

included a pair with two juveniles at Ketchikan Aug. 4–11 (SCH), only a 2nd local fall record. At least four juveniles around Mitkof I., Aug. 4–9 (PJW) represented that area's first record. There was no Red-breasted Nuthatch irruption out of SC beyond the Alaska Range this year. Three singles noted (one banded) between Tok and Scottie Cr. at the Canada border Aug. 10–27 (TJD) could have been remnants from last year's northerly pulse.

Kinglets to Finches

The only wandering Golden-crowned Kinglets beyond typical evergreen forest habitats included \geq four banded near Becharof and Mother Goose L., Sept. 8–14 (DAD, TDE, BJJ, FAA), and three at the Tok banding station Aug. 28–Sept. 25 (TJD). Good coverage at St. Paul I. in August allowed an excellent enumeration of an impressive Yellow Wagtail fallout Aug. 11–17 (PWS, SAS, SDS). Although mostly singles were noted at either end of the period, a peak estimate of "low hundreds" were by far SW's highest fall tally of this annual migrant — usually represented by a few birds over an entire season anywhere in SW. An imm. Cedar Waxwing around downtown Kodiak Oct. 23–24+ (CH, LH, ph. RAM) provided the only extralimital report and a 4th local record. Cedars were reported otherwise only from Ketchikan, where a ground count of 30 birds was noted August–Sept. 21 (SCH). An adult feeding two juveniles near Ward L. and three other juveniles located some distance away Sept. 3 (TJD, SCH) represented the best evidence of local nesting to date.

As expected with mild early to mid-season weather, there were plenty of late warblers, mostly s. of the Alaska Range. Highlights included a Yellow-rumped at Barrow Oct. 1 (RS), one of the North Slope's latest ever, and two at Ketchikan Nov. 11 (SCH); a near-record late Townsend's Warbler, also at Ketchikan Nov. 17 (SCH); only one Palm Warbler, reported from Juneau Oct. 14 (†SZ), about that area's 5th; a UCI record-late Blackpoll at Anchorage Oct. 17 (SDS); and single late Wilson's, which is turning out to be the most likely late November warbler, at Tok Oct. 25 (=new local late date, *vide* TJD), at Anchorage Nov. 4 (TGT), and at Juneau Nov. 25 (LE). Single N. Waterthrushes at Gustavus Aug. 21 (BBP) and banded at Yakutat (No date submitted! BAA) were local firsts on the outer coast of n. SE.

Two nicely described Swamp Sparrows were found in the Ketchikan area, imm.-types Nov. 7–30 and Nov. 12–27 (SCH+). These represent Ketchikan's 7th and the Region's 11th records. All but the first are

from late fall and from coastal sites. White-throated Sparrows spilled out of interior British Columbia into at least s. SE, with \geq four around Ketchikan Nov. 26+, and a single n. to Petersburg Sept. 16–19 (PJW), a first Mitkof I. record. This fall's only Purple Finch was a female at the Petersburg Nursery Oct. 17, a 3rd local report. A late-summer dispersion of Red Crossbills way w. and n. of usual found two females at Cold Bay Aug. 6 (NC), and kept \geq two of the earlier summer individuals around St. Paul Aug. 4–23+ (SDS). Both crossbill species were otherwise very local, quiet, and in small numbers Regionwide. It appeared that at many locations small groups retracted deeper into the forests and most others left the Region. Quite anomalous was an alternate-plumaged δ American Goldfinch at a Petersburg feeder Aug. 25 (ph. PJW), providing the Region's 2nd documented record and 4th overall report. Given Petersburg's location at the mouth of the Stikine R., it is tempting to assign this individual to the s.c. British Columbia breeding form *C. tristis pallidus*.

Corrigenda

The reference in *NAEFN* Vol. 49, No. 1 to the "...more than usual Townsend's Wablers..." was a typo and should have read Townsend's Solitaires.

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British Columbia/ Yukon Region

JACK BOWLING

An unsettled first three weeks of August led into a glorious warm, dry September, at least during its first three weeks. This was followed by a gradual descent into winter across Yukon and northern British Columbia, while a constant barrage of Pacific storms crossed farther south through October. During November, a strong northwesterly Arctic stream across the northern half of the Region clashed with an equally strong southwesterly stream of tropically enhanced air over southern areas — resulting in cold, mostly dry weather for Yukon, occasionally snowy weather for northern British Columbia, alternating snow and rain for central and southern interior regions, and mild, very wet weather across coastal sections. The mild weather across the southern half of the Region prompted many species to linger north. As befits the predominantly westerly flow, a few East Asian/Alaskan strays turned up, including British Columbia's first Yellow Wagtail at Victoria and a Kittlitz's Murrelet on the Queen Charlotte Islands. However, these wanderers were overshadowed by a Whooping Crane which touched down in central British Columbia.

No detailed account was received from the Vancouver area for this summary.

Abbreviations: B.C. (*British Columbia*); G.C.B.S. (*Gagnon Cr. Banding Station, near Mackenzie, n.c. B.C.*); Ok. L. (*Okanagan L.*); Ok. Villy (*Okanagan Valley*); P.G. (*Prince George*); p.a. (*pending acceptance by responsible Bird Records Committee*); Q.C.I. (*Queen Charlotte Is.*); R.P.B.S. (*Rocky Point Banding Station, s. end Van. I.*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant/Ponds*); T.I.B.S. (*Triangle I. Banding Station, off n.w. tip Van I.*); Van. (*Vancouver*); Van. I. (*Vancouver I.*); Vic. (*Victoria*); V.L.B.S. (*Vaseux L. Banding station, s. Ok. Villy*); Whse. (*Whitehorse*).

