

Solitaire was reported, from Anchorage Dec. 16–Feb. 27+ (DWS), thrushes otherwise made a strong showing in the north, where exotic berry bushes appear to sustain especially Am. Robins through the season. Five robins around Ketchikan were about average through the period (JP), but >17 in Anchorage Dec. 16 (*vide* DFD) and ≥14 through the season (TE, DWS, RLS, *et al.*), >five n. to Eagle R. though Jan 1 (EEB), and a single in Palmer Feb. 5 (*vide* RLS), where casual after mid-December, were unprecedented and well above the UCI average of two–five. The single Varied Thrush that remained at berry trees outside Eagle R., Dec. 1–Feb. 24+ (EEB) was a first local winter report and the Region's northernmost report. It was especially noteworthy since Varieds were otherwise nearly unreported from the N. Gulf Coast, including Kodiak.

Bohemian Waxwings were late to arrive in their typical early winter concentrations around the Anchorage area. Local numbers peaked at about 5000 there in late December, and >1000 remained through the season, by far the most ever found after early January, when they usually finish off their favored Mt. Ash berries. A dozen to 20 is a more typical late February find. The Cedar Waxwing that was found in an Anchorage neighborhood Dec. 28 (TDT) was unprecedented—UCI's 2nd ever, and the N. Gulf Coast's 2nd winter record. This rare and local SE breeder is a casual fall wanderer into the N. Gulf Coast w. of Glacier Bay, *e.g.* Kodiak has 4 fall records. European Starlings held average numbers in the Palmer area stronghold, about 150 through the season (DWS). Extralimitals included three around Anchorage Dec. 16–Feb. 1+ (TGT).

Emberizids to Fringillids

It was an odd sparrow winter, with surprisingly few juncos, especially given seemingly favorable conditions, and above-average *Zonotrichia* numbers n. into UCI. A Fox Sparrow wintered n. of Anchorage at Chugiak Dec. 31+ (*vide* EEB), providing UCI's 3rd and one of the Region's northernmost winter records. Otherwise, Fox Sparrows were scarce and only one Interior *zaboria* type was located at Seward Dec. 23+ (TGT). A few of these rufous and clean-streaked types are found annually in Fall and occasionally in winter on the N. Gulf Coast. This season's Lincoln's Sparrows included an average two at Kodiak to Dec. 30+ (RAM), a return single to an Anchorage feeder for the 2nd consecutive year, all season (TGT), and another possibly still in migration along the Anchorage bluffs Jan. 1 (SDS). The

imm. Swamp Sparrow discovered near Ketchikan in mid-November (*q.v.*) remained in the same area through Feb. 18+ (SCH), and a single White-throated Sparrow, also from the Fall Ketchikan group, remained through the period (TG, SCH). Both Golden-crowned and White-crowned sparrows were well represented and locally concentrated, especially around the UCI and the N. Gulf Coast. An extreme n. White-crowned report came from Eagle R., with one all season (*vide* EEB). An impressive peak of >26 White-crowns in Anchorage Dec. 16 (m.ob.)—that actually expanded to >30 by January, including a single flock of 16 in Anchorage's richest feeder neighborhood (REG, TGT)—was the most ever recorded in winter in UCI. Clearly White-crowned Sparrows survive just fine with a steady food source and apparently little snow cover. Elsewhere, Seward had an above-average >13 White-crowns at least through December (WS, m.ob.), and the N. Gulf Coast had a high count of seven Golden-crowns Dec. 23 (WE, m.ob.). Providing UCI's 3rd winter report, a female Red-winged Blackbird appeared in a s. Anchorage neighborhood with a flock of Rusty Blackbirds Jan. 4–12+ (FW, RLS). As always seems to be the case, it was another strange redpoll year. Below-average number were reported from everywhere s. of the Brooks Range, except in UCI, where numbers swelled at feeders, especially after the near-record February snowfall. Away from inhabited areas, redpolls, Pine Siskins, Pink Grosbeaks, and crossbills were poorly represented and often difficult to locate after December.

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British Columbia/ Yukon Region

JACK BOWLING

The battle between Pacific and Arctic air masses was titanic this winter, the Arctic air being of High Arctic origin and the Pacific air laden with Hawaiian moisture. Other than a brief cold snap during the first week, persistent rains were common along the coast during December. Farther inland, cold and snow alternated with milder weather. Heavy snows shifted into the northern half of the Region in early January, before it turned bitterly cold and dry mid-month Regionwide. Even the usually balmy outer coast was below freezing for many nights in a row. It was the longest and deepest cold snap on record for Yukon, with frequent readings into the -40° F. and more than a few into the -50s! The weather finally turned warmer during the first week of February and stayed that way until month end, although it still below normal for many areas. Anomalous concentrations of species across the southern half of the Region, both on the coast and inland during December, shifted to the coast in January as temperatures plummeted. One has to wonder about mortality rates of those birds unable to flee the cold. Eurasian strays were scarce, suggesting advance knowledge of North America's impending winter weather.

