey Bay, Vancouver Island
- 5.(1) adult ; August 15, 1995; near Quesnel River
- 6.(2) adults; June 30, 2003; Salmon River, north of Prince George (**ph**)
  - (2) adults; July 6, 2003; confluence of the Salmon River and Fraser River, north of Prince George (same individuals)
  - (2) adults; August 22-28, 2003; Dome Creek, north of McBride (same individuals) (**ph**)
- 7.(1) adult; May 16, 2007; Francois Lake, southwest of Vanderhoof

### **Lesser Sand-Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

This Asian plover is rare but regular in Alaska (where it has bred) and occasionally makes its way down the Pacific coast of North America. Curiously, all records in B.C. are of breeding-plumaged adults during the early part of the migratory period and there are no records of juveniles migrating down the coast during the late summer or early fall.

- 1.(1) adult male; June 22, 1993; Rose Spit, QCI (**ph**)
- 2.(1) adult male; July 26-29, 1993; Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood (**ph**)
- 3.(1) adult female; July 12-17, 2007; Boundary Bay, Delta (**ph**)
- 4.(1) adult male; July 22, 2007; Port Renfrew

### **Snowy Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

The majority of provincial records of this small plover are from the extensive sandy beaches of western Vancouver Island, where spring overshoots from breeding populations along the coasts of Washington and Oregon are seen occasionally between April and June. Even away from this area, most records are from sandy substrates and only a few individuals have been seen on mudflats or at sewage lagoons.

- 1.(1) adult; April 29 - May 13, 1972; Comber's Beach, PRNP
- 2.(1) adult; May 28, 1972; Longbeak Spit, Denman Island
- 3.(1) adult; June 9, 1972; Green Point, PRNP
- 4.(1) adult male; June 14, 1976; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 5.(1) adult; July 12, 1980; Sandspit, QCI (**ph**)<sup>39</sup>
- 6.(1) adult; June 2-5, 1981; Chesterman's Beach, south of Tofino (**ph**)<sup>40</sup>
- 7.(1) adult female; May 26-31, 1985; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)<sup>41</sup>
- 8.(1-3) adults; June 7, 13 & 15, 1986; Chesterman's Beach, south of Tofino (**ph**)<sup>42</sup>
- 9.(1) adult; May 13, 1989; Little Qualicum River estuary, Parksville (**ph**)<sup>43</sup>
- 10.(1) adult; May 8, 1991; Nel's Bight, Cape Scott Provincial Park
- 11.(1) adult female; June 15, 1991; Boundary Bay, Delta
- 12.(1) adult; April 9, 1994; Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park, Parksville
- 13.(1) adult male; May 6, 1996; Chesterman's Beach, south of Tofino
- 14.(1) adult male; June 15-18, 1996; Roberts Bank, Delta

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<sup>39</sup> RBCM Photo 724

<sup>40</sup> RBCM Photo 697

<sup>41</sup> RBCM Photo 1055

<sup>42</sup> RBCM Photo 1092

<sup>43</sup> RBCM Photo 1240



15.(1) adult male; April 29-30, 2003; Roberts Bank, Delta (ph)

**Piping Plover** *Charadrius melodus*

Although no photographs or specimens of this rare plover have been obtained in B.C., a recent record from the northern Okanagan Valley was well-described and left little doubt as to the identity of the bird in question. An earlier report from the central coast, however, is not supported by documentation and its accuracy is unknown.

1.(2) adults; August 30, 1976; near Waglisla, Bella Bella

2.(1) juvenile; September 10, 2000; Vernon

**Mountain Plover** *Charadrius montanus*

The only well-described sighting of this species was an individual that was observed by a group of experienced birders in Ladner, south of Vancouver. The accuracy of an earlier report is uncertain and it is considered hypothetical by most authors.

1.(1) juvenile; September 12, 1982; Boundary Bay, Delta

2.(1) juvenile; September 28, 1986; Westham Island, Ladner

**Eurasian Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

This unusual plover, which breeds across northern Eurasia (and sporadically in western Alaska), has been observed periodically along the Pacific coast from Washington to Baja California but, prior to 2008, no birds had been documented from coastal B.C. The occurrence of this species in spring is unusual, as most records along the Pacific coast are during fall or winter.

1.(1) adult; April 23, 2008; Sandspit, QCI (ph)

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

After a flurry of well-documented occurrences prior to the 1990s, reports of this Asian shorebird have subsequently become exceedingly scarce in British Columbia, although other areas along the Pacific coast (Washington, California) continue to receive occasional reports.

1.(1) adult; October 17- November 11, 1970; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner (ph)<sup>44</sup>

2.(1) adult; November 29, 1980; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner

3.(1) adult; March 1-May 1, 1981; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner (ph)<sup>45</sup>

4.(1) juvenile; October 9-17, 1982; Serpentine Fen, Surrey (ph)

5.(1) juvenile; August 19, 1992; Chesterman's Beach, Tofino

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Although this Asian shorebird has been photographed on two occasions in B.C., analysis of the latter record has led to some speculation that it pertains to a Lesser Yellowlegs. Nonetheless, a prior photographed record from the Queen Charlotte Islands firmly establishes the presence of this species in B.C. as an accidental visitor.

1.(1) juvenile; November 3-9, 1994; Masset, QCI (ph)

2.(1) adult; July 21, 1995; Wickaninnish Sewage Ponds, PRNP (ph)

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<sup>44</sup> RBCM Photo 130

<sup>45</sup> RBCM Photo 699

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

A single breeding-plumaged adult of this extraordinary Asian sandpiper was well observed and photographed on southern Vancouver Island in the late 1980s. Very few additional records exist for North America outside of Alaska.

- 1.(1) adult; July 21-August 6, 1987; Goodridge Peninsula, Sooke (ph)<sup>46</sup>

**Little Curlew** *Numenius minutus*

Reports of this species in B.C. continue to elude photographers, despite several well-documented and/or photographed individuals along the Pacific coast of the United States (Washington, California). The first individual detected in B.C., at White Rock in the Lower Mainland, was observed alongside 2 Whimbrels, during which time the observer was able to document considerable size differences. This situation suggests that this report may indeed be valid.

- 1.(1) adult; July 17, 1983; Blackie Spit, White Rock  
2.(1) adult; September 28, 1991; Chesterman's Beach, Tofino

**Bristle-thighed Curlew** *Numenius tahitiensis*

Difficulties in differentiating this species from the common and very similar Whimbrel confounds all sight records that have been reported in B.C. to date. However, the skin specimen from northern Vancouver Island, and occasional individuals sighted and photographed along the Pacific coast of the United States, suggests that occasional birds may grace our shores, particularly following strong westerly winds during the migratory periods.

- 1.(1) adult; May 31, 1969; Grant Bay, northwest Vancouver Island (sp)<sup>47</sup>  
2.(1) adult; May 13-14, 1983; Blackie Spit, White Rock  
3.(1) adult; May 23, 2006; Iona Island, Vancouver  
4.(1) juvenile; September 10, 2006; Boundary Bay, Delta

**Far Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

The only occurrence of this Asian curlew in North America outside of Alaska was a well-documented and photographed individual in the Lower Mainland.

- 1.(1) juvenile; September 24, 1984; Boundary Bay, Delta (ph)<sup>48</sup>

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*

This large Asian sandpiper is a rare but regular migrant in Alaska but is exceedingly rare elsewhere along the Pacific coast of North America. Although not photographed in B.C., both observations have been supported by either multiple experienced observers and/or excellent and detailed field notes.

- 1.(1) immature; May 13, 1987; Boundary Bay, Delta  
2.(1) adult; January 15, 1998; Iona Island, Vancouver

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<sup>46</sup> RBCM Photo 1159

<sup>47</sup> RBCM Specimen 11610

<sup>48</sup> RBCM Photo 1000

### **Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis***

This small shorebird is one of the more frequent Asian species in western Alaska, where it occasionally breeds, and it is becoming much more regular (essentially annual) as a migrant both in British Columbia and elsewhere along the Pacific coast of North America. The vast majority of reports of this species in B.C. involve brightly-coloured adults during the early part of the fall migration (June-July). Juvenile individuals are reported frequently but are very difficult to discern from other juvenile peeps, particularly fresh-plumaged juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers, and thus only those records that are supported by detailed field notes (excluding Semipalmated Sandpiper) or photographic evidence by experienced observers are included in this list.

- 1.(1) adult; July 4, 1961; Sea Island, Richmond
- 2.(1) adult; June 24-25, 1978; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 3.(1) adult; July 13-15, 1978; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 4.(1) adult; August 25-26, 1978; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 5.(1) adult; July 3-4, 1986; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 6.(1) adult; August 14, 1987; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 7.(1) adult; June 26-July 5, 1988; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 8.(1) adult; July 18, 1989; Sidney Island, Gulf Islands
- 9.(1) juvenile; August 8-9, 1991; Sidney Island, Gulf Islands
- 10.(max 2) adults; June 23-28, 1992; Sandspit, QCI (**ph**)
- 11.(2) adults; July 13, 1992; Boundary Bay, Delta
- 12.(1) juvenile; September 14, 1994; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 13.(1) adult; May 20, 1997; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 14.(1) adult; June 19, 1997; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner
- 15.(1) adult; July 2, 1998; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 16.(1) juvenile; September 6, 1999; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 17.(1) juvenile; October 28-November 17, 1999; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 18.(1) juvenile; November 11-12, 2000; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 19.(1) adult; May 15, 2003; Boundary Bay, Delta
- 20.(1) adult; August 7, 2003; Boundary Bay, Delta
- 21.(1) juvenile; August 30 & September 3, 2003; Boundary Bay, Delta
- 22.(1) adult; May 7, 2005; Englishman River estuary, Parksville (**ph**)
- 23.(1) adult; July 2, 2005; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 24.(1) adult; July 14, 2005; Englishman River estuary, Parksville (**ph**)
- 25.(1) adult; July 16, 2005; Witty's Lagoon, Metchosin
- 26.(1) adult; August 11, 2006; Boundary Bay, Delta

### **Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

Like the Red-necked Stint, reports of this Asian species have increased dramatically along the coast of B.C. as observers become more familiar with the identification of this species and other similar species. Because the identification of juvenile individuals is less complex than for Red-necked Stint, this age class is reported more frequently in the province than for the previous species. However, as with that species, only well-documented reports of juveniles by experienced observers are included in this list.

- 1.(1) adult; July 21, 1983; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 2.(1) adult; July 10, 1988; Boundary Bay, Delta
- 3.(1) adult; July 17, 1988; Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood (**ph**)

- 4.(1) adult; June 2-4, 1992; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 5.(1) adult; September 4, 1995; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 6.(1) adult; July 12, 1998; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 7.(1) juvenile; October 5-8, 1999; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 8.(1) adult; July 27-28, 2003; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)
- 9.(1) juvenile; September 11, 2004; Boundary Bay, Delta
- 10.(1) juvenile; September 14-15, 2004; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 11.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-year); August 5, 2005; Boundary Bay, Delta (**ph**)
- 12.(1) juvenile; September 14-October 7, 2005; Boundary Bay, Delta (**ph**)
- 13.(1) adult; July 19-22, 2006; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 14.(1) adult; August 2, 2008; Port Renfrew (**ph**)
- 15.(1) juvenile; August 30-31, 2008; Port Renfrew

#### **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

This species is reported far more often in British Columbia than the few records presented here would suggest, with almost all reports being referable to Least Sandpipers. The single photographed individual from Ladner provides one of the very few documented occurrences of this Asian species outside of Alaska.

- 1.(1) adult; December 14, 1980; Blackie Spit, White Rock
- 2.(1) juvenile; September 1-4, 1982; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner (**ph**)<sup>49</sup>

#### **Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

Confusion with the very similar Least Sandpiper has lead to numerous unconvincing reports of this Asian species in B.C., none of which are included here. The single photographed individual from Vancouver, however, establishes this species as an accidental vagrant in the province.

- 1.(1) adult; July 1, 1997; Sandspit, QCI
- 2.(1) juvenile; August 9-11, 2002; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)

#### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Following a flurry of sightings of this Eurasian species in the 1980s and early 1990s, reports have become essentially nonexistent during the past 15 years, and none of the few reports has seemed seriously credible (and are thus not included here). However, occasional sightings farther south along the Pacific coast have continued throughout this period.

- 1.(1) adult male; July 31, 1936; east of Masset, QCI (**sp**)<sup>50</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; July 30-31, 1977; Iona Island, Vancouver (**ph**)<sup>51</sup>
- 3.(1) adult; July 11, 1981; Kye Bay, Comox
- 4.(1) adult; July 14-24, 1981; Witty's Lagoon, Metchosin (**ph**)<sup>52</sup>
- 5.(1) juvenile; August 31- September 1, 1981; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 6.(1) juvenile; September 17, 1983; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 7.(1) juvenile; September 4, 1984; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 8.(1) juvenile; September 20, 1987; Long Beach, PRNP
- 9.(1) juvenile; September 2, 1990; Chesterman's Beach, Tofino (**ph**)

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<sup>49</sup> RBCM Photo 879

<sup>50</sup> MVZ Specimen 101094

<sup>51</sup> RBCM Photo 491

<sup>52</sup> RBCM Photo 643

10.(1) juvenile; September 15-28, 1993; Iona Island, Vancouver (ph)

**Spoon-billed Sandpiper** *Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*

The single record of this endangered Asian sandpiper in B.C. is the only report confirmed by photographic evidence in North America outside of Alaska, and it is often considered one of the most remarkable bird sightings to have occurred in the province during the past century.