Loons to Ibises

The now annual fall gathering of Com. Loons on Ok. L. off Okanagan Mountain P.P. peaked at 150 Oct. 14 (CC, DB); the

birds were likely feeding on spawning salmon. There were 3 reports of Yellow-billed Loon: a single bird on Marsh L., s. Yukon Oct. 15 & 29 (CE, HG, PS); one immature on Kalamalka L., Vernon, Nov. 17 & 19 (PG, †CS); and a single unaged bird off Esquimalt Lagoon, Vic., Nov. 23 & 25 (DA, BRG). Many waterbirds lingered on n. and c. lakes until forced out by freezeup; an example was the two Horned Grebes on Eaglet L., P.G., Nov. 4 (MPh). A late submission from the summer season was an imm. *Sula* sp. booby floating on a log off Bonilla I. Light Station in e. Hecate Strait July 15 (†J. & †P. Hancock). Thought to be a Blue-footed, documentation to support specific identification was inconclusive. The bird likely followed the faded El Niño-influenced mackerel invasion northward. A pelagic survey in early September off n. Van. I. found 25 Black-footed and one Laysan albatross, 65 N. Fulmars, and 6 Pink-footed Shearwaters just s. of the Scott I. group Sept. 8 (TGe), typical numbers for the location and date. A total of 365 N. Fulmars and 15 Pink-footed Shearwaters were found on the leg from Triangle I. to Cape Sutil Aug. 29–Sept. 13 (TGe). On the rich Cook and Goose I. Banks were eight Flesh-footed Shearwaters (TGe). The “grounding” effect of calm winds on Sooty Shearwaters was in evidence when ≥ 4500 were observed paddling on flat seas off Port Hardy, n.e. Van. I., Sept. 15 (TGe). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel flying N from the mouth of Masset Inlet Nov. 30 (PH) was the latest on record for the Queen Charlotte Is. The largest reported flock of migrant Am. White Pelicans was 50 on Vaseux L., s. Ok. Vily, Aug. 25 (HeM), dwindling to 26 later in the day (SRC, JMC). At least eight separate Brown Pelicans were observed from the outer shores of s.e. Van. I. (v.o.). One even wandered to Secret Cove, Sechelt Pen., Nov. 15 (BHu), providing the 2nd record for the Sunshine Coast. Continuing a recent fall trend, there were 2 reports of inland-straying Double-crested Cormorants: two immatures on Eaglet L., P.G., Sept. 23–Oct. 1 (TM, MPh, m.ob.); and one at Fauquier near Nakusp, W. Kootenays, Oct. 22 (HNM, JAM). An Am. Bittern was flushed from the shore of Eaglet L., P.G., Sept. 10 (HA, MPh), while another near V.L.B.S., Sept. 21 (RF, v.o.) was so exhausted observers could almost touch it. It was unclear whether there was more than one bird involved in a spate of Great Blue Heron sightings at 3 locations around the Whse. area Aug. 22–24 (GK, LK, BaSt, CE, PS). Green Herons seem to be holding their own on the quieter ponds

of s.e. Van. I., with singles reported from Thetis L., Beacon Hill Park, McIntyre Res., and Buttertubs Marsh in Nanaimo (v.o.). Scarcer were Black-crowned Night-Herons, with one flying NE over Vic. airport Sept. 3 (BB), and another near Oliver, s. Ok. Vily, Sept. 17 (DoB). Well out-of-range was a young Glossy/White-faced Ibis at the Allen Ranch, Kispiox Valley, in w.c. B.C., Sept. 29–Oct. 13 (MAL, BH, RPo, m.ob.).

Waterfowl to Cranes

Indicative of a somewhat leisurely migration was the flock of 27 ad. and 9 imm. Tundra Swans on Vaseux L., s. Ok. Vily, Nov. 18 (SRC), a bit late for sizeable flocks. Two ad. Trumpeter Swans were on Swan L., s. Yukon Aug. 19–20 (HG), an early visit. The main Trumpeter Swan migration was noted in s.w. Yukon Oct. 9 (LC, CE, HG, PS), with 24 adults and five immatures on a lake near Klukshu; the migration reached the s. border of the Region by Oct. 29 when 25 were seen flying over C. Saanich, s.e. Van. I. (BD). Three early Greater White-fronted Goose flocks totaling 275 birds were seen winging S over Athlone I. near Bella Bella, c. B.C. coast, Aug. 21–26 (BRG). Inland wandering Snow Geese included one at Nulki L. near Vanderhoof Oct. 8 (MPh), in with a flock of about 10,000 Canada Geese of various races; another was at Westbank, c. Ok. Vily, Nov. 26 (DB). The Duncan S.T.P. continues to host good numbers of Wood Ducks, with 102 counted Sept. 9 (DM). However, the most conspicuous increases in Wood Ducks are still being noted in the c. interior, with 22 near the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako rivers, P.G., Sept. 16 (HA, MPh). Northern Shovelers were found in relatively high numbers in both the c. interior, with a flock of >50 at Tabor L., P.G., Oct. 22 (CA), and s.e. Van. I., with 64 at Duncan S.T.P., Sept. 9 (DM). Barely rating a mention on the coast these days, Eur. Wigeon drakes were noted at Vic. (three), Bowser (one), Courtenay (one), and Port Alberni (one) on Van. I., Oct 1+ (v.o.). The species is still rare inland in fall, with sightings of males from

Parsons, B.C., near Golden, Oct. 22 (LV) and Salmon Arm Nov. 17–18 (RRH, RWC). Perhaps reflecting the early departure from their inland breeding rivers, or perhaps just non-breeding buddies, 25 ♂ Harlequin Ducks were at Pt. Holmes, Comox, Aug. 15 (BMS). Up to two Harlequin Ducks were on the Nechako R. near P.G., Sept. 5–Oct. 9 (m.ob.); three females were on the Yukon R. near Whse., Sept. 10, and a single female was there Oct. 9 (JeB). Flocks of hundreds of Com. Mergansers, possibly totaling ≥ 1000 , staged on Swan L., Vernon, n. Ok. Vily, through the period, with numbers peaking mid-late November (CS, EN). A large flock of 160 Ruddy Ducks was seen on Cordova Bay, Vic., Nov. 5 (DP). This compares favorably to the flock of 220 seen there Nov. 23 last year.