Abbreviations: B.C. (*British Columbia*), Ok. L. (*Okanagan L.*); Ok. Vly (*Okanagan Valley*); P.G. (*Prince George*); p.v. (*pending verification by responsible Bird Records Committee*); Reifel (*Reifel Waterfowl Sanctuary, Ladner, B.C.*); STP (*Sewage Treatment Plant/Ponds*); Van. (*Vancouver*), Van. I. (*Vancouver I.*); Vic. (*Victoria*), Whse. (*Whitehorse*).

Loons to Rails

Not all Red-throated Loons spend the whole winter on salt water, as evidenced by the young bird at McCoy L. near Port Alberni Jan. 21 (DGC). There was an above-normal seven Yellow-billed Loons reported, with sightings from Pender Harbour, Sunshine Coast, Dec. 6–Jan. 2 (TG), another off Masset, Q.C.I., Dec. 17 (PH, RW), two

on the Victoria CBC Dec. 16, one on the Duncan CBC Dec. 30, a reappearance on Kalamalka L., Vernon, Jan. 2 of an immature first seen mid-November (CS), and another at Tofino Jan. 2 (RP). An icebound W. Grebe was rescued at Jim Smith L. near Cranbrook, s.e. B.C., Dec. 6 (GrR) and released on the Kootenay R. near Ft. Steele. A Clark's Grebe, a casual visitor to Van. I., at Metchosin, w. of Vic., Jan. 5 (BK) was noteworthy.

A sub-ad. Short-tailed Albatross was spotted 71 km. w. of Tofino, w. Van. I., Feb. 23 (p.v.) by Capt. John Anderson, skipper of the M.V. "Tulley." This would be the first sighting in Canadian waters this century of a species which, according to midden excavations, was likely more common thousands of years ago. A Short-tailed Shearwater off Masset, Q.C.I., on the Dec. 17 CBC (PH, RW) provided the 2nd record for the count. Great Blue Heron numbers built up steadily in the n. Ok. Vily around Vernon: An alfalfa field adjacent to Swan L. hosted 25 herons Dec. 3 (EN), while a record 38 were tallied on the Vernon CBC Dec. 17, despite cold, snowy weather.

The up-and-down weather of December concentrated many birds in the s. interior valleys, as illustration by a couple s. Ok. Vily CBCs (see Table 1).

Although the tally of 690 Trumpeter Swans on the Duncan CBC Dec. 30 was on the high side, the compiler lamented the low number of immatures in the flocks (DM). Highlights of the Port Alberni



Male Falcated Teal (center) at Tofino, British Columbia, February 25, 1996. Probably the same individual returning to this site for a third year. Photograph/Donald G. Cecile.

CBC Dec. 17 (DGC, BSI, KJ) included one ad. and one imm. Tundra Swan, rare at any season on the w. side of Van. I., along with four Brant, the first ever seen at the head of Alberni Inlet. A Greater White-fronted Goose in with Canada Geese at Kelowna Jan. 13 (CC, GW, m.ob.) provided the Ok. Vily's 6th winter record. The lone Snow Goose on the Penticton CBC Dec. 30 was only the 3rd ever for the count. Wood Ducks made news (both bad and good) in a couple of spots: on the Duncan CBC, where only a low 15 were noted, and in P.G., Dec. 17 (HA, EL) and Jan. 9 (SK, LL), where two were in with Mallards at the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser Rivers, the 2nd consecutive year that Wood Ducks have lingered well into the winter at this location. Of interest was a ♂ *crecca* Green-winged

Teal at the Port Alberni Bird Sanctuary Jan. 12 (DGC). The ♂ Falcated Teal which turned up at Tofino Jan. 27+ (DGC, m.ob.) was likely the same bird making its 3rd appearance. Previous visits were Apr. 19–22, 1994, and Jan. 20–Mar. 28, 1995. The discoverer noted a significant increase in Gadwall during the November–January period, indicating the possibility that the teal was accompanying Gadwall flocks.