1.(1) adult; July 30-August 3, 1978; Iona Island, Vancouver (ph)<sup>53</sup>

**American Woodcock** *Scolopax minor*

This species was reliably reported once in British Columbia, although apparent releases of this species in the western United States around the same period have led to some speculation that the individual may not have reached B.C. under natural circumstances.

1.(1) adult; March 5, 1960; North Surrey

**Red-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa brevirostris*

This small Bering Sea gull has been reported on only three occasions in British Columbia, although the first record (which is curiously from the summer months) is often considered inconclusive and hypothetical. This species presumably winters at sea in remote areas of the North Pacific, and therefore could occur occasionally along the outer coast of the province at that time of year, particularly following strong, fast-moving westerly storms.

1.(1) immature; June 7, 1979; Clover Point, Victoria

2.(1) adult; December 6, 1992; Sandspit, QCI (ph)

3.(1) adult; January 2, 2003; Amphitrite Point, Ucluelet

**Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnean*

This is another beautiful gull of the high arctic that very rarely wanders south into southern Canada and the northern United States. The single record from Victoria is often considered inconclusive since the description provided does not include enough information to separate the individual from an albino individual of another gull species.

1.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-winter) male; September 1889; Dease Lake (sp)<sup>54</sup>

2.(1) adult female; October 1897; Penticton (sp)<sup>55</sup>

3.(1) adult; February 19, 1925; Victoria

4.(1) adult; January 12, 1982; south of Aiyansh, Nass Valley

5.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-winter); November 15-22, 1987; Atlin Lake (ph)<sup>56</sup>

6.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-winter); October 30-November 2, 1988; Atnarko River, near Stuie (ph)<sup>57</sup>

7.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); December 4, 2001; Delta (ph)

(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); December 15-23, 2001; Roberts Bank, Delta (ph) (same individual)

8.(1) adult; November 10-13, 2007; Matsqui Flats, Abbotsford (ph)

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<sup>53</sup> RBCM Photo 552

<sup>54</sup> RBCM Specimen 1462

<sup>55</sup> RBCM Specimen 1463

<sup>56</sup> RBCM Photo 1212

<sup>57</sup> RBCM Photo 1228

**Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus***

This species likely occurs annually along the coast of British Columbia, most commonly amongst flocks of migrating Bonaparte's Gulls and Mew Gulls. The origin of individuals that occur along the Pacific coast is currently unknown, since neither the Siberian nor the eastern Canadian populations seem to be obvious candidates. Siberian birds (*L.r.sibiricus*) are the most likely wanderers to B.C., however, based on the larger size of the population, its proximity to British Columbia, and the regular (although rare) occurrence of individuals in western Alaska.

- 1.(1) adult; October 27-November 13, 1974; Clover Point, Victoria (ph)
- 2.(1) adult; August 15-November 8, 1975; Clover Point, Victoria (ph)
- 3.(1) adult; October 19-November 8, 1975; Victoria
- 4.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-summer); July 28-August 6, 1976; Victoria
- 5.(1) adult; August 26, 1977; Tsawwassen
- 6.(1) adult; September 22, 1979; Victoria
- 7.(1) adult; October 17-21, 1980; Victoria
- 8.(1) adult; August 20-October 27, 1983; Victoria
- 9.(1) adult; September, 1983; Iona Island, Vancouver (ph)
- 10.(1) adult; August 17-September 30, 1984; Victoria
- 11.(1) adult; October 1, 1985; Victoria
- 12.(1) adult; November 3-December 17, 1988; Vancouver (ph)
- 13.(1) adult; October 17, 1990; Victoria
- 14.(1) adult; August 22-29, 1991; Sidney Island, Gulf Islands
- 15.(1) adult; August 21-September 22, 1997; Cape Lazo, Comox
- 16.(1) adult; October 14, 2000; near Powell River (ph)
- 17.(1) adult; December 28, 2000-January 28, 2001; Delta (ph)
  - (1) adult; February 10-24, 2001; Delta (same individual)
  - (1) adult; February 25, 2001; Tsawwassen (same individual)
  - (1) adult; March 2-4, 2001; Delta (same individual)
- 18.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-summer); July 14, 2001; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 19.(1) adult; October 25, 2004; Active Pass, Gulf Islands
- 20.(1) adult; December 1, 2007; Sooke River estuary, Sooke

**Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea***

This small, beautiful gull of the high arctic is one of the most sought-after species in North America. It occurs very rarely south of its arctic haunts, and when it does it is much more frequent in eastern North America than west of the Rocky Mountains.

- 1.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-winter); October 27 & November 9, 1966; Clover Point, Victoria (ph)<sup>58</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; October 20, 2003; Ladner
- 3.(1) adult; November 10-11, 2007; Tachick Lake, Vanderhoof

**Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla***

This coastal gull is the ubiquitous gull species of tropical areas of the Americas, and also ranges abundantly into temperate climates along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the United States. Its distribution on the Pacific coast is much less extensive, reaching uncommonly north only into southernmost California. The two summer records for British Columbia are therefore quite unexpected.

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<sup>58</sup> RBCM Photo 136

- 1.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-summer); July 28, 1998; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 2.(1) adult; August 12, 2004; off Bowen Island, West Vancouver

**Black-tailed Gull *Larus crassirostris***

Records of this distinctive gull of eastern Asia have increased dramatically across all of North America over the past 20 years. The two records for British Columbia, though not documented by photographic evidence, clearly fit this pattern of occurrence.

- 1.(1) adult; November 22, 1991; near Masset, QCI
- 2.(1) adult; January 5, 2002; Ucluelet

**Mew [Kamchatka] Gull *Larus canus kamtschatschensis***

The identification of individuals that have been identified as belonging to this large Siberian subspecies of Mew Gull is highly contentious due to the similarity of the two subspecies as well as an incomplete understanding of the identification of *kamtschatschensis* in North America. Nonetheless, several photographed birds show size, structural, and plumage characteristics that strongly suggest *kamtschatschensis*, and these individuals are included here. It is highly possible that this subspecies occurs more frequently (perhaps even annually) in British Columbia but has been overlooked due to its similarity to the North American subspecies of Mew Gull.

- 1.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); March 29, 2003; Vernon (ph)
- 2.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); October 14 & 28, 2007; Jordan River (ph)
  - (1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); January 1, 2008; Gordon's Beach, northwest of Sooke (pres. same individual)

**Herring [Vega] Gull *Larus argentatus vegae***

This eastern Asian subspecies of Herring Gull, which is afforded species status by many authors, occurs regularly in Alaska and is being reported with increasing frequency by observers elsewhere in North America. The identity of many individuals outside of Alaska, however, is often complicated by the unfamiliarity of many North American observers with this subspecies and its identification. Detailed descriptions of birds in British Columbia, coupled with some intriguing photographic evidence, suggest that this bird occurs rarely (perhaps even regularly) in the province. Increased attention to this subspecies by knowledgeable observers will likely result in a significant increase in observations.

- 1.(1) adult; December 28, 2000; Tofino landfill
- 2.(1) adult; January 5, 2002; Tofino landfill
- 3.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-winter); December 26, 2002-January 26, 2003; Delta (ph)
- 4.(2) adults; February 19, 2006; Clover Point, Victoria
- 5.(1) adult; March 24, 2006; French Creek, Parksville
- 6.(1) adult; March 18, 2007; Qualicum Beach (ph)
- 7.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-winter); March 18, 2007; Qualicum Beach (ph)
- 8.(1) adult; December 26, 2007; Port Renfrew (ph)
- 9.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-winter); January 19, 2008; Kelowna (ph)
- 10.(1) immature (3<sup>rd</sup>-winter); January 27 & February 10, 2008; Sooke River Estuary, Sooke (ph)
- 11.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-winter); February 16, 2008; Panama Flats, Saanich
- 12.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); March 8, 2008; Sooke River estuary (ph)

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

During the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, non-breeding individuals of this European species increased rapidly throughout eastern North America, particularly along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States and Canada. By the 1990s, reports had become rare but regular even in western North America, although it was not until the early 21<sup>st</sup> century that this species became annual in British Columbia. It is now observed regularly in small numbers across southern B.C., with the vast majority of records coming from the southern interior of the province (especially the northern Okanagan Valley). This trend is expected to continue, and it is highly likely that this species will soon cease to be considered rare or casual in the province.

- 1.(1) adult; October 26-November 10, 1989; Revelstoke (**ph**)<sup>59</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; September 26-October 17, 1993; Burton, Lower Arrow Lake (**ph**)
- 3.(1) immature (3<sup>rd</sup>-winter); January 25, 2001; Delta
- 4.(1) immature (1<sup>st</sup>-winter); February 20, 2001; Delta
- 5.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); February 24, 2001; Delta
- 6.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); February 9-March 8, 2002; Vernon Creek, Okanagan Landing (**ph**)
- 7.(1) adult; March 6, 2002; Delta
- 8.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); December 8, 2002- February 26, 2003; Vernon Creek, Okanagan Landing (**ph**)
- 9.(1) adult; December 8, 2002; Delta
- 10.(1) immature (3<sup>rd</sup>-winter); December 8-15, 2003; Vernon Creek, Okanagan Landing (**ph**)
- 11.(1) immature (3<sup>rd</sup>-winter); February 29, 2004; Kelowna
- 12.(1) adult; November 9-30, 2004; Vernon Creek, Okanagan Landing (**ph**)
- 13.(1) adult; December 10, 2004; Shannon Lake Regional Park, Westbank
- 14.(1) adult; November 25-December 2, 2005; Vernon Creek, Okanagan Landing (**ph**)  
(1) adult; January 14, 2006; Kin Beach, Vernon (same individual)  
(1) adult; February 8-March 4, 2006; Vernon Creek, Okanagan Landing (**ph**) (same individual)
- 15.(1) adult; February 2-3, 2006; Okanagan Lake, Penticton (**ph**)
- 16.(1) adult; November 18-26, 2006; Vernon Creek, Okanagan Landing (**ph**)
- 17.(1) adult; November 30, 2006-January 4, 2007; Penticton (**ph**)
- 18.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-winter); December 6-10, 2006; Penticton (**ph**)
- 19.(1) adult; November 1-8, 2007; Power Creek, Westbank
- 20.(1) adult; November 4-9, 2007; Kin Beach, Vernon (**ph**)  
(1) adult; November 22-December 2, 2007; Kin Beach, Vernon (**ph**) (same individual)
- 21.(1) adult; December 16, 2007; Kamloops airport
- 22.(1) adult; December 19-28, 2007; Okanagan Lake, Penticton (**ph**)

### **Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus***

Unlike the previous species, reports of this large European and eastern North American gull have always been exceedingly rare in most of western North America. Nonetheless, it could again occur at any site that attracts large numbers of gulls in British Columbia.

- 1.(1) adult; December 18-23, 1988; Kamloops landfill (**ph**)<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> RBCM Photo 1248

<sup>60</sup> RBCM Photo 1243



### **Aleutian Tern *Onychoprion aleuticus***

This tern of the north Pacific has occurred very rarely south of its Alaskan breeding grounds in North America. As expected, most of the B.C. records have come from the Queen Charlotte Islands which are situated closest to breeding areas in southern Alaska. Interestingly, all five B.C. records are from a relatively brief period in spring (May 11-June 6, peaking in late May).

- 1.(1) adult; May 30, 1983; Masset, QCI
- 2.(1) adult; May 10, 1985; Masset, QCI (sp)<sup>61</sup>
- 3.(1) adult; June 6, 1987; off Anthony Island, QCI
- 4.(1) adult; May 25, 1989; near Flamingo Inlet, QCI
- 5.(1) adult; May 20, 1996; ~100 miles off Ucluelet

### **Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans***

This large tern, which breeds primarily in northwestern Mexico, regularly occurs in coastal California and during El Niño years wanders more widely along the Pacific coast of North America. As a result of this close association with warm-water events, observations of Elegant Terns in B.C. are strongly clustered around relatively few years, particularly 1983 and 1992.