The peak of the Turkey Vulture migration at R.P.B.S. was Oct. 1 (DA), when 850 were tallied. The presence of two Turkey Vultures at Halfmoon Bay, Sunshine Coast, Nov. 25 (TG) was indicative of the mild weather on the coast. Also lingering n. were Ospreys, with singles at Metchosin, s. Van. I., Oct. 10 (BM); at Dixon L., Port Alberni, Oct. 13 (DGC); at Iona S.T.P., Richmond, Oct. 21 (SML, RT0); and Nov. 10 (†BM) over Metchosin, w. of Vic., which represented the 2nd latest on record for the Region. A window-kill N. Goshawk in Vic., of the sparse and assumed resident Q.C.I. race *laingii*, was brought into a nature center



Nov. 26. The Broad-winged Hawk observer frenzy at R.P.B.S. mushroomed. The many hawk watchers tallied four–seven birds Sept. 10–Oct 1 (MGS, DA *et al.*). Two Swainson's Hawks spent August foraging on the fields along Old Vernon Rd. in Kelowna (CC, m.ob.). This is one of the only remaining large areas of open field in Kelowna and is the only one which this buteo finds to its liking. A cruise of the loop road around the farm fields n. of Vanderhoof, c. B.C., Aug. 13 (NK, TM) turned up 20 Am. Kestrels, a high number for a relatively small area. A Peregrine Falcon was witnessed twice knocking an Am. Wigeon into the Yukon R near Indian R., Aug. 31 (BrB, RaM), without killing it. Always elusive, two Prairie Falcons were seen in s. B.C.: one along the West Bench, Penticton, Sept. 24 (RJC, RCC); and another at Brunswick Pt., Ladner, Nov. 20 (†JD).

A flock of 16 White-tailed Ptarmigan on Sheep Mt., s.w. Yukon Aug. 16 (RJC) was a high count. Also in Yukon, eight Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen at Km 4 of the Dempster Hwy Aug. 20 (BrB, RaM), near the n. edge of the species' range in Yukon.

SA With only 5 previous sightings dating back to 1955, the appearance of an ad. Whooping Crane near Quesnel, c. B.C., Aug. 15 (†LA, BrM, SS, p.a.) rated as one of the stellar highlights of the past several decades. The observers were engaged in habitat surveys for the B.C. Forest Service near the Gravelle Ferry, 30 km e. of Quesnel along the Quesnel R., when the bird was spooked from a brushy clearing. That area is predominantly birch forest interspersed with grazed sheep pasture. The time of year suggests the bird was most likely a failed breeder or unpaired adult heading S early. A strong low pressure system crossed s. Alberta Aug. 12–14, with brisk NE winds blowing from Alberta to British Columbia. Interestingly, six Whooping Cranes had been seen Apr. 25–26, 1962, at Alexandria, 30 km S of Quesnel. That year, six of the 38 northbound cranes went missing in poor weather on their way to Wood Buffalo N.P., and were thought to be the flock which turned up in Alexandria. It would be useful to compare antecedent weather conditions in both events to see if there are similarities.

A pair of Sandhill Cranes on Athlone I. near Bella Bella Aug. 25 (BRG), also seen

there the previous year, was thought to be nesting. A flock of 100 Sandhills passed overhead of Johnstone St. between n.e. Van. I. and the mainland Sept. 15 (TGe), likely composed of birds breeding farther n. along the coast. The curious thing was that they were heading east!

Shorebirds to Alcids

Black-bellied Plovers filtered into Grice Bay, Tofino, s.w. Van. I. in early November, with 11 Nov. 11 building to 43 Nov. 18 (DGC). Observer ability to differentiate American and Pacific Golden-Plovers is improving. Single Am. Golden-Plovers were noted from near the Vic. airport Sept. 9 (BD) and from the Commonage, Vernon, Sept. 24 (CS, PG, GG). A juv. Pacific Golden-Plover was at the Kelowna landfill Aug. 26 (CC, CS, m.ob.). An unaged bird was at Cowichan Bay Aug. 28, with two there Sept. 3 & 8 (DM); another was at Rocky Pt., Metchosin, Aug. 31 (MGS); and a juvenile was in a field n. of Boundary Bay Sept. 9 (SMI, RTTo). As usual, Killdeer remained well n., with three at P.G., Nov. 26 (EL). A Lesser Yellowlegs at Bazan Bay, N. Saanich, Nov. 5 (BB) was very late. A Solitary Sandpiper at Masset, Q.C.I., Aug. 19 (PH) provided only the 2nd or 3rd record for the Islands. Wandering Tattlers breed in c. Yukon, but they are hard to find. One along the N. Canol Rd. in e.c. Yukon Aug. 16 (GK, LK) was thus a surprise. An unusual spot for a tattler was on Newcastle I., Nanaimo, since most records for Van. I. are from the s. or w. shores. A few Upland Sandpipers were seen on the coast, with two at Sandspit airport, Q.C.I., Aug. 22 (PH), and one killed by a dog at the University of Vic., Sept. 3 (*ML). Rarely encountered in fall in s. Yukon, a Whimbrel was seen flying along the Alaska Hwy near Kluane P.P., Aug. 18 (RJC). Three Marbled Godwits were seen in the Greater Vic. area, where they occur in low numbers during migration: one at Esquimalt Lagoon Sept. 13 (LL, SK); one at Cherry Pt., Oct. 10 (DM, S&EW, A&JG); and another at the Vic. Golf Course Oct. 18 (RS). Four Red Knots, scarce on the inner coast, were in a field just n. of Boundary Bay Sept. 9 (SMI, RTTo). The highlight of the peep migration was an ad. Long-toed Stint at Reifel Sept. 19 (†JL, RMo, JI, p.a.), where the bird was foraging alongside Least and Western sandpipers. Two Baird's Sandpipers in the alpine of Raven Peak, 80 km e. of P.G., Aug. 6 (NK, TM, MPh) suggests that a significant proportion of this species' southward push may be above most of observers in the interior valleys. This would fit with their being the