Although hardier than its Blue-winged cousin, Cinnamon Teals rarely linger in the Region in winter. However, this year there was a male at Iona STP Feb. 1+ (RT0, m.ob.); another male at Kelowna Feb. 21 (JBU) was inexplicable given the

Table 1: Birds on two CBCs in the southern Okanagan Valley

New high number of individuals listed (some former high counts or ties in parentheses):

Penticton (Dec. 30)

Common Loon	11
Red-necked Grebe	46 (14)
Snow Goose	1 (tie)
Canada Goose	2450
Wood Duck	3
Mallard	1683
American Wigeon	113 (44)
Northern Harrier	11 (7)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14 (tie)
Cooper's Hawk	11 (8)
California Gull	637
Herring Gull	222
Thayer's Gull	2
Glaucous-winged Gull	10
Glaucous Gull	4 (tie)
Great Gray Owl	1
Three-toed Woodpecker	2

Oliver-Osoyoos (Dec. 31)

Canada Goose	1379
Mallard	2654
Bald Eagle	13
Northern Harrier	18
Red-breasted Nuthatch	180
Pygmy Nuthatch	104
Western Bluebird	8
Cedar Waxwing	91
Red Crossbill	499

antecedent cold weather. Eurasian Wigeon are much more common on the s. coast than the interior in winter: Compare the 27 recorded on the Duncan CBC Dec. 30, with the singles seen at Kelowna Dec. 5 (EDi, m.ob.) and Jan. 13 (CC). A ♀ Tufted Duck at Port Alberni Jan. 12 (DGC) provided a first local record, and one of only a handful for Van. I., while another female was at Lost Lagoon, Van., Feb. 21 (EWh). Just to show how tough ducks can be, consider the presence of one ♀ Com. Merganser and ten Mallards on the open water of McIntyre Cr. near Whse., Yukon Jan. 29 (CE), near the end of the long cold snap!

A Turkey Vulture perched on a snowy branch overlooking salmon scraps just w. of Port Alberni Jan. 21 (DGC) provided a first local winter record, as well as lending a w. coast ambience to the eerie vulture scene. Northern Goshawks were widely reported, with sightings from most reporting areas, consistent with cold, snowy winters. Of particular interest from the previ-





Turkey Vulture at Port Alberni, British Columbia, January 21, 1996. First local winter record. Photograph/Donald G. Cecile.

ous reporting period was the drama of a Goshawk killing a Short-eared Owl at Jarvis Cr., s. Yukon, Nov. 14 (ME). Also of note were singles seen on both the Sandspit and Queen Charlotte City, Q.C.I., CBCs Dec. 16 (BE, PH, OD, BWi), most likely of the seldom-seen smaller Q.C.I. subspecies. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Pitt Meadows Dec. 4–5 and relocated by the same observer Dec. 7 in nearby Maple Ridge (p.v., †KGT) represented one of few reports for the Region; no previous record has ever been accepted. Not too far w. at Maplewood Mudflats in N. Van., an imm. **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen being pursued by a flock of crows Feb. 3 (p.v., RBu, J. Boxwell, JN). Needless to say this record would be astounding if accepted.

One of few documented winter records of Golden Eagle for Yukon was of an adult soaring upstream past the Lewes Bridge on the Yukon R., Dec. 17 (CE). An ad. Golden Eagle at the Port Alberni Bird Sanctuary Jan. 12 (DGC) was quite likely the same bird that has been wintering there the past few years. A Merlin overwintered in P.G. and was seen capturing a Bohemian Waxwing Feb. 6 (EL). This small falcon is closely tied to waxwing flocks in the n. part of its winter range. A Peregrine Falcon perched on the s. bluff of Nelson I. on the Pender Harbour CBC Dec. 20 (TG) was in exactly the same location that one had been seen 364 days previously—same bird? Up to five Gyrfalcons were present in s.c. B.C.: two in the Vernon area through December and January (PR, PG, RWC, EN), another on the Kamloops CBC Dec. 16 (RRH), one at the Perry Ranch, Cache Cr., Feb. 1 (PMo, BMo), and another at Canoe, e. of Salmon Arm, Feb. 15 (RRH). A rare resident of the arid s. Ok. Vly, a Prairie Falcon was watched eating prey atop a telephone pole at Oliver Dec. 31 (RJC).

A covey of six Chukar near Penticton Jan. 7 (RJC, RCC, JJC) were “gritting” on

the highway. A flock of approximately 40 ptarmigan seen near McLeod L., 120 km. n. of P.G., Feb. 13 (TM) were likely Rocks, a species for which adequate information in the Region is lacking, especially with regard to seasonal movements. Surprising were six Sharp-tailed Grouse in aspen and birch treetops at Quesnel Dec. 31 (SK, LL). The s.e. B.C. population of Wild Turkey was more conspicuous this period, with flocks of ≥ 20 seen in various lowland areas around Kimberley (*vide* MW). The increased reports were likely correlated with the heavy snowpack at the higher levels. Virginia Rails are notorious for hiding away amid the cattails during the winter. Typical were three at the Port Alberni Bird Sanctuary Dec. 17 (DGC, BSl, KJ), one at Cummins Rd. Marsh, Ok. Landing, Jan. 1 (PG) & 13 (PR) and two there Jan. 20 (PG), and a single at Maude Roxby Marsh, Kelowna, until the beginning of the cold snap in mid-January (CC).