- 1.(7) adults; August 21-22, 1983; Boundary Bay, Delta (**ph**)  
(7) adults; August 23, 1983; Blackie Spit, White Rock (same individuals)  
(max 7) adults; August 23-24, 1983; Crescent Beach, White Rock (**ph**) (same individuals)
- 2.(7) adults; August 23, 1983; Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood (**ph**)
- 3.(2) adults; September 1, 1983; Active Pass, Gulf Islands
- 4.(1) adult; September 2, 1983; Clover Point, Victoria
- 5.(2) adults; September 4, 1983; Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood (**ph**)
- 6.(2) adults; September 25, 1983; Cadboro Bay, Victoria
- 7.(1) adult; July 18, 1992; Boundary Bay, Delta
- 8.(1-2) adults; July 18-25, 1992; Roberts Bank, Delta
- 9.(10) adults; July 19, 1992; Clover Point, Victoria
- 10.(25) adults; July 25, 1992; Tofino (**ph**)
- 11.(1) adult; July 25, 1992; Clover Point, Victoria
- 12.(5) adults; August 2, 1992; Deep Bay, north of Bowser
- 13.(1) adult; August 8, 1992; Clover Point, Victoria
- 14.(1) adult; August 8, 1992; Island View Beach, Saanich Peninsula
- 15.(max 6) adults; September 12-13, 1992; Clover Point, Victoria (**ph**)
- 16.(2) adult; September 19, 1992; Sidney Island, Gulf Islands
- 17.(1) adult; September 21, 1992; Active Pass, Gulf Islands
- 18.(1) adult; September 23, 1992; Tsawwassen
- 19.(1) adult; July 25, 1993; Clover Point, Victoria
- 20.(1) adult; September 5, 1997; Clover Point, Victoria (**ph**)
- 21.(1) adult; October 4, 1997; Jordan River
- 22.(1) adult; May 24, 2008; Jordan River
- 23.(1) adult; June 29-July 1, 2008; Island View Beach, Saanich Peninsula (**ph**)
- 24.(1) adult; July 20, 2008; Ten Mile Point, Victoria

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<sup>61</sup> RBCM Specimen 18367

**Least Tern *Sternula antillarum***

This tiny southern tern wanders very rarely into northwestern North America, where it has been recorded from both B.C. and Washington. It is uncertain whether the single individual observed in B.C. originated from the coastal California population or the inland population of the central United States.

1.(1) adult; June 6-7, 1998; Osoyoos Lake (ph)<sup>62</sup>

**Long-billed Murrelet *Brachyramphus perdix***

Formerly considered to be the Asian subspecies of the Marbled Murrelet, reports of this species throughout North America have increased dramatically since the two species were split and a better understanding of this bird developed. Reports of Long-billed Murrelets in North America often come from inland locations, unlike Marbled Murrelet, and a number of birds have been observed along the Atlantic coast of the continent. With increasing observer awareness of this bird, as well as better familiarity with its status and identification, it is expected that reports in B.C. and throughout North America will continue to increase.

1.(1) adult; June 25, 1994; Charlie Lake, Fort St. John

2.(1) adult; June 10-30, 2007; Gordon's Beach, northwest of Sooke (ph)

**Kittlitz's Murrelet *Brachyramphus brevirostris***

This northern alcid breeds close to B.C. in southeastern Alaska but has been observed very rarely south of that region. A long-staying bird in Victoria provides the best-documented occurrence in B.C., but increased coverage of the endless coves, channels, and inlets of remote areas of the north coast during the breeding season would possibly result in increased observations.

1.(1) adult; November 24, 1985-April 12, 1986; Ogden Point, Victoria (ph)

2.(1) adult; November 8-9, 1995; Queen Charlotte City and Sandspit, QCI

3.(2) adults; May 11, 1999; Laredo Sound, north of Prince Rupert

4.(2) adults; October 12, 2001; off Lawn Point, QCI

5.(1) adult; August 24, 2008; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew

**Whiskered Auklet *Aethia pygmaea***

The single observation of this species in B.C. was made during offshore seabird surveys and was not documented by photographic evidence. Nonetheless, the observation was made by an experienced observer and is considered valid. This tiny seabird is among the rarest and least likely of the Alaskan alcids to occur in B.C., although an additional record exists for the Pacific coast of the U.S. (Washington) indicates that it may wander south on occasion.

1.(1) adult; June 7, 2001; west of Tasu Sound, QCI [52°33.4' N, 136°47.4' W]

**Crested Auklet *Aethia cristatella***

Prior to a single long-staying individual near Victoria in 2003, this species was somewhat enigmatic in British Columbia. All previous records were historical and the actual origins of the single specimen record were considered somewhat dubious due to chronic mis-labelling of bird specimens from the early years of ornithological research in the province. Several additional

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<sup>62</sup> BC Photo 1635

records of this species from the Pacific coast of the U.S. (and even northwestern Mexico) indicate that it is a casual vagrant along the entire west coast of the continent south of Alaska.

- 1.(1) adult; winter 1892-93; off Kyuquot Sound, Vancouver Island (**sp**)<sup>63</sup>
- 2.(several) adults; May 1912; north end of Vancouver Island
- 3.(1) immature (2<sup>nd</sup>-year); September 5-October 3, 2003; Rocky Point, Metchosin (**ph**)

#### **Least Auklet** *Aethia pusilla*

The two sight records of this very tiny seabird were made at close range by experienced observers and are considered valid. The occurrence of this species at the same location and at the same time of year in subsequent years suggests that the two records may refer to a returning individual. Like several other Alaskan alcids, an additional record of this species from California supports its presence as an accidental vagrant along the west coast of North America south of Alaska.

- 1.(1) adult; September 2, 2007; Gordon's Beach, nw of Sooke
- 2.(1) adult; August 31-September 6, 2008; Gordon's Beach, nw of Sooke

#### **Oriental Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis*

Although initially suspected of potentially being an escaped bird, subsequent observations of this species elsewhere in northwestern North America outside of Alaska (California, Yukon) suggest a weak pattern of vagrancy in this region and support its natural occurrence.

- 1.(1) adult; August 15-25, 1992; Tofino (**ph**)<sup>64</sup>

#### **White-winged Dove** *Zenaida asiatica*

Observations of this southwestern species in B.C., particularly in coastal localities, have increased rapidly in the past 15 years and this species is now almost annual in the province. Individuals occur throughout the year, which may raise the possibility of some reports referring to escaped birds, but an increase in the number of reports of this species elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest, as well as its occasional occurrence in remote coastal locations (Brooks Peninsula, Carmanah Point), suggest many (perhaps all) birds occur here under natural circumstances.

- 1.(2) adults; July 1918; French Beach, nw of Sooke (**sp**)<sup>65</sup>
- 2.(1) immature; October 23 - November 5, 1994; Ucluelet (**ph**)
- 3.(1) immature ; November 17-26, 1997; Tofino (**ph**)
- 4.(1) adult; May 29, 1998; Naramata, north of Penticton
- 5.(1) adult; January 10-February 19, 2001; Victoria (**ph**)
- 6.(1) adult; July 12, 2004; Brooks Peninsula, Vancouver Island (**ph**)
- 7.(1) immature; October 7, 2004; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 8.(1) adult; June 7-13, 2005; near Stamp Falls Provincial Park, Port Alberni (**ph**)
- 9.(1) adult; August 8-22, 2005; Puntchesakut Lake, near Quesnel
- 10.(1) immature; August 17, 2005; Carmanah Point, PRNP (**ph**)
- 11.(1) adult; June 23-25, 2006; Castlegar (**ph**)

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<sup>63</sup> RBCM Specimen 11915

<sup>64</sup> BC Photo 1848

<sup>65</sup> RBCM Specimen 4744

**Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus***

This species regularly wanders into southern B.C. from its nearest breeding areas along the riparian corridors of the prairie provinces. Only two of the 25 records come from the south coast, where this species is an accidental spring and fall vagrant, with rest coming from a variety of locations in the southern interior and a single observation in the Peace River lowlands of northeastern B.C. This species likely occurs annually during the breeding season in the southeastern and south-central interior, and, based on the frequency of observations during the breeding season, may even breed on occasion.

- 1.(1) adult; June 22, 1926; Okanagan Landing
- 2.(1) adult; late May-early June, 1957; Vernon
- 3.(1) adult; June 8-July 6, 1958; Brisco
- 4.(1) adult; summer 1958; near Quesnel
- 5.(1) adult; May 1967; Trout Creek, Summerland
- 6.(1) adult; July 19, 1968; Trout Creek, Summerland
- 7.(1) adult; June 28, 1973; Invermere (ph)<sup>66</sup>
- 8.(1) adult female; July 23, 1971; Windermere (sp)<sup>67</sup>
- 9.(max 2) adults; June 17-July 5, 1980; south of Revelstoke
- 10.(1) adult; July 5, 1980; west of Creston
- 11.(2) adults; July 13, 1980; Wye Lake, Vernon
- 12.(1) adult; July 9-August 12, 1981; north of Osoyoos Lake
- 13.(1) adult; June 27, 1982; Kamloops
- 14.(1) adult; July 10-12, 1982; south of Revelstoke
- 15.(1) adult; August 18, 1984; Morrissey Park, Crowsnest Pass (sp)<sup>68</sup>
- 16.(1) adult; June 20, 1986; Brisco
- 17.(2) adults; early July, 1986; Red Lake, near Kamloops
- 18.(1) adult; August 12, 1986; north of Osoyoos Lake
- 19.(1) immature; August 30, 1986; Chesterman's Beach, Tofino
- 20.(1) adult; July 2-4, 1988; Revelstoke (ph)<sup>69</sup>
- 21.(1) adult; July 14, 1995; Vaseux Lake, south of Okanagan Falls
- 22.(1) adult; June 22, 1999; southwest of Fort St John
- 23.(1) adult; May 20, 2002; Pitt Meadows
- 24.(1) adult; June 20, 2006; Corn Creek Marsh, Creston (ph)
- 25.(1) adult; June 21-23, 2007; near Goose Lake, Vernon

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus***

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo appears to have been of regular occurrence and a likely breeder in southwestern B.C. up until the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but became extirpated by around 1930. Recently, however, this species has once again begun to appear in southern B.C., although none of the individuals observed is suspected of breeding. Nonetheless, given the rapidly increasing number of records (it is now nearly annual in southern B.C.) it may perhaps become a regular component of the province's avifauna again in the future. Only post-1930 records are included here.

- 1.(1) adult; July 5, 1989; Victoria (sp)<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> RBCM Photo 300

<sup>67</sup> RBCM Specimen 12097

<sup>68</sup> RBCM Specimen 18317

<sup>69</sup> RBCM Photo 1221

- 2.(1) adult; July 8, 1992; Kelowna
- 3.(1) adult; July 27, 1994; Kelowna (**sp**)
- 4.(1) immature; October 28, 1995; McClure, north of Kamloops (**sp**)
- 5.(1) immature; September 14, 1998; Kamloops (**ph**)
- 6.(1) immature; October 20-24, 1999; Duck Lake, Creston (**ph**)
- 7.(1) adult; August 18, 2001; Bella Coola
- 8.(1) immature; October 18- November 1, 2002; Waldie Island, Castlegar (**ph**)
- 9.(1) adult; May 6-10, 2004; Revelstoke
- 10.(1) adult; June 30-July 1, 2004; Jordan River
- 11.(1) adult; June 11, 2005; Garnet Valley, near Summerland
- 12.(1) adult; July 3, 2005; north of Osoyoos Lake
- 13.(1) immature; October 17-20, 2007; Cawston (**ph**)
- 14.(1) adult; August 2, 2008; Victoria
- 15.(1) adult; October 25, 2008; Royston, Vancouver Island (**ph**)

**Lesser Nighthawk** *Chordeiles acutipennis*

Although it had never been recorded in B.C. before, the two provincial records of this species occurred amazingly within the same month in 2006. Rather than simple coincidence, this strongly suggests that some event had pushed a number of Lesser Nighthawks into the Pacific Northwest at that time. The occurrence of one of these individuals from pelagic waters 50 miles off Vancouver Island is particularly remarkable.

- 1.(1) adult; June 5, 2006; 50 mi off Tofino (**ph**)
- 2.(1) adult; June 30, 2006; Iona Island, Vancouver (**sp**)

**Whip-poor-will** *Caprimulgus vociferus*

A single carcass of this species was recovered from the west coast of Vancouver Island. There is some sentiment that the specimen may pertain to the southwestern subspecies *C.v.arizonae* (which is sometimes considered a full species), rather than the eastern North American *C.v.vociferus*, but this has not been verified by the author.

- 1.(1) adult; November 21, 2001; Amphitrite Point, Ucluelet (**sp**)

**Chimney Swift** *Chaetura pelagica*

This eastern swift species has been observed twice on the south coast of B.C., although neither of the records has been verified by photographic or specimen evidence. However, both were well documented by experienced observers and are considered valid. This species is similar to Vaux's Swift, which is common throughout most of B.C., and is therefore very easy to overlook. Its regular occurrence in California (including occasional breeding) supports its occasional presence in western North America.

