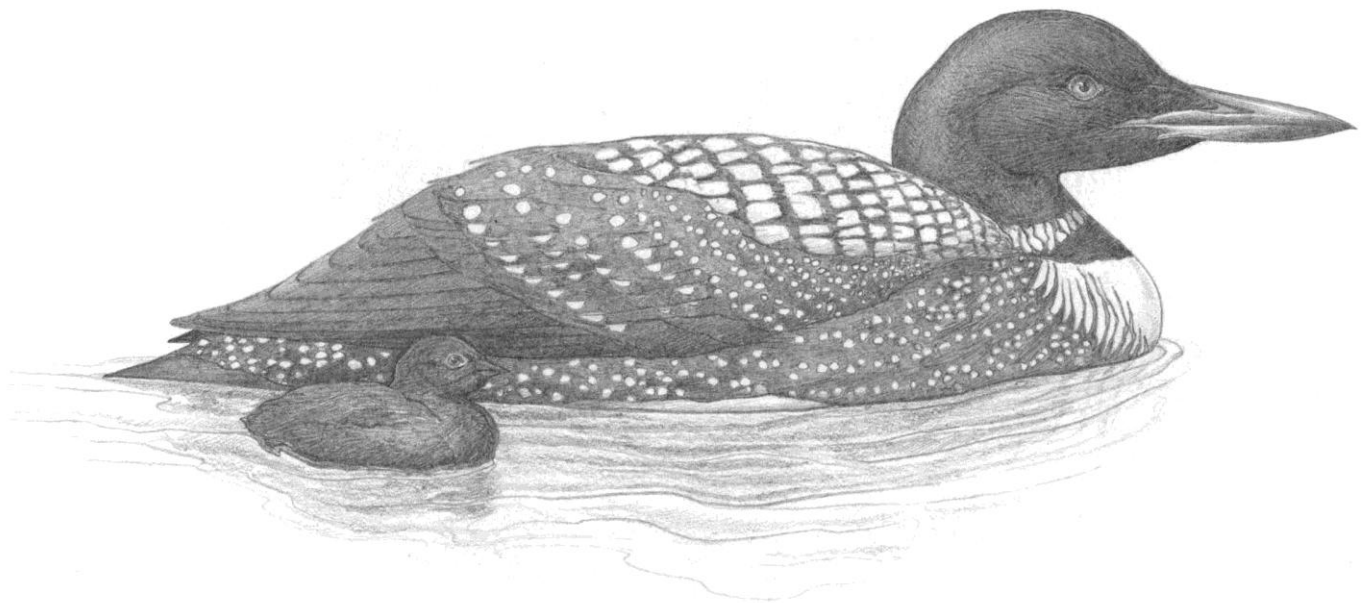


# BRITISH COLUMBIA NEST RECORD SCHEME

## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Report - 2002 Nesting Season



R. Wayne Campbell, Michael I. Preston and Linda M. Van Damme

## PARTICIPANT PROFILES

The longevity and growth of the British Columbia Nest Record Scheme is due to the support it receives from hundreds of volunteer field naturalists each year and the thousands of people over its 48-year history. They have believed that the information gathered benefited research, conservation, and education. Two naturalists, one a long-time contributor and the other relatively new to the Scheme, have made substantial contributions, and are profiled here.

### Mark Nyhof



Mark's interest in birds began with the discovery of a Western Screech-Owl that regularly roosted in a large cavity in a Garry oak tree behind his house in Victoria. Fascinated with the owl, and wanting to know about its life and habits, he started recording details on bird nests in his late teens. In his early 20's he began photographing birds and attempted his first watercolour bird painting. In 1980, he went on his first nest-finding/photography trip to the southern interior of British Columbia, a tradition that he keeps annually.

By 1982 Mark decided to pursue a career as a wildlife artist. He was among a handful of Canadian artists to have a painting selected for the prestigious international "Birds in Art" exhibition on display at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin. He regularly donates prints and original artwork to conservation and environmental fund-raising efforts. He is married, with two sons who also enjoy the excitement of nest-finding forays.

Mark enjoys personal research projects and in 1984-85 he selected the riparian birch/alder thickets along Road 22 north of Osoyoos Lake to study Long-eared Owls. During that time he banded 90 nestlings and in his spare time installed three Osprey platforms and erected 50 nest boxes for bluebirds in the area. Even today, concerned about the lack of natural nest sites for Western Screech-Owls on southern Vancouver Island, he built 17 nest boxes and distributed them in favourite sites where owls are known to occur.

Mark's technical skills and passion for "wanting to know" led him to develop a "nest snooper", a device that allows him to easily count the contents of cavity-nesting birds without damage to the nest site. As a result, several other serious nest-finders have ordered the pistol-sized device with excellent results. Since 1980, Mark estimates that he has contributed over 5,000 cards to the British Columbia Nest Record Scheme.

### Emily Müller



Since very young Emily had an interest in nature. Taming squirrels and finding old bird's nests were two things she enjoyed doing most at age 10. However, she knew very little about birds until Wayne Campbell came up to Germansen Landing in 1998. Wayne let her hold her first baby robin and encouraged her to start sending in bird sighting sheets. Since that time Emily has learned much more about birds and enjoys birdwatching as one of her favourite activities. Seeing species she has never seen before, finding active bird nests, and learning the calls of birds are some parts of birdwatching Emily finds the most interesting.