Shorebirds to Woodpeckers

Although the flock of 120 Black-bellied Plovers at Tlell Beach, Q.C.I., Feb. 22 (PH, MH) was not unusual for the location, note that this is the only known area on the archipelago where large numbers of this species overwinter, with one–two being typical of other sand beaches. A high 250 Killdeer was tallied on the Port Alberni CBC Dec. 17 (DGC, BSl, KJ), mostly in pasture settings. Providing a new “high-water mark” for large Sanderling flocks anywhere in the Region were the 621 roaming Wickanninish Beach s. of Tofino Jan. 27 (DGC). Apparently just a one-day stopover this year, a Dunlin was at the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser Rivers at P.G., Dec. 2 (P.G.N.C.). The 1400 Dunlin at the Sharp Rd. mudflats at Tofino Feb. 10 (DGC) constituted a large flock for Van. I. Two Long-billed Dowitchers survived through the period at Masset (OD, PH, MH, BWi); there had been no previous Q.C.I. sightings past mid-January. Up to 30 Com. Snipe were holed up in the Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary, Masset, Feb. 1 (MH, PH) during the cold snap, the largest single flock recorded on the Islands. Three Red Phalaropes near Sproat L., c. Van. I., Dec. 17 (SMcR) and one at Port Clements, Q.C.I., Dec. 20 (OD, PH, BWi) likely delineated the n. periphery of the “great Red Phalarope wreck” experienced farther south along the w. coast of North America after a major storm.

Rare in B.C.'s interior in winter, an ad. Mew Gull was at Kelowna Jan. 13 (CC). A Ring-billed Gull at Chapman Cr. estuary Jan. 2 (TG) provided only the 2nd January record for the Sunshine Coast. An

ad. Herring Gull was at Port Alberni Jan. 12 (DGC), an area where the species is seldom found in winter. An evening flock of approximately 6000 Glaucous-winged Gulls flying to roost upriver past the waterfront at New Westminster Jan. 15 (MPt) included two imm. Glaucous Gulls and 150 Herring Gulls, a high number for the inner coast. An ad. **Slaty-backed Gull** was near the corner of Hwys. 10 & 99 Jan. 21 (†SML, CMI, SP), and likely the same bird was later seen there Feb. 17–Mar. 3 (JAM, HNM, RT0, m.ob.). This spot has become reliable the past several years for this now regular but still scarce winter visitor. An ad. W. Gull at Mission Pt., Sechelt, Feb. 3 (TG) provided the 5th record for the Sunshine Coast. There were single Glaucous Gull reports from Vernon Dec. 17 (PR), Duncan CBC Dec. 30, and Kelowna Feb. 22 (CC). A 3rd-winter Glaucous-winged x W. Gull at Penticton Nov. 26 (RWC) constituted the first record of this cross in the Ok. Vly—given the increasing hybrid ratio of these 2 species, it will likely not be the last. Just about all coastal CBCs carry an entry for “hybrid” gulls now. A **Sabine's Gull** molting into first-winter plumage was found at Tappen Bay on the Salmon Arm CBC Dec. 17 (ph. FK). The bird seemed distressed by the cold and snow and closely circled the observer's car, allowing videotaping. A flock of six Rhinoceros Auklets on Semiahmoo Bay off White Rock, B.C., Jan. 25 (†JAM) were out of season.

SA Hamel and Williams of Masset drove an all-terrain vehicle out to the n.e. point of the Q.C.I., Dec. 23 to conduct the Rose Spit CBC. This was the spot where last year >4600 Ancient Murrelets were counted. This year proved to be just as worthwhile, but instead of an Ancient Murrelet flypast, they were witness to a parade of Cassin's Auklets! In a 5 minute period, the observers counted 255 Cassin's Auklets; the flight lasted another 25 minutes with a total of around 1250 birds. Note that the previous high winter count for Canadian waters was only 23! This year there were just eight Ancient Murrelets in with the auklets. Clearly there is much to be learned about the winter distribution of many of our alcids.