most numerous high-elevation migrant shorebird in the South American Andes (*pers. com.* AJ). Only a single Baird's was seen in Kelowna Aug. 30 (CC), *versus* the record passage there last year. Baird's Sandpipers are a regular migrant through the Q.C.I., but a flock of 11 at Sandspit airport Aug. 22 (PH) was on the high side. Two rare Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at Drury ponds, 30 km w. of Whse., Aug. 21 (GK, LK, CE, HG, PS). There was a flurry of Rock Sandpiper reports from the s.e. Van. I. area. The first was a single bird in Oak Bay Oct. 21 (RS). Others included two on Chain Islets Oct. 18 (NM); one at Whiffen Spit, Sooke, Oct. 22 (VirBA); and two at the foot of Bowker Ave., Vic., Nov. 3 (HVP). The flock of 1900 Dunlin at Grice Bay, Tofino, Nov. 18 (DGC) was the largest recorded for the locality. The resurgence of Stilt Sandpipers recently has been remarkable. The P.G. area harbored a few, with two at Shelley S.T.P., Aug. 11 (CA) & 29 (SK,LL); two 30 km w. of Whse., Aug. 21 (GK, LK, CE, HG, PS); and another at Eaglet L., P.G., Aug. 26 (CA). However, they avoided the s. interior, with only a single at Mackay's Res., Vernon, Aug. 18 (CS) and a juvenile at Glenmore Pond, Kelowna, Aug. 26 (CC, CS). Conversely, a good passage was noted Aug. 20–25 at Masset, Q.C.I., with a high of nine Aug. 22 (OD, PH, BWi). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, one of the hardest shorebirds to find in the Region away from the Arctic slope, stopped at Sandspit airport, Q.C.I., Aug. 22 (PH), a day when 21 other shorebird species were tallied between Masset and Sandspit! Massive rafts of Red-necked Phalaropes were seen in Eydie Passage off Prince Rupert on the n. coast, where 8000–10,000 were estimated Aug. 12 (OD, PH, BWi) and >12,000 Aug. 18 (LG, PH). This represented the highest single-location count on record for the Region. Two Red Phalaropes were seen on Juan de Fuca Strait from the ferry M.V. Coho between Vic. and Port Angeles, WA Nov. 19 (DM).

Two Pomarine and one Long-tailed jaegers were spotted at the e. end of Active Pass in s. Georgia Strait Sept. 17 (B.C.F.O.). An ad. Parasitic Jaeger was found dead by the roadside 5 km n. of Vanderhoof Aug. 19 (*BA), the first for the local checklist area and one of fewer than a dozen interior records. Another ad. Parasitic was at Cattle Pt., Vic., Aug. 23 (BIRD TREKS); ten were off Iona S.T.P., Richmond, Sept. 23 (SMI, RTTo); and one at Beecher Bay, s.e. Van. I., Oct. 24 (DM) was on the late side. "Many" southbound Long-taileds were seen 225 km w. of Cape Flattery, WA Aug. 16 (JA).

A single South Polar Skua was on the Goose I. Banks in Queen Charlotte Sound off n. Van. I., Sept. 11 (TGe) during stormy weather. A Franklin's Gull strayed to the Fort St. James landfill Aug. 19 (CA, NK); the species is a rare fall migrant through the c. interior. A young Heermann's Gull lingered until Nov. 12 (BRG) off Sidney, s.e. Van. I. Autumn Ring-billed Gull numbers continue to increase gradually on Van. I.; as in the past few seasons, Courtenay hosted the greatest numbers, with 67 on a school playfield Aug. 16 (DVM). Two California Gulls at Whse., Sept. 20 (CE) provided only the 2nd fall record for Yukon. The first fall passage Thayer's Gulls through the Whse. area was an adult at the landfill Aug. 16 (CE); 15 adult were there Sept. 13 (CE, PS), while the count peaked at two adults and 75 first-winter birds Oct. 10 (CE). The first two Thayer's were reported from the Vic. area Sept. 16 (RB); two first-winter birds were on Kalamalka L., Vernon, Nov. 11, and one Nov. 13 (CS). Unlike recent falls, Glaucous Gulls avoided s. Van. I., with no reports from Goldstream P.P., and only one 2nd-winter bird in Duncan Oct. 29 and Nov. 6 (DM), areas where there have been notable concentrations. Two Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen from the M.V. Coho on Juan de Fuca Strait, s. of Vic., Nov. 8 (StM). Also seen closer to shore than normal were Sabine's Gulls, including a flock of 100 birds 8 km s. of Sooke flying toward Vic., Aug. 30 (JM). A single imm. Sabine's was off Lighthouse Marine Park, Pt. Roberts, WA Sept. 17 (JAM, HNM), and another was seen from the M.V. Coho Sept. 17 (MMcG). Most unusual was a young Sabine's Gull in full molt washed up on the s. shores of Ok. L., Penticton, Nov. 21 (*JJC), providing about the 6th Ok. Villy record. Caspian Terns usually wander inland in the spring; notable then was one at Wood L., Ok. Villy, Oct. 6 (PG). The s.e. Van. I. compiler noted a decrease in Caspian Tern sightings, which likely has more to do with the "no longer considered noteworthy" syndrome than a reflection of real numbers. Observers are urged to report sightings of this species so we can follow its ever-changing status. A single Black Tern at Robert L., Kelowna, Aug. 20 (CC) was a sad reminder of the species' decimation in the Ok. Villy over the past few decades.