- 1.(1) adult; June 3, 2005; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 2.(1) adult; October 8, 2007; Sooke

**Xantus's Hummingbird** *Hylocharis xantusii*

Although the origins of this individual have been considered contentious in the past, it is now widely agreed that it occurred naturally in B.C. This species has a natural range restricted to

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<sup>70</sup> RBCM Specimen 21620

southern Baja California, where it is resident, but it has occasionally wandered north to California and even attempted to breed there on one occasion. This evidence suggests a weak pattern of northward vagrancy and likely explains the single remarkable B.C. record.

- 1.(1) immature to adult female; November 16, 1997-September 21, 1998; Gibsons (ph)

### **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** *Archilochus colubri*

Prior to the 1990s, this species was considered a poorly documented vagrant to B.C., with most reports from west of the Rocky Mountains (several of which are likely erroneous). Beginning in 1992, however, this species began to appear regularly in the Peace River region of northeastern B.C. It is now seen almost annually in that region and observations of multiple birds and apparent pairs have been documented on several occasions. It is suspected that this species breeds sporadically along the Peace River and nearby areas and may be increasing as its range expands into B.C. from known breeding areas in adjacent northern Alberta.

- 1.(1) adult male; June 11-21, 1951; near Vanderhoof
- 2.(1) adult male; May 4-late May, 1977; Stories Beach, south of Campbell River (ph)<sup>71</sup>
- 3.(1) adult male; April 28, 1979; North Vancouver
- 4.(1) adult male; July 21, 1981; Cypress Bowl Provincial Park, West Vancouver
- 5.(1) adult male; June 12, 1983; near Tupper, south of Dawson Creek
- 6.(1) adult male; April 1-2, 1992; Campbell Valley Regional Park, Langley
- 7.(max 2) adult male & female; June-July, 2000; near Valley View, north of Dawson Creek
- 8.(max 2) adult male & female; June-July, 2001; near Valley View, north of Dawson Creek
- 9.(1) female; August 16, 2002; near Dawson Creek
- 10.(1) adult male; June 5 - July 5, 2003; near Taylor, south of Fort St. John
- 11.(8) 4 males/2 females/2 imm; May 20-June 28, 2004; near Taylor, south of Fort St. John
- 12.(1) adult male; June 12-16, 2005; near Taylor, south of Fort St. John (ph)
- 13.(1) adult male; August 8-11, 2007; New Hazelton, Bulkley Valley (ph)
- 14.(1) adult female; August 26-29, 2008; Black Creek, Vancouver Island (ph)

### **Costa's Hummingbird** *Calypte costae*

This southwestern hummingbird has a regular pattern of vagrancy into northwestern North America, occasionally reaching as far as southern Alaska. As all 19 records pertain to adult males, it is suspected that adult females may be overlooked when they occur as they are very similar to other female hummingbirds.

- 1.(1) adult male; April 14-17, 1972; Cadboro Bay, Victoria
- 2.(1) adult male; December 27-30, 1973; West Vancouver
- 3.(1) adult male; July 3, 1984; Nanaimo (ph)<sup>72</sup>
- 4.(1) adult male; April 13-14, 1985; Gabriola Island
- 5.(1) adult male; May 17, 1986; Pitt Meadows (ph)<sup>73</sup>
- 6.(1) adult male; May 17-19, 1987; Lillooet (ph)<sup>74</sup>
- 7.(1) adult male; May 19- June 1, 1987; Burnaby (ph)<sup>75</sup>
- 8.(1) adult male; April 21, 1994; Triangle Island

<sup>71</sup> RBCM Photo 626; photo inconclusive

<sup>72</sup> RBCM Photo 940

<sup>73</sup> RBCM Photo 1132

<sup>74</sup> RBCM Photo 1171

<sup>75</sup> RBCM Photo 1172

- 9.(1) adult male; May 2- June 11, 1995; Coquitlam (ph)
- 10.(1) adult male; April 26, 1996; Vancouver
- 11.(1) adult male; April 25-May 17, 1997; Cadboro Bay, Victoria
- 12.(1) adult male; April 29, 1997; Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver
- 13.(1) adult male; April 5, 1999; Sooke
- 14.(1) adult male; May 15-23, 1999; Sardis, near Chilliwack
- 15.(1) adult male; April 7, 2000; Ryder Lake, near Chilliwack (ph)
- 16.(1) adult male; April 27-28, 2000; Brakendale, near Squamish (ph)
- 17.(1) adult male; April 21-25, 2005; south of Lillooet (ph)
- 18.(1) adult male; April 7-8, 2007; Jordan River (ph)
- 19.(1) adult male; April 27-May 6, 2008; Abbotsford (ph)

#### **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** *Selasphorus platycercus*

This species is widespread and common throughout mountainous regions of the western United States but is a very rare vagrant farther north into the southern interior of B.C. Unsubstantiated reports of this species in the province should be treated with caution due to its similarity to other hummingbird species, particularly Ruby-throated and Anna's Hummingbirds.

- 1.(1) adult male; July 8, 1995; near Cranbrook (ph)
- 2.(1) adult male; July 10-11, 1997; Similkameen River, east of Princeton
- 3.(1) adult male; May 18-19, 2008; Invermere

#### **Red-headed Woodpecker** *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

This eastern woodpecker has occasionally been reported from the southern and central interior of the province, most frequently in areas adjacent to the Alberta border. Although several records have been well documented and, in some cases, photographed, unsubstantiated reports of this species throughout B.C. (particularly in the central interior and along the coast) should be treated with caution due to the possibility of confusion with the superficially similar Red-breasted Sapsucker.

- 1.(2) adults; June 25, 1890; Pass Creek, near Mount Robson Provincial Park
- 2.(1) adult; July 11-13, 1965; east of Vernon (ph)<sup>76</sup>
- 3.(1) immature; September 18, 1978; south of Tatla Lake, west of Williams Lake
- 4.(1) adult; June 18, 1989; near Skookumchuk
- 5.(1) adult; June 22, 1998; near Fairmount Hot Springs (ph)
- 6.(1) adult; June 2, 2000; Prince George

#### **Acorn Woodpecker** *Melanerpes formicivorus*

This common resident species of Oregon and Washington breeds as far north as southern Washington but rarely wanders beyond this region. Even within Washington there are very few records away from the lower Columbia River valley where this species is resident in tiny numbers. Fortunately, both records of this extraordinary species in B.C. were well-documented and photographed, providing indisputable confirmation.

- 1.(1) adult; June 15-16, 1996; Maple Ridge (ph)<sup>77</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; June 16-23, 2003; near Oliver (ph)

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<sup>76</sup> RBCM Photo 207

<sup>77</sup> BC Photo 1607

**Acadian Flycatcher** *Empidonax virescens*

Although common throughout much of the eastern United States, this species is among the least often reported eastern passerines in western North America. Incredibly, although California has recorded virtually every other expected and unexpected species of eastern passerine within its borders, often in large numbers, there has never been a documented Acadian Flycatcher from within that state. Therefore, the single historic specimen from the southern interior of B.C. is particularly remarkable. Interestingly, the specimen was not recognized as an Acadian Flycatcher when it was collected, but rather the correct identification was made almost 20 years later by museum staff at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History where the specimen was held.

- 1.(1) adult male; June 9, 1934; Leonie Lake, near Barrière (sp)<sup>78</sup>

**Black Phoebe** *Sayornis nigricans*

This medium-sized flycatcher is widespread and common throughout much of the southwestern United States, regularly occurring northward to southern Oregon. It is casual and irregular farther north into Washington and southern British Columbia, where it is most often recorded from areas west of the Cascade Mountains. Curiously, although most of the records of this species in Washington are from the fall and winter, the majority of observations in B.C. have been made during the spring and early summer.

- 1.(1) adult; November 11, 1936; Vancouver (sp)<sup>79</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; May 28, 1978; University of British Columbia campus, Vancouver
- 3.(1) adult; April 26-27, 1980; Stanley Park, Vancouver (ph)
- 4.(1) adult; June 1, 1994; Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver
- 5.(1) immature; July 10-11, 1997; Iona Island, Vancouver (ph)
- 6.(1) adult; April 28, 2006; Trinity Western University campus, Langley (ph)
- 7.(1) adult; July 4, 2006; Nighthawk Road, west of Osoyoos

**Vermillion Flycatcher** *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

This southwestern flycatcher is known from B.C. only from two well-documented sight records from the Creston Valley in the southeastern interior. Despite its abundance in the southwestern United States, this flycatcher rarely wanders into the Pacific Northwest and, when it does, it is typically found in coastal localities (for example, all Washington records are from the coast).

- 1.(1) female; December 6, 1997; Creston Valley
- 2.(1) female; October 30, 2000; Duck Lake, Creston Valley

**Great Crested Flycatcher** *Myiarchus crinitus*

This large eastern flycatcher breeds as close to B.C. as northern Alberta, yet only a single vagrant has been discovered in this province. Additional anecdotal reports from elsewhere in B.C. (i.e., Prince George) have not been thoroughly documented.

- 1.(1) immature; September 29-30, 1994; Triangle Island

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<sup>78</sup> CMNH Specimen 115760

<sup>79</sup> BCPM Specimen 6914



**Thick-billed Kingbird** *Tyrannus crassirostris*

This Mexican flycatcher breeds in small numbers in southeastern Arizona and occasionally wanders in the fall to coastal California, but a single individual from Vancouver Island is an exceptional rarity. This bird spent 3+ weeks in a Qualicum Beach neighbourhood before striking a window and dying.

1.(1) immature male; October 20- November 12, 1974; Qualicum Beach (sp)<sup>80</sup>

**Gray Kingbird** *Tyrannus dominicensis*

Considered one of the most unexpected rarities to occur in B.C., the single historic specimen of this species from western Vancouver Island is almost unbelievable given that the species breeds no closer to the province than the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Gulf coast of the United States. This record is remarkable even given the well-known tendency of kingbirds and several other large flycatchers to undergo extreme vagrancy and will not likely be repeated any time in the foreseeable future.

1.(1) immature; September 29, 1889; Cape Beale, near Bamfield (sp)

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** *Tyrannus forficatus*

This incredible southern flycatcher regularly wanders north into the northern United States and southern Canada, and has been recorded from a wide variety of locations throughout B.C. Records of this species often come from unexpected locations away from typical vagrant hotspots and usually occur during the spring and summer months when other vagrant flycatchers do not typically wander.

1.(1) adult; May 24, 1964; Enderby

2.(1) immature; August 31, 1966; near Cottonwood House, east of Quesnel (ph)<sup>81</sup>

3.(1) adult; June 2, 1967; Booth Bay Canal, Saltspring Island

4.(1) immature; October 8-10, 1967; Victoria airport, North Saanich (ph)<sup>82</sup>

5.(1) immature; September 23, 1968; 5km east of Grand Forks

(1) immature; October 10, 1968; 3km east of Grand Forks (same individual)

6.(1) adult; May 20, 1972; northwest of Trail

7.(1) adult; May 14-17, 1973; near Revelstoke (ph)<sup>83</sup>

8.(1) adult; June 7, 1974; Port Neville

9.(1) adult; June 16-26, 1978; near Kamloops airport

10.(1) adult; July 11, 1978; junction of the Liard and Coal Rivers, west of Fort Nelson

11.(1) adult; June 1, 1984; Hope airport

12.(1) adult; May 22-23, 1985; Hope airport

13.(1) adult; May 27, 1986; near Duck Lake, Wynndel (ph)<sup>84</sup>

14.(1) adult; May 16-18, 1987; Long Beach, PRNP (ph)<sup>85</sup>

15.(1) adult; June 26, 1989; Mound Valley, north of Clinton

16.(1) immature; October 5, 1991; near Matsqui

17.(1) adult; July 18, 1992; Port Alberni

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<sup>80</sup> RBCM Specimen 14750

<sup>81</sup> BC Photo 508

<sup>82</sup> BC Photo 100

<sup>83</sup> BC Photo 289

<sup>84</sup> BC Photo 1085

<sup>85</sup> BC Photo 1155

- 18.(1) adult; June 10, 1993; Tumbler Ridge (ph)
- 19.(1) immature; June 16, 1993; Iona and Sea Islands, Vancouver
- 20.(1) adult; June 29, 1996; Serpentine Fen, Surrey
- 21.(1) adult; July 13, 1997; McBride
- 22.(1) adult; July 19, 1998; Giscome, east of Prince George
- 23.(1) adult; May 31, 2000; Port Coquitlum
- 24.(1) immature; August 24, 2003; Tofino
- 25.(1) immature; September 2, 2003; Ucluelet
- 26.(1) adult; May 9, 2004; near Creston
- 27.(1) adult; June 28, 2004; Florencia Bay, PRNP
- 28.(1) juvenile; October 7, 2006; Westside, near Kelowna
- 29.(1) adult; July 7, 2007; Vanderhoof (ph)
- 30.(1) adult; May 19-25, 2008; Botanical Beach, Port Renfrew
- 31.(1) adult; June 2, 2008; Nootka Island (probably same bird as above)

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana***

Although virtually unmistakable, reports of this Central and South American species in B.C. have been unconfirmed and not properly documented. The two sight records here are included based largely on the fact that the species is so incredibly distinctive and the information provided does seem to support the identification. Furthermore, the single well-described observation from Flores Island was made at a known vagrant hotspot and came closely on the heels of a confirmed individual that occurred in coastal Washington during September of that year. These facts appear to further support the validity of this report.