The largest flock of Band-tailed Pigeons reported was of 20 feeding on arbutus berries at Pender Harbour, Sunshine Coast, Dec. 28 (TG). The Whitehorse CBC tallied 468 Rock Doves downtown Dec. 26, a

new high total for the count. A W. Screech-Owl at the Lydia Bishop Sanctuary, Vernon, Jan. 11 (MCo) provided the first n. Ok. Villy record in over a decade. More usual was one at Woodhaven Nature Conservancy, Kelowna, Jan. 13 (CC, JS). Another screech-owl which had taken up daytime residence in a Wood Duck nest-box near Black Cr., e. Van. I. in November was last seen there Jan. 30 (DWI, MAI). A starving Great Horned Owl of the *subarcticus* race was found huddling in a barn near Sicamous, s.c. B.C., Dec. 13 (*vide* FK) and was taken to a rehabilitation facility. This subspecies is known to breed only in the Peace R. Parklands of n.e. B.C. There was only one sighting of N. Hawk Owl, a bird atop a snag 80 km n. of P.G., Feb. 25 (NK, m.ob.). Northern Pygmy-Owls were widely reported, as is typical during heavy snow years, with sightings from P.G., Quesnel, Vernon, Penticton, Oliver, Vaseux L., White L., Anarchist Mt., and Duncan. A dead Barred Owl was found on the roadside at Saanich Dec. 2 (DS). Another Barred was present in Beacon Hill Park, Vic., Jan. 1 (JGa) and Feb. 27 (AS). It appears this species has now conquered Van. I. Unfortunately, there were several reports of Great Gray Owls dying from starvation or vehicle collisions, including one at Roberts Cr., Sunshine Coast, Dec. 18 (TG), an emaciated carcass found Feb. 10 of a bird first seen Jan. 12 at Maplewood Mudflats, N. Van. (EG), and 2 road-kills n. of Kamloops during the last week of February (*vide* RRH). Apparently surviving Great Gray Owls included singles on the Mackenzie CBC Dec. 16; Summerland Dec. 19–Feb. 2 (BBa, m.ob.); Fairview, s. of Penticton, Jan. 1 (MS); Commonage, Vernon, Jan. 6 (PG); Deer L. Park, Burnaby, Jan. 12–22 (m.ob.); Kimberley Nature Park on 3 occasions during January (R&KG); Pitt Meadows Feb. 12 (RCr), with presumably the same bird at nearby Maple Ridge the next day (SF); and another foraging alongside Hwy 16, e. of Vanderhoof, c. B.C., Feb. 19 (KW).

As usual, Long-eared Owls showed up in the s. Ok. Villy, with one on the Oliver-Osoyoos CBC Dec. 31, and another at Sage Mesa near Penticton Feb. 22 (GIR, RJC, RCC, JJC). A Short-eared Owl seen on the Oliver-Osoyoos CBC Dec. 31 (RJC, RCC, CAD) provided only the 3rd count occurrence. Short-eareds were noted as scarce in the Vernon area, with one on the Vernon CBC Dec. 17 (CL) and another near the Kalamalka L. lookout s. of Vernon Jan. 7 (CS, CC). Another Short-eared Owl survived at Masset until at least Feb. 17 (PH, BWi); there had been no previous Q C I records past December. During one

of the many school group tours led by Ireland at Reifel, a **Boreal Owl** was discovered dozing away in a holly bush Nov. 20 (†JL, m.ob.), providing one of very few records for the s. coast lowlands. There may have been a subtle N. Saw-whet Owl movement into the Ok. Villy, with singles at Kelowna Jan. 2 (DB, m.ob.) & 6 (EF), and five on the Oliver-Osoyoos CBC Dec. 31. As usual, there were \leq ten saw-whets tucked into the protective boughs at Reifel through the period (JI).

An all-time high 59 Anna's Hummingbirds were tallied on the Victoria CBC Dec. 16, eclipsing the 44 recorded in 1988. A Lewis' Woodpecker managed to survive the winter at Kelowna holed up in a large elm tree (CC, m.ob.). As often happens, woodpeckers fled the ice and snow of the interior for the more temperate coast. Nowhere was this more conspicuous than at Masset, Q.C.I., Jan. 29 (PH, MH) during the nadir of the cold spell. The following congregation was found foraging loosely together near the edge of a spruce forest: a pair of Downy Woodpeckers, casual on the Q.C.I.; 12 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, normally found as singles; four Hairy Woodpeckers; and five N. Flickers. A hybrid Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker, likely a male, was at a S. Surrey residence Feb. 1–8 (W&CB, †JAM, HNM, PSp, BSp). Red-breasted Sapsuckers were noted as abundant at Sechelt during the cold snap (TG); however, a hardier Red-breasted was toughing out the cold weather at Sage Mesa near Penticton Jan. 27 (RTy, DTy). Downy Woodpeckers were well dispersed, with a pair venturing out to Comber's Beach, Tofino, Jan. 27 (DGC); the species is very rare on the outer coast. Undoubtedly the most unusual Downy Woodpecker sighting was of one feeding on standing dead sunflowers in Dawson, c.w. Yukon during December (DMi), close to the northernmost latitude ever recorded for this species in Canada. The main effect of the cold around P.G. was to drive woodpeckers to the suet feeders with Downy, Hairy, N. Flicker and Pileated all reported during the period (m.ob.). High numbers of N. Flickers were counted on s. Van. I. CBCs, with 531 at Vic., Dec. 16, a new all-time high, and 140 at Duncan Dec. 30.