A flock of 100 Com. Murres with young off Malcolm I., n.e. tip of Van. I., Sept. 15 (TGe) suggests that breeding was late. A Kittlitz's Murrelet at the mouth of Skidegate Inlet near Queen Charlotte City, Q.C.I., Nov. 8 (CH), also seen across the inlet by Sandspit airport the

next day (†PH), provided the 2nd record for the Region. The low frequency of occurrence is somewhat surprising given the s.e. limit of its range along the nearby Alaska Panhandle. Cassin's Auklets usually show up in small numbers off the s. coast of Van. I. in October. Surprising, then, was one off Pedder Bay Aug. 7 (BM), another 170 km w. of Cape Flattery, WA Aug. 16 (JA), and two near Clover Pt., Vic., Sept. 15 (RS). The largest flock of Rhinoceros Auklet reported was 250 in Goletas Channel off Port Hardy, n.e. Van. I., Aug. 29 (TGe).

Doves to Woodpeckers

The hills around Metchosin, w. of Vic., harbored large Band-tailed Pigeon flocks through September, with 103 at R.P.B.S., Sept. 15 (MGS *et al.*). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo found dead in McLure, n. of Kamloops, Oct. 28 (*RRH) provided the 3rd record for the s. interior in the past 4 years. Barn Owls continue in low numbers on Van. I., with one at Courtenay Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 (D. Layton, DW&MAI). Another Barn Owl was at C. Saanich Sept. 22 (BWh), and possibly again in downtown Saanich Nov. 18 (B. Irwin). A W. Screech-Owl roosted in a Wood Duck box at Black Cr., n. of Courtenay, and was seen Nov. 8 & 16 (A&J Tinney, DW&MAI). It appeared not to be a Snowy Owl year, with the only report being a first arrival in the Ladner area Nov. 16 (VaRBA). A N. Hawk Owl was at Swan L., Yukon Oct. 10 (HG), and three were on Sheep Mt., s.w. Yukon Nov. 18 (GK, LK). There was a noticeable movement of N. Pygmy-Owls, with reports from P.G., Greater Vic., Naramata, and especially the Vernon area, where six were seen Oct. 2–Nov. 22 (CS, PG). Barred Owls are now common enough on e. Van. I. that birds are being rescued as they get into trouble. A young Barred was found in a ditch near Comox Bay Sept. 27 (FMJ) and turned into a local bird hospital; another was fatally electrocuted near Goose Spit, Comox, in October (FMJ). A Great Gray Owl was along the Penticton oxbows of the Ok. R., Nov. 19–20 (RWC), and another was seen along the Beaver Forest Service Rd., 30 km e. of P.G., Nov. 21 (KA). A group of six Short-eared Owls were at Kekuli Park along the w. shores of Kalamalka L., Vernon, Oct. 1 (EN), with 4 subsequent sightings in the hill country around Vernon until Nov. 13 (CS, PG). This area continues to lose grassland habitat. A Boreal Owl was photographed as it roosted in a conifer near Swan L., Vernon, Oct. 15 (JBa, ph. CS, ph. PG, EN, MCo). There was a conspic-

uous movement of N. Saw-Whet Owls on Van. I., with the first bird at R.P.B.S., Oct 5 (MGS *et al.*). Subsequent reports included a single at Gordon Head, Saanich, Oct 7 (RB) & 17 (A. Knowles); the Gorge, Vic., Oct. 22 (MOS); downtown Vic., Oct. 28 (G. Newell); C. Saanich Oct. 30 (BB); and near Somenos Marsh, Duncan, Nov. 18 (DM). This last bird was entangled in golf driving-range netting. Another saw-whet was at Dyke Rd. Slough, Courtenay, Oct. 27, with likely the same bird found dead there Oct. 30 (VBC, V Hansen, BMS).