- 1.(1) adult; October 12-15, 1995; Flores Island, near Tofino
- 2.(1) adult; September 8, 2001; Penticton

**Black-capped Vireo *Vireo atricapillus***

This endangered species breeds almost exclusively in central Texas and winters in western Mexico, and has little tendency to wander during migration. As a result, the single British Columbia, which was captured in a mist net at an established bird monitoring station, was exceedingly unexpected. Amazingly, a previous individual was documented in Ontario in 1991.

- 1.(1) immature male; September 27, 2008; Vaseux Lake (ph)

**Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons***

Despite being a highly distinctive species, the single report of this eastern species from B.C. was not properly documented and should be considered hypothetical. An additional report of an individual that was heard but not seen comes from southern Vancouver Island, but this record has been omitted due to the lack of visual confirmation.

- 1.(1) adult; June 25, 2001; Vaseux Lake, south of Okanagan Falls

**Western Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma californica***

This jay is abundant in California and Oregon and is rapidly expanding northward through western Washington towards B.C. Given this rapid rate of this expansion, the close proximity of breeding populations in nearby Washington (Puget Sound), and the increasing frequency with which vagrants are being detected in the province (it is now almost annual), it is expected to become a more regular component of B.C.'s avifauna in the near future, likely as a breeder and

year-round resident in the lower Fraser Valley. The single record from the southeastern interior is very unusual and appears to refer to an individual of the interior west subspecies group (“*woodhousei*” group).

- 1.(1) adult; November 8, 1981; Langley (ph)<sup>86</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; July 28, 1993- December 1, 1995; Musqueam Park area, Vancouver (ph)
- 3.(1) adult; December 30, 2001-March 2, 2002; Port Coquitlam (ph)
- 4.(1) adult; October 5-12, 2002; Chehalis River estuary, near Agassiz (ph)
- 5.(1) adult; June 15, 2003; between 5 Mile and Ketutl Basins, East Kootenay
- 6.(1) adult; October 19, 2003-April 11, 2004; Ladner (ph)
- 7.(1) adult; June 23, 2004-April 19, 2005; Squamish (ph)
- 8.(1) adult; July 23, 2005; Abbotsford
- 9.(1) adult; December 17, 2005-January 29, 2006; Chilliwack (ph)
- 10.(1) adult; November 28-December 1, 2006; Surrey

### **Pinyon Jay** *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*

This jay of the Great Basin region is a somewhat erratic wanderer outside the breeding season but has only been recorded once wandering north into B.C. Future records may be expected elsewhere in the Kootenays.

- 1.(1) immature; February 11-April 5, 2005; Lister, near Creston (ph)

### **Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis pekinensis*

An established introduced population of the European subspecies (*A.a.arvensis*) of this Eurasian species is resident on extreme southern Vancouver Island, but wanderers from this small group have been reported very rarely. Photographed individuals from outside of the range of these introduced birds, particularly those from distant areas such as northern Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands, presumably refer to the eastern Asian subspecies *A.a.pekinensis*, which is a rare but regular migrant through western Alaska and has been recorded on several occasions along the Pacific coast of the United States. Photographic evidence of the four records presented here appears to confirm that they refer to this subspecies, which is somewhat more heavily and boldly streaked than its European counterpart, although the records from Surrey and Jordan River are in close proximity to the established introduced population and may pertain to wanderers from that population.

- 1.(1) adult; November 20-21, 1991; Sandspit, QCI (ph)
- 2.(1) adult; November 14-15, 1995; Port McNeil airport (ph)
- 3.(1) adult; October 28, 2004; Jordan River (ph)
- 4.(1) adult; January 10-13, 2005; mouth of Serpentine River, Surrey (ph)

### **Sedge Wren** *Cistothorus platensis*

This species breeds widely but locally throughout much of the northern Great Plains and northeastern North America but rarely wanders west during migration. Additional anecdotal reports of this species in northeastern portions of the province (Peace River lowlands) during the summer months have not been confirmed and are omitted from this document; however, breeding populations in northern Alberta occur in relatively close proximity to this region and it is conceivable that some individuals may wander into northeastern B.C. on occasion.

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<sup>86</sup> BC Photo 747

- 1.(1) adult; October 29, 2005; University of British Columbia campus, Vancouver (ph)
- 2.(1) adult; April 20, 2006; Cheam Wetlands, Chilliwack

### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** *Polioptila caerulea*

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has rarely but regularly been recorded on the south coast of B.C., primarily in the fall, with records increasing dramatically during the past decade. The species is now close to annual in the province at this time of year, often occurring in association with flocks of Bushtits, chickadees, and other small passerines. Most records are presumed to pertain to the western North American subspecies *P.c.amoenissima*, which breeds north as far as extreme southern Oregon and Idaho, but a few birds may be of the widespread eastern subspecies *P.c.caerulea*.

- 1.(1) adult; November 10-11, 1963; Uplands Park, Victoria (ph)<sup>87</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; December 30, 1979; Chesterman's Beach, near Tofino
- 3.(1) adult; November 19-December 1, 1981; Kitsilano Park, Vancouver (ph)
- 4.(1) adult; October 24, 1984; Vancouver
- 5.(1) adult male; June 12-13, 1994; Bowen Island
- 6.(1) adult male; August 5-18, 2002; Rocky Point, Metchosin (ph)
- 7.(1) adult male; June 29, 2005; Port Alberni
- 8.(1) adult male; December 14, 2005; Chilliwack
- 9.(1) adult female; September 4, 2006; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner
- 10.(1) adult; November 14-23, 2006; Nakusp (ph)
- 11.(1) adult female; September 25, 2007; Shirley, northwest of Sooke
- 12.(1) adult female; October 28, 2007; Esquimalt Lagoon, Victoria (ph)

### **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The Northern Wheatear has been recorded on very few occasions in British Columbia, despite a relatively large breeding population just northwest of the province in Alaska. All records have been made during the fall (August 29-November 1) and all have been of immature birds.

- 1.(1) immature; October 10-16, 1970; Victoria airport, North Saanich (ph)<sup>88</sup>
- 2.(1) immature; November 1, 1980; south of Sandspit, QCI
- 3.(1) immature; August 29, 1993; Haines Summit, northwest BC
- 4.(1) immature; October 7-20, 2005; French Creek, Parksville (ph)

### **Blue Rock-Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*

The single photographed individual of this Eurasian species in B.C. represents its only documented occurrence in North America. Due to the extreme rarity of the sighting, the species' lack of a pattern of vagrancy, and the fact that there are no previous records from Alaska or elsewhere in North America, the origins of this bird are currently a matter of controversy. It is currently placed in the "Origin Unknown" category of the American Birding Association's checklist of North American birds and is usually omitted from provincial and other checklists. In contrast, though, the habitat of the sighting, the distance of the location from any major human centres that could be a source of escapees, and the fact that the individual was of the migratory eastern Asian subspecies (which would be the expected vagrant subspecies) all

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<sup>87</sup> BC Photo 78

<sup>88</sup> BC Photos 106, 125

support its occurrence as potentially natural. The true provenance of the bird will never be known for certain, however, and both natural and unnatural origins seem to be equally unbelievable.

1.(1) adult male; June 6, 1997; Goldpan Provincial Park, north of Lytton (**ph**)

#### **Eye-browed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*

The single sight-record of this species from the Queen Charlotte Islands is considered hypothetical due to a lack of detailed information regarding the sighting and the similarity of some female Eye-browed Thrushes and female American Robins.

1.(1) adult; November 5, 1996; Mayer Lake, QCI

#### **Dusky Thrush** *Turdus naumanni*

This Asian thrush has wandered multiple times to Alaska, twice to the Yukon, and once to Washington, so its occurrence in British Columbia is not unexpected. Both reports of Dusky Thrush in B.C. have been of birds closely associated with large aggregations of American Robins. An additional published record from the Lower Mainland (Ladner; November 22, 1994) was subsequently suspected of being misidentified and is excluded from this list.

1.(1) adult; January 2-April 9, 1993; Langley (**ph**)

2.(1) immature; October 30, 1994; Tofino airport, PRNP

#### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

The single occurrence of this species on a 2003 Christmas Bird Count is considered extraordinarily unusual. This Eurasian thrush has been recorded on multiple occasions in northeastern North America but only a few times in Alaska and was not expected to occur in B.C.

1.(1) adult; December 28, 2003; Port Coquitlum (**ph**)

#### **Brown Thrasher** *Toxostoma rufum*

This large eastern passerine breeds commonly west to southern and central Alberta and is rarely, but regularly, recorded as a vagrant into British Columbia. Observations have been made in B.C. throughout the year, although summer and fall provide the bulk of the records. The sporadic occurrence of singing birds during the breeding season in eastern B.C. raises the possibility of future colonization of the area by populations in adjacent areas of Alberta.

1.(1) adult; June 9, 1968; Clearwater

2.(1) adult; September 21-22, 1970; Penticton (**ph**)<sup>89</sup>

3.(1) adult; February 23-April 29, 1972; Eagle Harbour, West Vancouver (**ph**)<sup>90</sup>

4.(1) immature; November 17-21, 1973; Sandhill Creek, PRNP

5.(1) adult; December 19, 1976; Terrace (**ph**)

6.(1) adult; May 30-June 2, 1979; Mitlenatch Island (**ph**)<sup>91</sup>

7.(1) adult; June 12, 1980; Monte Creek

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<sup>89</sup> BC Photo 109

<sup>90</sup> BC Photo 200

<sup>91</sup> BC Photo 525

- 8.(1) adult; May 18, 1983; Creston
- 9.(1) adult; December 18, 1983-March 6, 1984; Beaver Falls, east of Trail (ph)<sup>92</sup>
- 10.(1) adult; December 17, 1985-January 11, 1986; Silver Hills Ranch, Cherryville (ph)
- 11.(1) adult male; April 22, 1988; Langley
- 12.(1) adult; September 18, 1990; Delta
- 13.(1) adult; June 5, 1993; Wilmer National Wildlife Area
- 14.(1) adult male; June 20, 1994; south of Swan Lake, Tupper
- 15.(1) adult; June 9, 1997; Cottonwood Flats, Avola
- 16.(1) adult; November 28, 1997-March 4, 1998; Terrace
- 17.(1) adult; May 6, 1998; Tlell, QCI
- 18.(1) adult; May 24, 2000; Bear Mountain, Dawson Creek (ph)
- 19.(1) adult; July 21, 2004; south of Salmon Arm
- 20.(1) adult; June 3, 2005; Johnson's Landing, Kaslo (ph)
- 21.(1) adult; June 22, 2005; Pitt Meadows
- 22.(1) immature; September 8, 2005; McQueen's Slough, Dawson Creek
- 23.(1) adult; July 17-18, 2006; between Nanoose Bay and Parksville
- 24.(1) adult; September 13-14, 2006; Wickaninnish Bay, PRNP (ph)
- 25.(1) adult; mid-June, 2007; near Tumbler Ridge

#### **Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella***

The only member of its family to occur in North America, the Siberian Accentor is a rare but regular fall migrant through western Alaska and occasionally occurs elsewhere in northwestern North America, particularly during the winter.

- 1.(1) adult; December 15, 1993; Everett Crowley Park, Vancouver
- 2.(1) adult; March 5-April 10, 1994; Tappen, Shuswap Lake (ph)

#### **Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis***

Breeding in northeastern Asia and through much of Alaska, the Eastern Yellow Wagtail is occasionally recorded south along the Pacific coast of North America during migration, especially in the fall. Although none of the 8 records from coastal B.C. have been substantiated by photographic evidence or a specimen, most were made by experienced observers and are well-documented.

- 1.(1) immature; October 6, 1985; Burnaby Lake, Burnaby
- 2.(1) immature; September 1, 1991; Sandspit, QCI
- 3.(1) immature; September 4-8, 1995; Martindale Flats, Central Saanich
- 4.(1) immature; October 5-7, 1995; Central Saanich
- 5.(1) immature; October 18, 1996; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 6.(1) adult; May 1, 1998; Martindale Flats, Central Saanich
- 7.(1) adult; August 9, 2003; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 8.(1) adult; April 30, 2004; Tofino airport, PRNP

#### **Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Prior to a remarkable photographed individual from western Vancouver Island in 2004, the only other records of this Eurasian species from North America outside of Alaska (where it is the

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<sup>92</sup> BC Photo 907

least frequent of the regularly occurring wagtail species) were of a well-documented sight record from the lower Fraser Valley and a photographed individual in California.