Flycatchers to Fringillids

A Say's Phoebe just s. of Vernon Feb. 11 (EN), undoubtedly an early migrant, was soaking up the sun on a south-facing slope while snow lay deep around. A very early Horned Lark was present on Two-Mile Hill, Whse., Feb. 23+ (LKL, m.ob.). The vanguard of the swallow migration was

early. The first returning swallows on Van. I. were 12–18 Tree Swallows at Somenos Marsh, Duncan, Feb. 14, followed 2 days later by the first Violet-greens (DM). Meanwhile, on the other side of Georgia Strait, the first Tree Swallow was spotted Feb. 10 at Reifel (JI), with the first two Violet-greens there Feb. 17 (JAM, HNM). Very unusual given the preceding cold weather was the appearance of a Violet-green Swallow at Newport Beach on the w. side of Ok. L., n. of Kelowna, Feb. 17, with two there Feb. 21 (JW); the previous early record for the Ok. Villy was Feb. 28. A **Barn Swallow**, casual in winter, at Roberts Cr., Sunshine Coast, Jan. 15 (TG) was perhaps the same bird which was rumored to have been seen earlier around the Fraser Delta. Indeed, two Barn Swallows at Reifel Feb. 16 (JI) were felt to have overwintered.

Sightings of single Blue Jays came from Beaverley near P.G., where one was present from mid-October (PJ); Maude Roxby Marsh area, Kelowna, early October–Feb. 22 (m.ob.); a Halfmoon Bay, Sunshine Coast, feeder from mid-November; and a banded individual at N. Saanich through the period (m.ob.), likely a bird banded there early in 1995. At the very n. edge of their range, Mt. Chickadees were seen several times around s. Yukon, with one–two birds at Tagish feeders Jan. 2 (GK, LK) & 21 (TGi, HG), and another at Whse., Feb. 18 (m.ob.). Usually sedentary, a **Bush-tit** was seen at Sechelt Dec. 15 (TG), providing the 4th area record; a female was well-inland at Kelowna Dec. 28–Jan. 5 (L. Knowles, †CC, DB, m.ob.), providing the 2nd Ok. Villy record. The seven White-breasted Nuthatches found on the Penticton CBC Dec. 30 represented the lowest total since 1978. There were also several White-breasted Nuthatches reported away from the s. Ok. Villy stronghold: two at a feeder 6 km. n. of P.G. through the period (BN), the most reliable c. B.C. site the past several years; one at Oak Bay, Vic., Dec. 28–Jan. 16 (BRG, m.ob.), providing the area's 4th record; one at Maple Ridge Dec. 29 (†KGT); and an ad. male at a S. Surrey suet feeder Dec. 30–Feb. 27 (W&CB, BSp, PSp, †JAM, HNM). Canyon Wrens were found in good numbers in the s. Ok. Villy, with 25 on the Oliver-Osoyoos CBC Dec. 31. An all-time high 306 Bewick's Wrens were recorded on the Vic. CBC Dec. 16, well above the old record of 218 set in 1987. American Dippers were noted from open streams in s. Yukon 7 times through the period (m.ob.). This species is obviously well-adapted to cold weather. A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, rare at any season

