

coln's Sparrow singing near Nome 26 Jun (WP, PJB) was well w. of known breeding sites on the Seward Pen. Two juv. Golden-crowned Sparrows were discovered at 690 m elevation in the Mt. Roberts alpine zone above downtown Juneau 24 Jun (GVV). Their presence at this date provided good evidence of local nesting farther s. and on the w. slope of the Coast Range than had been previously documented. Golden-crowns are known to breed up to nearly 1200 m, mainly on the dry e. slopes and higher plateaus of the e. side of the Coast Range. A rare summer visit to King I. produced at least four pairs of territorial and probably nesting McKay's Buntings 14-21 Jun (KN, *fide* GVV) well n. of known nesting areas in the Bering Sea: breeding McKay's are established only at St. Mathew and Hall Is., with infrequent nests located on St. Lawrence I. Ephemeral nesting attempts, often with Snow Bunting mates, are occasional in the Pribilofs.

Still casual for the Region in summer was a female Black-headed Grosbeak at a Juneau feeder 18-24 Jun (ph. PS, RJG); since the early 1990s, there has been a pattern of apparent overshoots reaching into the Region only in the s. half of Southeast in Jun; vagrants are also detected in early fall. Nice documentation was received of another

imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird from Anchorage's Potter Marsh 26 Jul (ph. PE), which was relocated sporadically through about 10 Aug (*fide* SS); this furnishes Upper Cook Inlet's 3rd record. A pair of Brown-headed Cowbirds cavorted around the small pastures in Gustavus most of the summer (ND et al.). Although cowbirds occur periodically in late spring, usually on the Southeast Mainland, they are rare this far n. and are typically singles, usually males. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches (*littoralis*) are rarely detected in the remote alpine terrain of Southeast, so an ad. above Juneau 31 Jul (ph. RA) and 3 juvs. at Ketchikan 26 Jun (AWP, SCH) were excellent finds and confirmation of local nestings. Because of difficulties in accessing many sites, the Southeast range of *littoralis* remains poorly delineated.

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British Columbia



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A westerly jet stream directed storms across southern British Columbia through most of June; in July, it moved northward, bringing mainly soggy weather to the northern half of the province while the south dried up. Floods and late-season snowstorms, however, were unreported, and so nesting success was assumed to be high. Rare species were well reported, including Manx Shearwater, White-winged Dove, Western Scrub-Jay, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Dickcissel.

ALBATROSSES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

An observer aboard a cruise ship provided an impressive sample of pelagics 16 km wsw. of Carmanah Pt. 2 Jul: 1000+ Black-footed Albatross, 5000+ Sooty Shearwater, 5000+ Northern Fulmar, 500+ Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, and one Laysan Albatross; another Laysan was 20-30 km w. of the Queen Charlotte Is. 27 Jun (BB). A Manx Shearwater was seen from shore along the

West Coast Trail near Dare Pt. 2 Jun (†NH), furnishing a 6th record for the province. American White Pelicans are rare along the s. coast; 2 ads. flying nw. from Tsawwassen toward Vancouver I. (RTo, CI) were the only coastal ones reported. Other displaced White Pelicans included 112, a large count, on Swan L. in the Peace R. area 27 Jun (CC et al.). Brown Pelicans were again prevalent along the coast; most noteworthy were the sightings of single imms. in the Lower Mainland: White Rock Pier 9 Jul (GP et al.), Steveston Jetty Tip 10 Jul (JI, IS), and Iona and Sea Is. 16 Jul (MN et al.). A Eurasian Wigeon was exceptionally late at Forest Grove 20 Jun (TG).

The Okanagan's first mid-summer Broad-winged Hawk came from Naramata 6 Jul (RJC). Very rare in the s. interior, an ad. Ferruginous Hawk was seen gliding over the sage at Douglas Lake Ranch 26 Jun (RTo, CI), a location where nesting has previously been suspected. Yellow Rails are extremely local in the province, known mostly from a few scattered locations in the Peace R. area; this season, 2 were reported at Valleyview, a new location, n. of Dawson Creek 15 Jun (JG).

Pacific Golden-Plovers are very rare anywhere away from the coast, but one

such bird found its way to Dawson Creek on the odd date of 27 Jun (*fide* JG). The only report of Black-necked Stilts was of 6 from Little R. on Vancouver I. 20 Jul (NHu). Through the period, at least three pairs of American Avocets attempted to nest at Roundup L., n. of Riske Cr., with two pairs raising a total of 5 chicks to fledging (PR). This constitutes the most northerly breeding occurrence w. of the Rockies. Very rare in the interior, a Willet was at the Lavington Wetlands, East Kootenays 11 Jun (†DN et al.). Many Up-land Sandpipers were found in the Peace R. area this summer; the greatest concentration of five pairs was noted near Valleyview 28 Jun (JG, MP). At a prime location for Hudsonian Godwit, the Fort St. John sewage ponds, observers were surprised to find a Marbled Godwit, as well as a White-rumped Sandpiper, 2 Jun (TT, GR). Almost annual in the Region, an ad. Red-necked Stint in alternate plumage was found on the Iona I. Sewage Ponds 2 Jul (ph. RTo). Of the now 23 records for the province, more than half are from late Jun–early Jul, a time when ads. are readily detectable.

GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

Mew Gulls are very rare in summer in the Peace R. area; a single was near Dawson Creek 13 Jul (JG). A record count of 657 Caspian Terns came from Tsawwassen 19 Jul (RS). Arctic Terns are casual in spring and fall along the Georgia Strait, where 2 ads. were seen from the Tsawwassen Ferry 30 Jul (GLM). A pair of Arctic was unexpected at McQueen's Slough 27 Jun (CC et al.). Very rare in the Region, 4 ad. Forster's Terns were at Beaver Ranch Flats just n. of Merritt 26 Jun (RTo). Rare in the Kootenays, a single Band-tailed Pigeon was at Kaslo 12-14 Jun (MS). A small established population of Eurasian Collared-Doves in Castown may be the source for the following sightings: a single in Squamish 19 Jun (ph. GD, MD et al.) and a pair in Kelowna 7 Jul (CC). With an exploding continental population, it is not surprising that records of White-winged Dove are on the increase in the province, with the province's 8th record from Stamp Falls P.P., Port Alberni 8-12 Jun (VG, ph. MY et al.); it is surprising that seven of the province's records of this species are from Vancouver I.

A Barn Owl was captured near 150 Mile House and identified as a female with brood patch, suggesting it may have nested in the area 31 Jul (*fide* PR). A Long-eared Owl was a wonderful addition to a yard list in Nakusp 1 Jul (GSD). A Common Poorwill, a species rarely encountered in the Kootenays, was near Cranbrook 3-4 Jun (GR). Yellow-billed Cuck-

oos are being seen with increasing frequency in recent years; a single was at the n. end of Osoyoos L. 3 Jul (JJ). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers spent the summer on Anarchist Mt., e. of Osoyoos, where they were suspected of nesting (*fide* RCa). Spring migrant Least Flycatchers, rare but regular along the s. coast, were reported at Pitt Meadows Nature Dyke 4 Jun (RTo, CI), Brunswick Pt. 12-18 Jun (BG et al.), and Grant Narrows Nature Dyke Trail 9-12 Jul (IO). A Blue Jay was a very unexpected summer sighting in Manning P.P. 18 Jun (LC). While traveling along the Trans-Canada Hwy, a fortunate birder saw the province's 8th Western Scrub-Jay fly by near Vancouver 23 Jul (†RTo). We received belated word of a Pinyon Jay, a provincial first, that remained at a feeder in Lister 11 Feb-5 Apr (ph. MD, KA). Common Ravens virtually never make the headlines, but 2 pure white juvs. (offspring of normally pigmented ads.) at Brisco, Kootenays were seen throughout Jun (BM, ph. GS). Increasingly rare in the s. Peace, a pair of Mountain Bluebirds were near Muskeg L. 9 Jun (JG). Almost annual in the Lower Mainland, a Veery was along the Grant Narrows Dyke Trail 2 Jun (JD); very rare in the Peace R. area, a single was near Boudreau L. 20 Jun (JG). An unprecedented mini-invasion of Gray Catbirds took place in the Peace R. area, with at least 6 individuals, including singles near Pouce Coupe 10-24 Jun (MP) and w. of Chetwynd 19 Jun (CA, NK), and 2 near Clayhurst 19 Jun (SK, LL). Some of these catbirds remained into Jul, with 3 near Clayhurst 12 Jul (MB). Sage Thrashers were found in good numbers this year in the s. Okanagan; at least 8 ads. were noted among three locations. Three nests were discovered at White Lake; young successfully fledged from two of the nests by 28 Jul (RCa). Casual in the province, a Brown Thrasher was found at Johnson's Landing 3 Jun (ph. GS). Very rare in the province, especially away from the s. interior, a Loggerhead Shrike was at Sea I. 15 Jun (TP), and another was w. of Osoyoos 24 Jul (DB), a more expected location. There are only a dozen sightings for the Vancouver checklist area.

A Tennessee Warbler was at MacIntyre L., Kootenays on the unusual date of 5 Jul (GSD, CS). An ad. male Northern Parula was heard singing in Tsawwassen 17 Jun (RTo, CI) for a 7th provincial record; as is true on the U.S. West Coast, the period from late May through mid-Jun is typically the best one for finding vagrant e. passerines. Magnolia Warblers are very local in the Kootenays; 3 singing males were at Summit L. 4 Jun–early Jul (GSD), and

another male sang at Brouse 15 Jun–early Jul (GSD). Casual anywhere in the province, a basic-plumaged male Chestnut-sided Warbler was at the Cheam Wetlands 22-23 Jul (GG et al.). The province's 4th Prothonotary Warbler was an ad. male in Creston 14 Jul (†TM); previous records are one each from 2002, 2003, and 2004. Connecticut Warblers showed signs of local increase, with 9 males singing at Feller's Heights near Dawson Creek 7-23 Jun (MP). A male Yellow-breasted Chat remained on territory well n. and w. of its range in Williams Lake 2-26 Jul (PR), for a 3rd local record.

Lazuli Buntings occasionally wander to the s. coast and have even nested on s. Vancouver I., but the first record for n. Vancouver I. was of a singing male e. of Nimpkish L. 12 Jun (MGS). This species has apparently responded rapidly to global climate change, as it continues to be found farther n. both on the island as well as in the interior. A male Scarlet Tanager was discovered on Bowen I. 30 Jul-1 Aug (PD, BD), providing the province with its 3rd record. Casual in the province, a male Dickcissel put on quite a show in the Balmoral area just w. of Salmon Arm. The bird was a prolific singer and entertained birders 14 Jun-17 Jul (ED, ph. DGC et al.) but was not seen following the cutting of the hayfield. Clay-colored Sparrows are very rare on the coast, yet one managed to make its way to Somenos Marsh, Duncan 19 Jun (CSa). A few wayward Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted on the w. coast, with singles at Carmanah Pt., Lightstation 26 Jun (JE) and at Port Alberni 17-19 Jun (vt. BJ et al.).

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