Notable concentrations of Com Nighthawks included 44 over the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser rivers, P.G., Aug. 1 (CA); and >100 at Okanagan Falls P.P., Aug. 29 (DS). They were noted as scarce on Van. I. Large flocks of swifts are rare in the c. interior. Astounding then were 125 Black Swifts and 12 Com Nighthawks hawking insects over Tachick L., 10 km s. of Vanderhoof Aug. 19 (CA, NK). An estimated 1000 Vaux's Swifts were at R.P.B.S., Aug. 26, with the last flock of eight noted there Oct. 1 (MGS *et al.*). Two White-throated Swifts at Kamloops Oct 22 (SR) were very late. A group of 25 Lewis' Woodpeckers feeding on blue elderberries and flycatching insects at White L near Oliver, s. Ok. Villy, Aug. 29 (DS) may have been fueling up for outbound journeys. Stray Lewis' to the coast included one at 10 Mile Pt., Saanich, Sept. 3 (AS); and likely the same bird at Metchosin Sept 26–Oct. 4 (AS, †BB, BM, GA). Another Lewis' at Sechelt Sept. 11 (RTk) provided the 2nd Sunshine Coast record and the first for the fall. The usual small numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers were noted in Penticton (RJC); however, the tiny Kelowna wintering population could not be located in November (CC). That most elusive of all B.C. woodpeckers, the White-headed, was seen on McIntyre Bluff, s. Ok. Villy, Aug 11 (DR, *vide* HeM). A rare Black-backed Woodpecker was observed at Swan L., Yukon Sept. 16 (LB, JeM, BMu, PS). At the n. edge of its range, a Pileated Woodpecker was at Watson L., Yukon Nov. 4–11 (HB, MoB, *vide* RF).

Flycatchers to Starling

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at G.C.B.S., Aug. 20 (RBo *et al.*); more data are needed to delineate this species' status w. of the Rockies. Of the 29 Alder Flycatchers banded at Kluane P.P., Aug 19–27 (RJC), all except one were juveniles, suggesting that most adults had left shortly after the fledglings could feed themselves. Given that this species usually does not arrive at these latitudes until the

first week of June, it may have the shortest boreal summer residency of all migrant Nearctic passerines. A high number of Hammond's Flycatchers were netted at R.P.B.S., with a peak of 15 Aug. 29; more surprising were very late captures: three Oct. 1 and one Oct. 5 (MGS *et al.*). By far the most cold-tolerant of the Region's tyrannids, a Say's Phoebe at Penticton Nov. 18 (EDu) was very late. Only a vagrant to B.C., there were 3 reports of Ash-throated Flycatchers, 2 unaccompanied by documentation: one at Revelstoke Aug. 26 (DPo); another near Beacon Hill Park, Vic., Sept. 3 (W. Hochachka), and likely the same bird nearby Oct. 11–15 (CHa, †BRG, m.ob.). Building up a portfolio of autumn visits to Van. I., there were 2 sightings of presumed Tropical Kingbirds on Van. I., the first at Courtenay Oct. 15–18 (†DW&MAI, BMS, FMJ, DVM, p.a.), and the 2nd at Tofino airport Oct. 28 (RP).

A Eurasian Skylark at the Port McNeill airport, n.e. Van. I., Nov. 14–15 (†TG) had all the field marks of the E. Asian subspecies *pekinensis*, and provided the 2nd documented sighting of the race in the Region. Purple Martins continue to do well at Cowichan Bay, s.e. Van. I., with 12 adults and 30 immatures there Aug. 7 (DM). By far the largest reported pre-migration swallow congregation was the 2000 Violet-greens on telephone wires at White L., s. Ok. Vly, Aug. 29 (DS). Late flocks of Violet-greens at Vernon, n. Ok. Vly, attested to the mildness of the season, with 100 over Kalamalka P.P., Sept. 30 (CS, SU), and 50 over the Commonage Oct. 1 (CS). Bank Swallows are scarce migrants through the s.w. coast. Of interest were two at Cowichan Bay Aug. 26 (DM), and a single at Sechelt Aug. 29 (TG), the area's 2nd. The latest reported were four birds at Elk L., Saanich, Oct. 2 (MBe). Three Barn Swallows over Vic. Harbour Nov. 2 (DA) were very late.

It is not often that Gray Jay rates a mention in these summaries; however the one at a sea level feeder at Sechelt Nov. 15 (BHu) was at an unusually low elevation. Unlike the past couple of falls, there had not been a significant influx of Steller's Jays into s.e. Van. I. by the end of the period (BB). Single Blue Jays were scattered around, with one at Beverly near P.G., Nov. 1+; Kelowna Oct. 20–31 (EDi, CC, LR); Greater Vic. area Oct. 8+; Halfmoon Bay, Sunshine Coast, Nov. 11–18 (TG, v.o.); and Courtenay Nov. 2–23 (J. Parent, J. Feneman, DW&MAI). An unusually large gathering of 98 Com. Ravens was on tulip bulb fields in C. Saanich Sept. 9 (BB).

Sightings of the little-known interior population of Chestnut-backed Chickadee included eight at Longworth Lookout, 80 km e. of P.G., Aug. 27 (MPh, NK), and a single on Silver Star Mt., Vernon, Oct. 22 (CS). Red-breasted Nuthatches were again found in good numbers around the Greater Vic. area through the period, in contrast to the very low numbers there last year (BB). The first White-breasted Nuthatch returned to its favorite feeder in Shelley near P.G., Aug. 27 (BN), with two there Nov. 2; another was seen 10 km e. of P.G., Nov. 3 (JB). The flock of 40 Pygmy Nuthatches eating sunflower seeds at a feeder in Naramata, s. Ok. Vly, Nov. 19 (RJC) must have been quite a sight! Rock Wrens are vagrants to Van. I., with one breeding record from Duncan in 1970. Surprising was one along a rocky retaining wall in a new subdivision at Mt. Tzouhalem, Duncan, Aug. 19–Sept. 27 (DJ, *fide* DM, BB, DS). A ♂ Ruby-crowned Kinglet in downtown Whse., Nov. 14 (BaSt, BoSt) was very late.