on the Q.C.I., was at Alliford Bay on the Sandspit CBC Dec. 16, providing a first count record. Equally surprising, inland observations of Ruby-crowneds included two on the Vernon CBC Dec. 17 (GG) and one at Kelowna Jan. 4 (CC). A Townsend's Solitaire lingered until Dec. 3 at Teslin L. (DD, HG), providing Yukon's first winter record. Four solitaires were tallied on the Vic. CBC Dec. 16, an area which has seen an increase of the species the past several years. The 61 W. Bluebirds seen on the Pentiction CBC Dec. 30 represented the 3rd highest count total ever. As usual, a few W. Bluebirds wintered in the Ok. Mission area of Kelowna (*vide* CC). An early cold snap with 15–20 cm of snow brought a flock of 177 Am. Robins to Masset, Q.C.I., Dec. 3 (PH, BWi, OD), the largest winter flock ever recorded on the Islands. Also recording record numbers of robins was the Pender Harbour CBC Dec. 20, with 540 tallied, mostly in huge flocks eating arbutus berries. An Am. Robin trying its luck with a Yukon winter was at downtown Whse., Dec. 2 & 30 (RC). The Kimberley area reported four–six robins eking it out through the winter, with a buildup in numbers beginning after the cold snap ended, *i.e.* 14 in a yard Feb. 21 (TH). A Northern Mockingbird, casual in winter on Van. I., was present at Royston, *c.e.* Van. I., Jan. 31–Feb. 9 (m.ob.). Bohemian Waxwings were plentiful inland with the highest flock numbers from s.e. B.C. in the E. Kootenays: approximately 2000 in Kimberley and 3000 in Cranbrook (m.ob.). Some of the waxwings spilled out to the coast, with 18 near Masset Jan. 24 (PH) probably the highest number ever seen on the Q.C.I., where they are rare winter visitors in flocks of a few individuals. However, the Vernon area reported fewer-than-normal numbers of Bohemians, with flocks of hundreds rather than the more normal thousands, and only two were seen at Quesnel Dec. 31 (SK, LL). This patchy distribution is likely correlated with the local abundance of food crops, especially mountain ash. Surprising were Cedar Waxwings seen in with robin flocks on the Sunshine Coast, with two at Pender Harbour Dec. 28 (TG) and six at Sechelt Feb. 3 (TG); the species is rarely seen in the area in the winter. Also of note were five at Tofino Feb. 25 (DGC), one of which had been present for some months. Scattered individuals were also noted inland despite the cold weather, with four at Vernon Jan. 19 (EN). There was a well-marked influx of Cedar Waxwings into the Pentiction area, with flocks of 20–50 noted Dec 19+ (SRC, RJC, m ob)

Driven to feeders by a deep snowpack and low rodent numbers, a N. Shrike was seen capturing and eating Am. Robins at College Heights, P.G., Dec. 2 & 3 (SM). Remaining well n. was a N. Shrike eyeing a feeder at Horse Cr., Yukon, Feb. 3 (KO).

SA The status of Hutton's Vireos in the Sunshine Coast is typical of the rest of its s.w. B.C. range. The species is normally recorded as scattered singles during the non-breeding season, becoming conspicuous only as the males start to sing in January–February. This winter they began singing in February, and were commonly heard in 2nd-growth Douglas Fir stands throughout the Sunshine Coast, e.g. four at the Sechelt Airport Feb. 16 (TG). Indeed, the Sunshine Coast may be the center of abundance of Hutton's Vireos in the Region. What is unknown is if these are all resident birds, or if some migration from the south is involved.

An Orange-crowned Warbler at Gibsons, Sunshine Coast, Dec. 27 (TG) provided one of very few winter records for the area. Also likely overwintering was another Orange-crowned at Iona STP, Richmond, Feb. 14–27 (RTo, MMcN). A ♀ "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Tofino Feb. 25 (DGC, AD) was thought to have been an overwintering bird rather than an early migrant. A Palm Warbler successfully overwintered at Tofino and was last seen Feb. 11 (AD). A single Wilson's Warbler, very rare during winter on Van. I., was reported from Comox Dec. 4 (N. McInnes). An imm. Chipping Sparrow at Lydia Bishop Bird Sanctuary, Vernon, Jan. 3–6 (MCo, m.ob.) provided one of very few winter records for the Region. Lingered well n. was a White-throated Sparrow at a Mackenzie, n.c. B.C. feeder through the period (m.ob.). A Lincoln's Sparrow at Okanagan Landing Dec. 17 & Jan. 1 (PG) provided about the 3rd winter record for the Ok. Villy. The only interior report of Swamp Sparrow was of an immature at the mouth of the Adams R., Shuswap L., Dec. 16 (RRH). Conversely, they were reported from most of the usual marshy areas around s.e. Van. I., including Swan L., Cuthbert Holmes Park, and Viaduct Flats, all in Saanich, and the Duncan STP (m.ob.). An imm. White-crowned Sparrow at a Whse. feeder Dec. 1 (LC, †CE) provided the first documented Yukon winter record. As usual, Harris' Sparrow reports were few, with an immature at a Kelowna feeder Dec. 16 (LGy, m.ob.), one immature at the Head of the Lake, n end

of Ok. L. near Vernon, Dec. 17 (PR), and another at Maplewood Mudflats, N. Van, Jan. 12 (EG).