- 1.(1) adult male; November 8, 1991; Abbotsford
- 2.(1) adult female; October 26, 2004; Carmanah Point, PRNP (ph)

### **White Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

This widespread and highly distinctive Eurasian species contains two forms in North America that were once considered separate species by the AOU: “White” Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*, including *M.a.ocularis*) and “Black-backed” Wagtail (*Motacilla lugens*). These two forms were combined by the AOU in 2005, but prior to this merger many reports of “White-type” wagtails in B.C. had been identified as either one of these former species. These records are noted below. Other records, however, do not provide enough information to identify which subspecies is involved due to the extreme difficulties involved in separating the immatures of these two forms. As a result, there is no subspecific designation provided for these records.

- 1.(1) adult; March 2-21, 1973; mouth of Coquitlam River (ph)
- 2.(1) adult male; May 24, 1977; PRNP, south of Tofino (*M.a.ocularis*)
- 3.(1) adult; May 19, 1980; Whiffin Spit, Sooke
- 4.(1) adult male; April 18, 1982; Ambleside Park, North Vancouver (*M.a.lugens*)
- 5.(1) juvenile; September 8, 1985; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 6.(1) adult male; May 13, 1988; Iona Island, Vancouver (*M.a.ocularis*)
- 7.(1) juvenile; September 11, 1988; Jordan River
- 8.(1) adult male; April 30-May 7, 1996; Triangle Island (*M.a.lugens*)
- 9.(1) adult male; April 21, 2003; Brunswick Point, Ladner (*M.a.lugens*)  
(1) adult male; April 25, 2003; Iona Island, Vancouver (*M.a.lugens*) (pres. same individual)

### **Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus***

This Eurasian pipit species breeds sporadically in western Alaska and occurs annually in tiny numbers along the Pacific coast of North America (and, recently, has occurred as far south as northwestern South America). It is most commonly encountered in fall along the California coast. Although it has not been detected every year in B.C., its annual presence further south along the coast suggests that it does pass through the province during most or all years but is often overlooked. Individuals in B.C. occur both singly or in association with flocks of American Pipits. Although most records are for the mid- to late fall, two spring records likely pertain to individuals that successfully wintered in the Americas.

- 1.(1) unknown; October 2, 1985; Swan Lake, Victoria
- 2.(1) adult; October 5, 1985; Burnaby Lake, Burnaby
- 3.(1) immature; October 21, 1990; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 4.(1) immature; December 22-28, 1990; Boundary Bay airport, Delta (ph)
- 5.(max 4) adults and immatures; September 4-November 21, 1991; Sandspit, QCI (ph)
- 6.(1) adult; September 19-21, 1992; Central Saanich
- 7.(1) immature; November 4, 1995; Tofino (sp)
- 8.(1) immature; September 20, 1996; Central Saanich
- 9.(1) adult male; September 22, 1996; Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood (ph)
- 10.(1) immature; October 22, 1996; Pitt Meadows
- 11.(1) immature; November 4-5, 1996; Sandspit, QCI
- 12.(1) adult; June 12, 1997; Iona Island, Vancouver

- 13.(max 2) adult and immature; October 11-12, 1997; Cheslatta River, Ootsa Lake
- 14.(1) immature; October 23-24, 1999; Central Saanich
- 15.(1) adult female; October 31, 1999; Sandspit, QCI
- 16.(1) immature; October 17-18, 2001; Central Saanich
- 17.(1) adult; September 13, 2003; Boundary Bay, Delta
- 18.(1) immature; September 21, 2003; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 19.(1) unknown; September 28, 2003; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 20.(1) adult; April 3, 2004; Englishman River estuary, Parksville
- 21.(1) unknown; October 2, 2004; Sechelt airport
- 22.(1) immature; November 6, 2007; Goodridge Peninsula, Sooke
- 23.(1) unknown; September 1, 2008; Sooke
- 24.(1) adult; October 21, 2008; Victoria (ph)

**American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens japonicus*

This eastern Asian subspecies of American Pipit regularly occurs as a migrant in small numbers in western Alaska. It has been reported on a number of occasions along the Pacific coast of North America south of Alaska, but due to identification difficulties with this subspecies and limited photographic evidence most reports are considered hypothetical. A bird matching the description of this subspecies has been photographed on at least one occasion in B.C., however, and given its regularity in Alaska it is likely that it is often overlooked as a vagrant in the Pacific Northwest. Additional records are expected as observers become more familiar with this subspecies.

- 1.(1) adult; October 21, 2008; Victoria (ph)

**Sprague's Pipit** *Anthus spragueii*

Other than a single confirmed breeding pair and several additional suspected nesting attempts in the Chilcotin region of central B.C., this prairie pipit has been recorded extremely rarely in B.C. Although records from the Becher's Prairie area of the Chilcotin region have been made during only two years (1991-1992), the vast prairies and ranchlands of this region may harbour a regular small breeding population that has otherwise been overlooked.

- 1.(1) immature; August 25, 1979; Saskum Lake, east of Little Fort
- 2.(2) male and female + nest; May 17-July 21, 1991; Becher's Prairie, 45 km southwest of Williams Lake (ph)
- 3.(2) male and female; May 12- June 26, 1992; Becher's Prairie, 45 km southwest of Williams Lake (ph)
- 4.(1) adult male; June 30-July 8, 1992; Becher's Prairie, 45 km southwest of Williams Lake (ph) (different individual)
- 5.(1) adult male; June 26-July 1, 2001; Fort Nelson airport

**Phainopepla** *Phainopepla nitens*

This southwestern species, although highly distinctive in all plumages, has not been thoroughly documented in B.C. and most reports have been shown to pertain to other species such as Steller's Jays. The three reports presented here are considered to be the most plausible, but the species should be considered hypothetical in the province pending a more detailed review of existing records.

- 1.(1) adult; July 28, 1991; Central Saanich



- 2.(1) adult male; May 24, 2003; Vancouver
- 3.(1) immature; September 22, 2003; Vancouver

**Blue-winged Warbler** *Vermivora pinus*

The single sight record presented here was well-observed and well-documented but photographs were not obtained. This species has also been recorded as a vagrant elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest, including nearby areas of Washington, so its eventual occurrence in B.C. was long predicted.

- 1.(1) immature; September 20, 2008; Shirley, nr Sooke

**Virginia's Warbler** *Vermivora virginiae*

The single sight record presented here, although possibly valid, is considered hypothetical due to potential confusion with Nashville Warbler.

- 1.(1) adult male; May 5, 1978; Campbell Valley Park, Langley

**Northern Parula** *Parula americana*

This eastern warbler was first recorded in B.C. in 1994, but has become annual on the south coast during the past 6 years during spring and fall migration. This increase closely parallels similar increases in reports elsewhere in western North America, particularly in California where the species has recently become a rare and irregular breeder.

- 1.(1) adult male; June 24, 1994; Quilchena Golf Course, Richmond (ph)
- 2.(1) adult male; November 9-14, 1996; Port Alberni (ph)
- 3.(1) adult male; June 17, 1997; University of British Columbia campus, Vancouver
- 4.(1) adult female; August 23, 2002; Rocky Point, Metchosin (ph)
- 5.(1) adult male; May 17, 2003; Qualicum Beach
- 6.(1) adult male; May 24, 2004; Pitt Meadows
- 7.(1) adult male; June 17, 2005; Tsawassen
- 8.(1) adult male; June 13, 2006; Royal Roads, Colwood
- 9.(1) adult female; August 16-17, 2006; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 10.(1) adult male; October 2-4, 2006; Swan Lake, Victoria (ph)  
(1) adult male; October 7, 2006; Glanford area, Saanich (pres. same individual)
- 11.(1) adult male; July 26, 2008; Shirley, northwest of Sooke

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** *Dendroica caerulescens*

Unlike most vagrant eastern passerines in B.C., the Black-throated Blue Warbler regularly occurs in late fall or winter, often in association with suet-feeding stations, and often remains for weeks or months at a single location. The single reported breeding attempt, although involving close looks at both distinctive sexes, is unconfirmed and should be considered hypothetical due to its exceptional nature.

- 1.(1) immature male; September 22, 1984; Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (ph)
- 2.(1) adult male; October 1, 1985; Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (ph)
- 3.(1) adult male; November 25-27, 1987; Maple Bay, Duncan (ph)
- 4.(1) adult male; October 2, 1988; near Mission Creek, Kelowna
- 5.(1) immature male; December 12, 1993-January 17, 1994; Nakusp (sp)
- 6.(1) adult male; April 20, 1994; Vancouver

- 7.(1) adult male; August 14, 1995; Gagnon Creek, near Mackenzie
- 8.(1) adult male; October 10, 1998; Kelowna
- 9.(1) adult male; October 11, 1998; Okanagan River, near Osoyoos
- 10.(1) adult male; November 20, 2000-April 21, 2001; Balfour (ph)
- 11.(1) adult male; June 28, 2002; Victoria
- 12.(1) adult male; December 11, 2002; Kimberley (ph)
- 13.(3) adult male and female + young; June 30, 2006; Saltspring Island
- 14.(1) adult male; October 2, 2006; Sooke (ph)
- 15.(1) adult male; December 15, 2007-February 17, 2008; Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island
- 16.(1) adult male; September 29, 2008; East Sooke Park, Vancouver Island

### **Hermit Warbler** *Dendroica occidentalis*

This Pacific coast species breeds regularly north to northwestern Washington but has not been confirmed breeding in southwestern British Columbia. All provincial records involve spring migrants/overshoots between mid-April and mid-June, often in association with mixed flocks of migrant warblers and other passerines. The occurrence of an apparently mated pair on southern Vancouver Island (Sooke) in 2007 raises the possibility of occasional breeding in the province, most likely in remote areas of southern or western Vancouver Island. The Hermit Warbler regularly hybridizes with the closely-related Townsend's Warbler in the Pacific Northwest, resulting in numerous hybrid individuals. Many reports in B.C. are known or suspected to pertain to such hybrid individuals and any subsequent observations should be closely scrutinized for any signs of intermediate characteristics.

- 1.(1) adult male; May 15, 1946; Lost Lake, Saanich
- 2.(1) adult male; June 12, 1971; Thetis Lake Park, Victoria
- 3.(1) adult male; May 8, 1982; Vancouver
- 4.(1) adult male; May 2, 1990; west of Nanaimo
- 5.(1) adult female; May 8, 1991; Klanawa River, south of Bamfield
- 6.(1) adult male; April 18-29, 1992; Mount Douglas, Victoria
- 7.(1) adult male; April 25, 1992; Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver (ph)
- 8.(1) adult male; April 29, 1994; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner
- 9.(1) adult male; May 18-June 20; Toad Lake, near Pt. Alberni
- 10.(1) adult female; May 30, 1994; Toad Lake, near Pt. Alberni
- 11.(1) adult female; May 6, 1999; Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver
- 12.(1) adult male; May 6, 1999; Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver
- 13.(1) adult male; May 11, 2001; Burnaby Mountain, Burnaby
- 14.(1) adult male; May 18, 2001; Derby Reach Regional Park, Langley
- 16.(1) adult male; May 14, 2003; Burnaby Mountain, Burnaby
- 17.(1) adult male; May 21, 2006; Mount Tolmie, Victoria
- 18.(1) adult male; April 21, 2007; Jordan River
- 19.(1) adult male; May 1, 2007; Observatory Hill, Victoria
- 20.(2) adult male and female; May 12, 2007; Sooke Mountain Park, Sooke  
(1) adult male; May 13, 2007; Sooke Mountain Park, Sooke (same individual)
- 21.(1) adult female; May 16, 2008; Lighthouse Park, West Vancouver

### **Blackburnian Warbler** *Dendroica fusca*

This exquisite eastern boreal warbler is a rare vagrant throughout B.C., occurring most regularly in summer in northern B.C. and during fall migration in southern B.C. In addition to the 11 records presented here, anecdotal reports of multiple singing males from remote regions of

northeastern B.C. strongly suggests a small, localized breeding population in this region of the province; these reports lack details, however, and are excluded from this list until more information can be provided. The species is a regular and sometimes common breeder in portions of northern Alberta, however, and the possibility of this breeding range extending into remote areas of northeastern B.C. from adjacent populations across the border is not unexpected.

- 1.(1) adult male; July 9, 1930; Thorson's Landing, south of Ft. St. John
- 2.(1) adult male; August 25, 1960; North Surrey
- 3.(1) adult male; May 12-14, 1974; Vancouver
- 4.(1) adult male; July 11, 1978; near Toad River, west of Fort Nelson
- 5.(1) adult male; July 4, 1990; Fort Nelson airport
- 6.(1) adult male; June 5, 1995; near Steamboat, west of Fort Nelson
- 7.(1) immature; August 29, 1995; Vernon
- 8.(1) female; third week of June, 1998; Thuya Lakes, north of Kamloops (sp)
- 9.(1) immature male; September 22, 2004; Amphitrite Point, Ucluelet
- 10.(1) immature female; September 8, 2005; Courtenay
- 11.(1) adult male; September 13-16, 2006; Jordan River
- 12.(1) adult male; September 2, 2008; Beatton Provincial Park, nr Fort St. John

#### **Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica***

The single winter record of this southeastern North American warbler is remarkable, particularly given that the species' typically winters in coastal palm groves and tropical woodlands. The individual observed in B.C. was of the race *D.d.albilora*, which is the white-colored race that inhabits northern and western portions of the species' breeding range in the eastern United States.