SA The Bluebird Survival Program in Vernon had another successful year, fledging 143 Western and 62 Mountain bluebirds, compared to 97 and 27 respectively in 1994. This success is the result of coordinator Elsie Nykyfork's enthusiastic leadership of a small army of volunteers. All data go to the Pacific Nest Record Scheme. We salute Elsie and volunteers involved in nestbox programs throughout the Region.

The largest reported Mt. Bluebird flock was 40 on the Bella Vista Range, Vernon, Oct. 12 (EN). Six Townsend's Solitaire's along the Campbell Creek Rd., S of Kamloops, and three along Hwy 5A to Merritt Oct. 23, likely migrants, were high numbers for that area (HNM, JAM). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded at G.C.B.S., Aug. 25 (SK, LL, RBo), no doubt one of the poorly known n. B.C. population. The Gray Catbird which had been at the Sechelt Marsh since June, the area's 2nd ever, was last seen Aug. 7 (RTk).

SA Although a relatively common breeder on Yukon's N. Slope, B.C.'s first Yellow Wagtail, an immature, was discovered in a large flock of Am. Pipits on the Martindale Flats, C. Saanich, N of Vic., Sept. 4 (HVP). It was seen by many observers until its last sighting Sept. 8 (†BB, †JAM, m.ob.). Its pale coloration and distinctive "tzeep" call made it stand out from the pipits and

longspurs in the fallow fields. Mackenzie felt that the bird most resembled the Siberian subspecies *tsutschensis*, the race most likely to show up.

A Red-throated Pipit was reported from the Tofino waterfront, w. Van. I., Nov. 4 (AD), but went undocumented. Bohemian Waxwings were noted as abundant in s. Yukon, with counts of ≤ 300 in Whse. (m.ob.). A bountiful Mountain Ash berry crop in P.G. also sustained large numbers through the period, with flocks of ≥ 500 . However, Vernon — a traditional wintering area — observed relatively few, with flocks of ≤ 500 reported, considered small for the area. Cedar Waxwings numbered 25 at Port Alberni Oct. 14 (DGC), the latest on record for the locality. Single N. Shrikes at Sechelt Sept. 23, Oct. 31, and Nov. 4 & 11 (TG) was an exceptional showing. A Loggerhead Shrike was eating grasshoppers at the Martindale Flats, C. Saanich, Sept. 6–7 (†BRG, †BB, m.ob.) providing Van. I.'s first record. It was found during the search for the Yellow Wagtail — 2 new species added to the local checklist in 3 days!. A rare species locally, two Eur. Starlings were seen in Whse., Yukon Nov. 6–7 (LC, BoCh, DC, CE).

Vireos to Fringillids

SA The Tofino area on the w. coast of Van. I. has a well-deserved reputation as a vagrant trap. Its position adjacent to the open ocean means that any birds correcting a wrong turn over the sea have a good chance of finding it as they follow the coastline. It is one of the only areas along the w. coast with cultivated gardens full of flowering plants inviting to insectivorous birds. Its mild maritime climate is also attractive. These factors combined to produce a bonanza of warblers Oct. 29, when sections of the coast farther inland were experiencing the season's first cold snap. That day, 3 observers tallied 6 warbler species: Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, Yellow (four), Townsend's, Palm (three), and Bay-breasted Warbler (†DGC, AD, ph. RP). This was only the 2nd Bay-breasted recorded on Van. I., the first being seen s. of Tofino at Wickannish Beach. One of the Yellow Warblers lingered until the exceptionally late date of Nov. 18 (DGC).

An imm. Tennessee Warbler at Whse., Aug. 21 (CE, PS) provided only the 2nd

local fall record. An ad. ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was seen and heard singing at G.C.B.S., Aug. 14 (RBo), but avoided the nets! Unfortunately, this possible 4th B.C. record went undocumented. A foraging flock of 200 Yellow-rumped Warblers at Takhini Ponds, s.w. Yukon Aug. 21–22 (CE, GK, LK) was one of the largest ever seen in Yukon. A Townsend's Warbler, rare in s.w. Yukon, was spotted in with a mixed flock of warblers at Fish L., s.w. Yukon Aug. 12 (PS, Y.B.C.). Coming on the heels of the Region's first documented Blackburnian Warbler in June was an imm. female at Vernon Aug. 29 (†CS). Plucked from the banding nets at T.I.B.S., Sept. 8 (ph. MM) was an imm. ♂ **Prairie Warbler**, providing the Region's 2nd documented record. A sighting of three Palm Warblers on the Commonage, Vernon, Sept. 24 (†CS, GG, PG) provided the first well-documented record for the Ok. Villy in 23 years! An imm. **Blackpoll Warbler** at Vernon Aug. 27 (†CS) provided the first documented record for the Ok. Valley, a real mystery given its vast range over the taiga farther north. An ad. ♂ **Black-and-white Warbler** at Burnaby L., Burnaby, Aug. 9 (†SH, †TW) provided one of few records for the Greater Van. area. An ad. ♀ **Am. Redstart** banded at Kluane P.P., Aug. 26 (ph. RJC) was some 150 km n.w. of its known range. Two **N. Waterthrushes**, previously considered accidental on Van. I., were netted at R.P.B.S., Aug. 24–25 (MGS *et al.*). Also banded there

Sept. 1 was a possible imm. **Mourning Warbler**, a potential first for Van. I. (ph. MGS, *et al.*). Filling in one of the mysterious holes in its distribution was the discovery of an ad. ♂ **Common Yellowthroat** at Entry Pt., Masset, Q.C.I., Nov. 16 (†PH), the first there. The bird could not be relocated the next day.