Dark-eyed Juncos were seen at no fewer than 5 separate s. Yukon locations through the period (m.ob.), a testament to the insulating qualities of junco plumage. The total of 3085 juncos on the Duncan CBC Dec 30 was impressive and well-above the previous year's total, typical of the variable winter populations of this species. Very unusual were the widespread reports of Snow Buntings across s. Yukon, usually a scarce winter bird. Flocks of 20–40 were seen during the last week in January from various locations, as well as a large flock of 200 near Rancheria Jan. 30 (RF). A flock of 18 Snow Buntings on a Masset beach Jan. 24 (PH) was an unusually high number for the Q.C.I. A flock of five W. Meadowlarks successfully overwintered on the Sechelt Golf Course (TG), only the 2nd such occurrence. Other notable gatherings of meadowlarks included nine at Rutland, Kelowna, Dec. 3 (CC), and 15 on the Pentiction CBC Dec. 30. An ad. ♂ Bullock's Oriole at a Westbank hummingbird feeder was the star of the Kelowna CBC Dec. 16 (NJ, CC, m.ob.). The reason behind its appearance will remain a mystery. A ♂ Brambling was at Revelstoke Dec. 17 (p v, DPo); given the sighting of a Brambling at Valemount 160 km n. in September of 1994, one wonders about the possibility of a wandering repeat visitor.

Pine Grosbeaks were drawn to feeders across the n. half of the Region, with one-day tallies of 243 on the P.G. CBC Dec 17, and 280 on the Whse. CBC Dec. 26. Flocks of 20–75 birds at single feeders were not uncommon. However, the species was virtually absent from the Ok Villy. Purple Finches are generally absent within the s.c. B.C. range occupied by Cassin's Finch. Surprising, then, was a male on the Vernon CBC Dec. 17 (†CS). The total of 2203 House Finches on the Pentiction CBC Dec. 30 represented the 2nd highest ever for the count. Valley bottoms of the Ok. Villy saw few crossbills, however, both species were common at higher elevations, as the 499 Reds and 151 White-wingeds recorded on the Oliver-Osoyoos CBC Dec. 31 indicate. Locally unusual in winter, 15 Red Crossbills were 75 km w. of Whse., Jan. 7 (RC, LH). White winged Crossbills rebounded in s Yukon after a near absence the previous winter, with 211 at Marsh L., Dec. 17 (m.ob.); they appeared to dwindle after the January cold spell, with three at a Whse. feeder Jan. 28 (RC, KW).

Common Redpoll numbers were high across the n. half of the Region, with 859

on the Mackenzie CBC Dec. 16, 903 on the P.G. CBC Dec. 17, and 401 on the Whse. CBC Dec. 26. Contrast this with the single redpoll seen in the Comox area Dec. 14-15 (DWI), and the two seen on the Vernon CBC Dec. 17 (CC, DW). As usual, s. Yukon feeders hosted several Hoary Redpolls, with six at Watson L. (LE) and four at Porter Cr. (CE, PS), both Jan. 27. Pine Siskins were abundant in the n. OK. Vly, as the record-high 1400 birds on the Vernon CBC Dec. 17 attests. Contrast this with the less populated and thus less feeder-filled s. Ok. Vly, where only 19 were found on the Oliver-Osoyoos CBC Dec. 31. Evening Grosbeaks are hard to find in s.w. Yukon at any season; noteworthy, then, was an ad. female at a Whse. feeder Dec. 17-20 (LC). Another female at other Whse. feeders Dec. 23+ (BaSt, BoSt, CE, HG) was thought to have been a different bird based on comparison of photos. They were very scarce throughout the Ok. Vly, Kamloops, and Revelstoke areas, with the 300 at a feeder at Hullcar just n. of Armstrong in early December (*vide* MCo) an anomaly.

Corrigenda

In *AFN* 49:3: The White-tailed Kite at Pitt Meadows reported as a potential first record was in fact a potential 4th record for the Region.

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Oregon/ Washington Region

BILL TWEIT AND JIM JOHNSON

Seattle had its wettest winter since record-keeping began in 1942. Accordingly, the Region experienced three major flood events: in the northern half of Region at the beginning of season, on the middle coast at the end of December, and throughout the Region in February. Two storms in December brought very high winds to the central coast, producing a Leach's Storm-Petrel and Red Phalarope wreck, and notable records of Laysan Albatross, Northern Fulmar, Mottled Petrel, and Cook's Petrel.

Temperatures remained generally moderate throughout the season, so there were a substantial number of lingering species. The fall display of rarities continued through the winter, with several first state records.

Abbreviations: P.N.P. (*Point-No-Point, Kitsap Co., WA*); Ridgefield (*Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark Co., WA*); Sauvie (*Sauvie I., Columbia Co., OR*).