- 1.(1) immature male; January 3-25, 1998; Gabriola Island (ph)<sup>93</sup> (*D. d. albilora*)

#### **Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus***

This common eastern North American warbler is only a short-distance migrant, wintering throughout the southeastern United States, and is thus less prone to long-distance vagrancy than some of the neotropical migrants. Nonetheless, it has been well-documented on two occasions in fall migration from southern B.C., even lingering into early winter in one instance.

- 1.(1) immature; September 26-29, 1999; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 2.(1) adult male; November 29-December 2, 2005; Lillooet (ph)

#### **Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor***

This eastern warbler is only a casual vagrant to British Columbia but has been recorded during all seasons. Three of the four records are from coastal areas of Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands, all of which are known to be hotspots for vagrant landbirds.

- 1.(1) adult male; June 17, 1977; Mount Kobau, west of Osoyoos
- 2.(1) adult male; December 18, 1993-January 25, 1994; Masset, QCI
- 3.(1) adult male; May 29, 1995; Chesterman's Beach, near Tofino
- 4.(1) immature male; September 8, 1995; Triangle Island (ph)

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<sup>93</sup> BC Photo 1613

**Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea***

This southeaster warbler was first recorded in B.C. as recently as 2001, yet there have been four additional records since this time. This pattern of increasing observations of southeastern warblers in B.C. is similar to several other species, most notably Northern Parula and Hooded Warbler.

- 1.(1) adult male; November 16, 2001; Victoria (sp)
- 2.(1) adult male; October 5-7, 2002; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner (ph)
- 3.(1) adult male; October 9-10, 2002; Chesterman's Beach, near Tofino (ph)
- 4.(1) adult male; July 14, 2005; Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area
- 5.(1) adult male; June 10, 2007; Mirror Lake, Kaslo (ph)
- 6.(1) adult male; August 27-28, 2008; Vaseux Lake (ph)

**Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosa***

This southeastern warbler is recorded annually farther south along the Pacific coast of the United States (primarily in California) but has been recorded only once in British Columbia. The single sight record was well-documented and made by a reliable observer and is subsequently considered valid.

- 1.(1) immature male; September 19, 2004; Pipers Lagoon, Nanaimo

**Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrine***

Like several other southeastern warblers (Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler), records of this species have increased noticeably over the past decade. An adult male that was seen over several weeks in northeastern B.C. (near Hudson's Hope) was seen to associate closely with a female Wilson's Warbler throughout this period and these birds may have been an interspecific mated pair.

- 1.(1) immature female; August 20, 1978; Pitt Meadows (ph)
- 2.(1) adult female; December 14-16, 1989; Tofino (ph)
- 3.(1) adult male; June 4, 1997; University of British Columbia campus, Vancouver
- 4.(1) adult female; December 12-17, 1997; near Sechelt airport (ph)
- 5.(1) adult male; December 28-31, 2002; Duncan (ph)
- 6.(1) adult male; June 29-July 10, 2007; Table Creek FSR, near Hudson's Hope (ph)
- 7.(1) immature female; September 17, 2007; Jordan River
- 8.(1) adult male; November 4-8, 2007; Campbell River

**Painted Redstart *Myioborus pictus***

The single provincial record of this attractive warbler, which normally resides in Mexico and in a few mountain ranges in the southwestern United States, is remarkable given both the distance from its normal range and the time of year (late fall) in which the observation occurred.

- 1.(1) adult; November 4-5, 1973; Ambleside Park, West Vancouver

**Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea***

Following a single specimen from Vancouver Island in 1926, this eastern species was not recorded again in B.C. for 73 years. Following this second observation, however, the species has been observed four additional times over the subsequent 9 years, including both well-documented sight records and a single photographed individual.

- 1.(1) immature male; November 17, 1926; Comox (**sp**)<sup>94</sup> (RBCM 13912) Comox
- 2.(1) immature male; December 1, 1999; University of British Columbia campus, Vancouver
- 3.(1) adult male; July 30-August 1, 2005; Bowen Island
- 4.(1) adult male; September 13, 2006; Chilliwack (**ph**)
- 5.(1) adult male; August 8, 2007; Cheam Lake, Chilliwack
- 6.(1) adult male; September 20, 2007; Jordan River

**Green-tailed Towhee** *Pipilo chlorurus*

Although it breeds no closer to B.C. than extreme southeast Washington (where it is rare), this towhee of the mountains of the western United States has wandered north into southern B.C. on multiple occasions since the first occurrence in 1974. Records have been clustered around the southwestern and southeastern portions of the province, but it is expected that the species could occur as a vagrant elsewhere in the southern interior as well.

- 1.(1) adult; December 9-13, 1974; Fauquier
- 2.(1) adult; November 10, 1984-February 28, 1985; Comox (**ph**)<sup>95</sup>
- 3.(1) adult; May 21-22, 1993; Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver
- 4.(1) adult; May 26, 1996; Wilson Creek, Sunshine Coast
- 5.(1) adult; June 3-6, 1997; Glen Valley, Abbotsford (**ph**)<sup>96</sup>
- 6.(1) adult; July 7, 2002; Lillooet
- 7.(1) adult; September 9-13, 2002; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner (**ph**)
- 8.(1) adult; July 3, 2003; Golden
- 9.(1) adult; July 8, 2008; Lardeau

**Eastern Towhee** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

This species is reported on a somewhat regular basis in B.C., particularly from the south coast, but these reports are invariably proven to refer to misidentified dark Spotted Towhees. The single report presented here, however, was well-documented (sight and sound) and made by an experienced observer who was familiar with the species. This record is tentatively considered valid.

- 1.(1) adult male; March 7, 2007; Englishman River estuary, Parksville

**Black-throated Sparrow** *Amphispiza bilineata*

This sparrow of the western United States and Mexico has been recorded regularly across southern B.C. throughout the past three decades, with all records occurring in the spring or early summer (April 27-July 22). Most records are from the south coast (including southern Vancouver Island) and the south-central interior. The recent (2008) occurrence of 1-2 singing, territorial males near Osoyoos suggests that this species may be expanding its breeding range north from central Washington into the Okanagan Valley, but additional evidence will be needed before this hypothesis can be proven.

- 1.(1) adult; June 8, 1959; Murtle Lake, Wells Gray Provincial Park (**sp**)<sup>97</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; June 15, 1977; Ritcher Pass, west of Osoyoos

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<sup>94</sup> RBCM Specimen 13912

<sup>95</sup> BC Photo 996

<sup>96</sup> BC Photo 1782

<sup>97</sup> NMC Specimen 44454

- 3.(1) adult; June 18, 1979; Osoyoos
- 4.(1) adult; June 27, 1981; Spotted Lake, west of Osoyoos
- 5.(1) adult; May 20, 1984; Pitt Meadows
- 6.(1) adult; May 28, 1984; White Rock
- 7.(1) adult; June 10, 1984; Surrey (**ph**)
- 8.(1) adult; June 12, 1984; Kimberley
- 9.(1) adult; June 13, 1984; Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Ladner
- 10.(1) adult; June 23, 1984; Burton
- 11.(1) adult; May 19, 1985; Pitt Meadows
- 12.(1) adult; June 2, 1985; Lighthouse Park, West Vancouver (**ph**)<sup>98</sup>
- 13.(1) adult; June 13, 1985; Pitt Meadows
- 14.(1) adult; June 18-19, 1992; Somenos Lake, Duncan (**ph**)<sup>99</sup>
- 15.(1) adult; May 27-31, 1994; Maple Ridge (**ph**)
- 16.(1) adult; June 16, 1994; Mount Tolmie, Victoria
- 17.(1) adult; July 3, 1994; near Vernon
- 18.(1) adult; May 17-21, 1996; Sechelt
- 19.(1) adult; May 28, 1996; South Surrey (**ph**)
- 20.(1) adult; June 1, 1997; University of British Columbia campus, Vancouver
- 21.(1) adult; July 5, 1997; near Chopaka, west of Osoyoos
- 22.(1) adult; May 1-9, 2003; Invermere
- 23.(1) adult; May, 9, 2003; Triangle Island
- 24.(1) adult; May 21, 2004; Kelowna
- 25.(1) adult; June 15, 2004; West Vancouver (**ph**)
- 26.(1) adult; April 27-30, 2006; Sechelt (**ph**)
- 27.(1) adult; June 10-13, 2006; Colony Farm Regional Park, Coquitlum
- 28.(1) adult; May 18-26, 2007; Pitt Meadows (**ph**)
- 29.(1) adult; May 24, 2007; near Chopaka, west of Osoyoos
- 30.(1) adult; June 8, 2007; Abbotsford
- 31.(1) adult; June 15, 2007; near Osoyoos
- 32.(1-2) adult male(s); July 17-22, 2008; near Osoyoos

### **Sage Sparrow *Amphispiza belli***

This sparrow of the western deserts of the U.S. occurs sporadically northward into southern B.C. from its nearest breeding range in central Washington. The bulk of provincial records are from a relatively narrow window in early spring (late February to mid-April), presumably referring to spring overshoots of this early spring migrant.

- 1.(1) adult; June 11, 1922; near Keremeos
- 2.(1) immature; October 2, 1930; Lulu Island, Richmond (**sp**)<sup>100</sup>
- 3.(1) adult male; May 3, 1970; Ritcher Pass, west of Osoyoos
- 4.(1) adult; March 20-22, 1974; Comox
- 5.(1) adult; June 11, 1980; White Lake, near Okanagan Falls
- 6.(1) adult; September 24, 1981; White Lake, near Okanagan Falls
- 7.(1) adult; April 27, 1982; Katzie Marsh, Pitt Meadows
- 8.(1) adult; March 2, 1996; Vernon

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<sup>98</sup> BC Photo 1112

<sup>99</sup> BC Photo 1779

<sup>100</sup> BCPM Specimen 6913

- 9.(1) adult; February 16-19, 1998; Victoria (**ph**)<sup>101</sup>
- 10.(1) adult; April 5-6, 2000; Iona Island, Vancouver
- 11.(1) adult; March 13, 2005; Chatterton Hill, Victoria
- 12.(1) adult; March 14, 2007; Iona Island, Vancouver

### **Lark Bunting** *Calamospiza melanocorys*

This prairie species wanders widely as a vagrant and has been recorded on a number of occasions in British Columbia. Most records have come from southern portions of the province, primarily in spring and early summer (May-July).

- 1.(1) adult male; August 1, 1906; Chilliwack River (**sp**)<sup>102</sup>
- 2.(1) adult male; June 8, 1914; Okanagan Lake (**sp**)<sup>103</sup>
- 3.(1) adult male; May 28, 1939; Wistaria (**sp**)
- 4.(1) adult male; May 26, 1953; near Dolly Varden Creek, Kootenay River Flats
- 5.(1) adult male; August 30, 1969; Pitt Meadows
- 6.(1) immature; October 5, 1975; Ambleside Park, West Vancouver (**ph**)
- 7.(1) adult male; July 11, 1978; Vaseux Lake, south of Okanagan Falls
- 8.(1) near-adult male; June 7-8, 1980; Oak Bay, Victoria (**ph**)<sup>104</sup>
- 9.(1) adult male; June 12, 1982; north of Osoyoos Lake
- 10.(1) immature; November 4, 1983; Harbor View Park, North Vancouver
- 11.(1) adult male; May 25, 1986; near Duck Lake, Creston
- 12.(1) juvenile; September 28-30, 1986; Jericho Park, Vancouver (**ph**)<sup>105</sup>
- 13.(1) adult male; May 28, 1988; Fort St. John sewage ponds
- 14.(1) adult male; June 10, 1990; 150 Mile House
- 15.(1) adult male; June 27, 1992; Grantham's Landing, near Gibsons
- 16.(1) adult male; June 24, 1993; Kilpoola Lake, west of Osoyoos
- 17.(1) adult male; May 27, 1995; north of Nelway
- 18.(1) adult female; August 28, 2000; Wickaninnish Sewage Ponds, PRNP (**ph**)
- 19.(1) adult male; June 4, 2004; Scott Creek, near Salmon Arm
- 20.(1) adult female; June 14, 2004; Tofino
- 21.(1) adult male; July 18, 2004; Summerland
- 22.(1) adult male; June 2, 2006; near Miracle Beach Provincial Park, Vancouver Island

### **Baird's Sparrow**

British Columbia records of this secretive sparrow of the northern Great Plains are enigmatic and few details have been provided for most reported occurrences. In addition to the three records presented here, one additional record has been mentioned in the literature but is not included. Vocal recordings of as many as three suspected Baird's Sparrows from Sea Island (Vancouver) between April 30 and June 16, 1978, were reviewed by biologists studying the species in Alberta and were shown to refer to misidentified Savannah Sparrows. As a result of this determination, this record has been omitted from this list despite its regular appearance in published literature. In addition, the first two of the three records presented here are considered anomalous and should at best be considered hypothetical. The single specimen record is suspect due to chronic confusion surrounding the labeling of bird specimens from the

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<sup>101</sup> BC Photo 1783

<sup>102</sup> NMC Specimen 3384

<sup>103</sup> RBCM Specimen 3901

<sup>104</sup> BC Photo 635

<sup>105</sup> BC Photo 1120

early years of ornithological collection in the province (specimens were often labeled by the destination of the specimen rather than the origin of the specimen). Only the 2005 sight record, which was well-described by an experienced observer, is considered reasonably valid.