SA In only its first fall season, the Sea I. Banding Station, near Van. airport has already produced some surprises. From its startup Aug. 3 until the nets were pulled down in October, 3221 birds of 41 species were captured. Of note were Greater Van.'s first three **Magnolia Warblers**, and two **Clay-colored Sparrows**, listed as accidental for the checklist area. It is hard to jibe the "discovery" of the Magnollas with its summer range across the n.e. half of the B.C.; it is more likely that they had been passing through undetected in small numbers, possibly at night. The 489 **Lincoln's Sparrows** was an eye-opener — I doubt anyone would have picked it to be the most frequently caught species before the project started. Next most numerous were **Song Sparrow (463)**, **White-crowned Sparrow (369)**, and **Orange-crowned Warbler (355)**. It was interesting to note that of the 343 "Gambel's" **White-crowned Sparrows** captured, 95% were immatures!



Northwest of its usual limits was this adult female **American Redstart** captured for banding at Kluane Provincial Park, Yukon, August 26, 1995. Photograph/Richard J. Cannings.

An ad. ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** at the Port Alberni Bird Sanctuary Sept. 16 was record late for the locality (DGC). Banded at R.P.B.S., Aug. 26 (MGS *et al.*) was an imm. **Lazuli Bunting**. Only a scarce migrant through s. sections of the Region, single **Am. Tree Sparrows** were observed at Kelowna Oct. 18 (DB), at Iona S.T.P., Oct. 22 (SML, MWy), and at Martindale Flats, C. Saanich, Nov. 3 (RS). Lingering at s. Yukon feeders through November were an **Am. Tree Sparrow** at Teslin (DD) and an imm. **White-crowned Sparrow** at Whse. (LC *et al.*). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** discovered on Gordon Head Rd., Saanich, Oct. 12 (GA, SA), the Greater Vic. checklist area's first, lingered until Oct. 14 (†BB, m.ob.). A **Lark Sparrow**, rare for Van. I. and new for the fall, was reported from Sidney I., n.e. of Vic. Aug. 5 (AB). Also enlivening the sparrow action on s.e. Van. I. was a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Rithet's Bog, Saanich, Oct. 26 (KT, †BRG); the species is accidental on the island. A bright red **Fox Sparrow**, one of the e. or n. races, was observed at a feeder at Tappen near Salmon Arm, B.C., Nov. 5 (FK). A **White-throated Sparrow** was surviving far north at a Mackenzie, B.C. feeder Nov. 5+ (VL, *fide* SK). A juv. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in the subalpine zone of Silver Star Mt., Vernon, Aug. 24 (CS) provided a very rare, local late-summer record. The incidence of autumn **Swamp Sparrow** sightings has been on a steady increase; this season from Masset (one), P.G. (two), Vernon (three), Merritt (one), near Tofino (one), R.P.B.S. (six), and s.e. Van. I. (eight), mostly after the beginning of October. The one at Masset Nov. 22 (†PH) provided only the 3rd Q.C.I. record. An infrequent visitor to the south, a young **Harris' Sparrow** was at the Lydia Bishop Bird Sanctuary, Vernon, Oct. 4–7 (MCo, CS, PG); another was at a Kelowna feeder Sept. 30–Oct. 3 (GW, DB, m.ob.); while a 3rd was reported from



A prize find at the Triangle Island Banding Station, off the northwest tip of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, was this **Prairie Warbler** September 8, 1995. It provided a second documented record for the region. Photograph/Mitch Meredith.

Saanich, s.e. Van. I., Nov. 16 (A. McCarter). A large Dark-eyed Junco passage was noted at Swan L., Yukon Sept. 3 when >129 were tallied (HG). Of interest was a Lapland Longspur, which remained aboard a ship 50 km s.w. of Nootka Sound, s.w. Van. I., for *two days* Oct 5–6 (JA).

A **Bobolink**, rare on Van. I., was banded at R.P.B.S., Sept. 22 (MGS *et al.*). Two additional birds were at Rither's bog, Saanich, Sept. 25 (KT). A **W. Meadowlark** was far west at Long Beach, s.w. Van. I., Oct. 29, and at nearby Tofino airport Nov. 2 (DGC). A **Brambling** in a flock of juncos at Masset, Q.C.I., Nov. 20 (†PH) provided the 7th Q.C.I. record since 1971 and the 5th since 1983. White-winged Crossbills continued to flood the higher elevations of the south. Observers driving the 35 km from Kelowna to Big White Ski Resort in mid-August made regular stops and counted about 35 White-wingeds at each (CC, CS, DW). Twenty-five White-wingeds were banded at R.P.B.S. during August and September!

Corrigenda

AFN 49:3: p. 298: Delete reference to Pitt L. in the Black Tern entry. On page 300, Table of late arrivals. the heading of column 3 should read "Number of days late."

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Oregon/ Washington Region

BILL TWEIT AND JEFF GILLIGAN

The fall precipitation began early, with heavy rains by Labor Day. The remainder of the fall was wetter than usual, terminating with flooding in the northwest part of the region at the end of November. This fall was remarkable for a tremendous variety of really rare birds, but otherwise migration was very ordinary. The spectacular list of rarities included Murphy's Petrel, Steller's Eider, Little Stint, White-winged Dove, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Northern Wheatear, and Yellow-throated Vireo. The Oregon coast beat the desert oases of southeast Oregon for the good warblers, an unusual turn of events. Abundance of many pelagic species remained low, which was particularly true of local breeders, migrants from the Arctic, and Sooty Shearwater.

Abbreviations: P.N.P. (*Point No Point, Kitsap Co., WA*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia Co., OR*); S.J.C.R. (*south jetty of the*