- 1.(1) unknown; June 1889; Vancouver (**sp**)<sup>106</sup>
- 2.(1) adult; April 30, 1978; Stanley Park, Vancouver
- 3.(1) juvenile; September 9, 2005; Nanaimo River estuary

**Dark-eyed [Gray-headed] Junco** *Junco hyemalis caniceps*

This is the subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco that inhabits the mountains of the southwestern United States, but it is an extremely rare vagrant north and west from its normal breeding range. This subspecies could also be expected as a vagrant in the southern interior of the province, although it has yet to be recorded from that area.

- 1.(1) adult; November 8-10, 1975; Little Qualicum River estuary, Vancouver Island (**ph**)

**McCown's Longspur** *Calcarius mccownii*

This is the least common of the four species of longspur to occur in B.C. After a series of records in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the McCown's Longspur went unrecorded in the province for 72 years until a single bird was documented in the southeastern interior in 2002.

- 1.(1) adult male; June 1, 1887; Chilliwack (**sp**)<sup>107</sup>
- 2.(2) adult females; June 20, 1890; Chilliwack (**sp**)<sup>108</sup>
- 3.(1) immature; August 18, 1926; Okanagan Landing, near Vernon
- 4.(1) adult female; May 29, 1930; Tobacco Plains, near Newgate (**sp**)
- 5.(1) adult male; May 24, 2002; west of Parson

**Chestnut-collared Longspur** *Calcarius ornatus*

Although it is encountered more frequently than the McCown's Longspur, the Chestnut-collared Longspur is nonetheless an extremely rare vagrant into B.C. from breeding areas on the prairies. Most vagrants have been encountered along the south coast during migration (primarily spring) or during the spring and summer in the southern interior.

- 1.(1) adult female; July 8, 1921; Kispiox River Valley, north of Hazelton (**sp**)
- 2.(1) adult female; May 28, 1930; Tobacco Plains, near Newgate (**sp**)<sup>109</sup>
- 3.(1) adult male; June 18, 1972; Faber Islets, Barkley Sound (**ph**)<sup>110</sup>
- 4.(1) adult male; May 1976; Mitlenach Island
- 5.(1) adult male; May 1-3, 1977; Victoria Golf Course, Oak Bay
- 6.(1) adult male; July 8-10, 1981; Maplewood Flats, North Vancouver
- 7.(max 2) adult males; May 29-30, 1984; Nakusp
- 8.(1) immature; October 14, 1985; Victoria
- 9.(1) adult male; July 1-4, 2002; near Clearwater (**ph**)
- 10.(1) adult male; June 17, 2007; Lardeau (**ph**)

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<sup>106</sup> ANSP Specimen 47715

<sup>107</sup> MVZ Specimen 106635

<sup>108</sup> MVZ Specimens 106636, 244679

<sup>109</sup> NMC Specimen 24629

<sup>110</sup> BC Photo 224



**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*

This Eurasian Bunting is regular in western Alaska but occurs very infrequently further south along the Pacific coast of North America. All records in British Columbia are from coastal areas, with most individuals occurring at outer-coastal vagrant traps such as the Queen Charlotte Islands and the west coast of Vancouver Island. This is currently the only member of the Old World genus *Emberiza* that has been detected in B.C., but several records of Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*) from further south along the Pacific coast of North America indicate that other members of this genus may occur in the province on occasion as well.

- 1.(2) immatures; October 26, 1971; near Queen Charlotte City, QCI
- 2.(1) adult male; November 25, 1983- February 20, 1984; Jordan River (ph)<sup>111</sup>
- 3.(1) adult; December 12, 1988; Coquitlum
- 4.(1) immature male; December 8, 1990- April 12, 1991; Tofino (ph)
- 5.(1) adult; January 4, 1991; near Port Hardy
- 6.(1) immature; August 30, 1994; near Masset, QCI
- 7.(1) adult female; May 5, 2002; near Hope airport
- 8.(1) immature; October 22, 2007; Whiffin Spit, Sooke

**McKay's Bunting** *Plectrophenax hyperboreus*

Breeding only on a few tiny islands in the Bering Sea and wintering primarily along remote coastlines of western Alaska, this species is one of the least common and most range-restricted regularly-occurring species in North America. Consequently, it is also one of the most sought-after species, and the few individuals that have wandered south along the Pacific coast of North America, including vagrants to B.C., have received considerable attention from those wishing to observe this species. The nearly pure white plumage of males, which is well-adapted to the snowy climates in which it occurs, is especially stunning.

- 1.(1) adult; February 12, 1980; Wickaninnish Bay, PRNP (ph)
- 2.(1) near-adult male; December 4-29, 2004; Iona Island, Vancouver (ph)
- 3.(1) near-adult female; December 8, 2004-March 7, 2005; Iona Island, Vancouver (ph)

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*

The only record of this colourful eastern species is based on a second-hand sight record with no additional substantiated evidence such as a specimen or photograph. Although the description provided fits this species, and the identification has a high likelihood of being correct, issues surrounding its origin remain. A recent surge of records of this species west to central Alberta from its expanding eastern North American range, however, indicate that there is some potential for this species to reach B.C. independently.

- 1.(1) adult male; February 15, 1994; near Prince George

**Blue Grosbeak** *Passerina caerulea*

This species is a widespread breeder throughout much of the southern and eastern United States, and regularly wanders north into eastern Canada, but is exceedingly rare in B.C. and elsewhere in western Canada. Both provincial records are from the southeastern portion of the province during the breeding season, suggesting that this species may be more likely to occur in the southern interior than along the coast (where there are currently no records).

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<sup>111</sup> BC Photo 883

- 1.(1) adult male; May 22, 1982; Goat River, Creston Valley
- 2.(1) adult female; July 2, 1991; near Downie Creek, north of Revelstoke

**Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris*

Males of this species of the southern United States are one of the most colourful passerines in North America, but unfortunately few individuals have wandered into British Columbia. Although most reports in the Pacific Northwest likely refer to naturally-occurring individuals, caution must be used in future reports to ensure the individuals did not originate in captivity.

- 1.(1) adult male; August 1-4, 1995; Richmond (**ph**)
- 2.(1) adult female; March 21-April 5, 2006; Brentwood Bay, Saanich Peninsula (**ph**)
- 3.(1) adult male; August 14-16, 2007; Johnson's Landing, near Kaslo (**ph**)

**Dickcissel** *Spiza americana*

Like the Lark Bunting, this species of the prairies is well known as a wanderer, often appearing far from its normal range and often during unexpected times of year. Even within its normal breeding range, its populations often fluctuate widely between years, occupying normally unused areas along the fringes of its range during times of high populations. Although it does not breed anywhere near British Columbia, it is regularly encountered as a vagrant throughout the year (especially during the spring and summer).

- 1.(2) adult male and female; June 12, 1922; Vaseux Lake, south of Okanagan Falls (**sp**)<sup>112</sup>
- 2.(1) adult female; November 14, 1960-January 14, 1961; Victoria
- 3.(1) adult male; June 3, 1976; Stubbs Island, near Tofino
- 4.(1) adult female; August 3, 1980; south of Vaseux Lake, Okanagan Valley
- 5.(1) immature; September 26, 1982; Saanich (**ph**)<sup>113</sup>
- 6.(1) immature female; November 22-25, 1990; Osoyoos (**ph**)
- 7.(1) adult male; May 23-24, 1993; Ucluelet (**ph**)<sup>114</sup>
- 8.(1) adult male; June 2-7, 1993; Tofino (**ph**)
- 9.(1) adult female; May 20, 1994; east of Princeton
- 10.(1) adult; May 30, 1998; Wasa
- 11.(1) adult female; March 25, 1999; near Chemainus
- 12.(1) immature; October 9, 1999; Rocky Point, Metchosin
- 13.(1) adult male; June 20-26, 2001; Francois Lake
- 14.(1) adult male; June 7-8, 2002; near Davis Bay, Sunshine Coast (**ph**)
- 15.(1) immature male; October 13, 2004; Central Saanich (**ph**)
- 16.(1) adult male; June 10-July 17, 2005; near Sorrento (**ph**)
- 17.(1) immature; late November, 2005; Vernon
- 18.(1) adult male; May 27-28, 2006; Jordan River
- 19.(1) adult male; December 31, 2006-January 9, 2007; Port Alberni (**ph**)

**Great-tailed Grackle** *Quiscalus mexicanus*

This is one of the most abundant species of the southwestern United States, where it is often associated with human-altered habitats, and has been expanding its range north through

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<sup>112</sup> NMC Specimen 17883

<sup>113</sup> BC Photo 803

<sup>114</sup> BC Photo 1812

southern and central California during the past few decades. Correspondingly, reports in the Pacific Northwest have also been increasing, and it is expected that this species will continue to become more common as a vagrant during the coming decades.

- 1.(1) adult female; May 6-9, 1979; Cape St.James, QCI (ph)<sup>115</sup>
- 2.(1) adult female; December 4, 1993-April 11, 1994; Vernon (ph)
- 3.(1) adult male; June 2, 2000-June 2, 2003; Kelowna (ph)
- 4.(1) adult male; August 8, 2007; Sooke

#### **Orchard Oriole** *Icterus spurius*

This small oriole is widespread in eastern North America but rarely wanders to the west coast of the continent. Identification of female and immature Orchard Orioles is difficult and only published reports and those with detailed accompanying field notes that eliminate confusion species are presented here. Given the rarity of this species in the province, the first two reports, which occurred only days apart, were made at locations that are only a few kilometers apart, and referred to the same plumage, almost certainly pertain to the same individual, but without confirmation of this the two records are presented separately.

- 1.(1) immature male; May 22, 1997; Saltspring Island
- 2.(1) immature male; May 30, 1997; Sidney
- 3.(1) immature female; October 10, 2003; Tower Point, Metchosin
- 4.(1) adult female; August 6, 2007; Sooke

#### **Hooded Oriole** *Icterus cucullatus*

This brightly-coloured species of warmer regions of the southwestern United States and Mexico has been increasing as a breeder in California and, subsequently, as a vagrant to British Columbia. Most provincial records have occurred since the mid-1990s, including several individuals that have occurred during the winter months. The occurrence of a wintering male at Terrace, on the northern coast of B.C., is particularly remarkable.

- 1.(1) adult male; May 24, 1978; Oak Bay, Victoria
- 2.(1) adult male; May 6-7, 1996; Sidney (ph)
- 3.(1) adult male; May 25, 1996; near Mundy Park, Coquitlam
- 4.(1) adult male; July 19, 1997; Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood (ph)
- 5.(1) adult male; September 19, 1997; Blackie Spit, White Rock
- 6.(1) adult male; November 19, 1997-April 2, 1998; Terrace (ph)
- 7.(1) adult male; December 31, 2000-March 29, 2001; Richmond (ph)
- 8.(1) adult male; May 27, 2002; South Surrey
- 9.(1) immature male; May 31, 2006; Eagle Point Community Park, Harrison Mills

#### **Lesser Goldfinch** *Carduelis psaltria*

This widespread southern species ranges north regularly in small numbers to southwestern Washington but rarely wanders north into B.C. Unsubstantiated reports presented here from the Vancouver area are questionable and are generally considered to be hypothetical by most authors. However, they have been cited in some publications and as a result they are included here.

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<sup>115</sup> BC Photo 630

- 1.(1) adult male; June 9, 1931; Indianpoint Lake, near Bowron Lake Park (**sp**)<sup>116</sup>
- 2.(1) adult female; May 17, 1958; Huntington (**sp**)<sup>117</sup>
- 3.(1) immature; September 15-16, 1983; Jericho Park, Vancouver
- 4.(1) adult male; October 22-23, 1983; Sechelt (**ph**)
- 5.(1) adult; September 6, 1993; Jericho Park, Vancouver
- 6.(1) adult male; May 11-16, 1999; near Princeton (**ph**)<sup>118</sup>
- 7.(1) adult male; June 11-28, 2008; Abbotsford (**ph**)  
adult male; July 19-August 21, 2008; Abbotsford (**ph**) (same individual)

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<sup>116</sup> MVZ Specimen 281803

<sup>117</sup> PMNH Specimen 72201

<sup>118</sup> BC Photo 1789

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## **Online Chat Groups**

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BCBIRDINGVANISLAND (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcvanbirds/>)

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