Emily was born near Spokane, WA in 1986 but has lived at Germansen Landing from 1988-2001. Her father ran the general store, post office, and weather station there. She feels very fortunate to have grown up in the area because of the wealth of opportunities there. For example, Emily has helped with winter moose censuses, located collared caribou by helicopter, checked wolverine traps with her father, and helped with breeding bird surveys. Although her family (she has five sisters) moved temporarily to Vanderhoof in July 2001, she still continues to spend time in Germansen Landing and makes weekly freight trips to the area. Emily also continues to record Germansen birds when she can and now reports what she discovers in Vanderhoof.

Emily hopes that more people can have the opportunities she has had to learn about and enjoy nature, and that this will lead them to the knowledge of, and belief in, our Creator, who created all wildlife for our enjoyment, use, and wise stewardship. It is her sincere belief that sustainable hunting, fishing, logging, conservation, and agriculture are all aspects of good management and use of British Columbia's rich natural resources.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA NEST RECORD SCHEME

## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Report - 2002 Nesting Season

Compiled by

R. Wayne Campbell, Michael I. Preston and Linda M. Van Damme



# CONTENTS

THE 2002 NESTING SEASON.....	1
SUMMARY .....	1
HIGHLIGHTS .....	2
Species.....	2
Coverage.....	3
Participants .....	4
Quality of Information.....	5
Notes From the Field .....	6
Historical Information.....	9
List of Species with Total Breeding Records by Family.....	9
List of Active and Historical (*) Contributors in Alphabetical Order .....	12
USE OF THE B. C. NEST RECORD SCHEME AND DATA BASES IN 2002 .....	16
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION .....	16
RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS .....	18
WILDLIFE WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES.....	21
LONG-TERM MONITORING AND INVENTORY PROJECTS .....	21
WESTERN GREBES .....	21
NEST BOX TRAILS .....	22
WETLAND MONITORING .....	22
OSPREYS .....	22
West Kootenay (Nakusp to Fauquier).....	22
West Kootenay (Balfour to Waneta).....	22
Creston Valley .....	22
RARE AND SENSITIVE SPECIES.....	23
FIELD TIPS AND TECHNIQUES .....	23
FROM THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE .....	24
APPENDICES.....	26
APPENDIX 1. PLUMAGE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG WATERFOWL .....	26
APPENDIX 2. GUIDE TO TIMING OF VISITS TO NESTS OF PASSERINE (SONG) BIRDS .....	27
APPENDIX 3. WBT WILDLIFE DATA CENTRE .....	27
APPENDIX 4. OUR GROWING DATABASES AND CONSERVATION VALUES.....	28
APPENDIX 5. QUALITY CONTROL AND THE BRITISH COLUMBIA NEST RECORD SCHEME.....	29
REQUESTING AND SUBMITTING CARDS .....	30
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	30

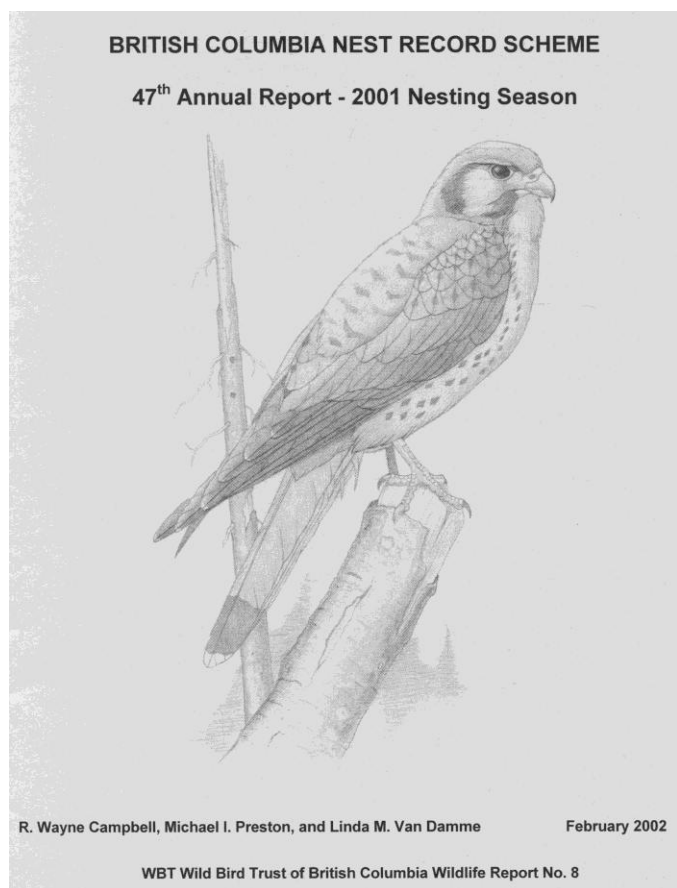
# THE 2002 NESTING SEASON

## Summary

What an incredible effort this year! We discovered two new breeding species, found more nests and broods, had better provincial coverage, and compiled more historical records than ever before. We received requests from **Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and New York** for information on the **British Columbia Nest Record Scheme**. All of the regions were interested in our "recipe" for success in gathering, storing and producing information summaries for breeding birds. They were also impressed with our longevity and the passion and dedication of our participants. It appears our **Annual Reports** are being distributed widely and some are even making their way into regional reference libraries.



This Black-necked Stilt, photographed at T'Kumloops Marsh in Kamloops, is just one of a series of images that document the first successful breeding attempt in BC. Photo: Paul Johansen



A few issues of annual reports are still available for those who would like a copy for their personal files.

Nesting conditions this year varied greatly throughout the province. In **Telkwa, Evi Coulson** reported that the spring was wet and cold with snow remaining at higher levels for an unusually long time. Ponds were still frozen on April 29. Near **Tatla Lake, Eve Neale** found that many of her regular nesting ponds had dried up so nesting was poor. Many people

commented on the cool damp spring and its negative effect on insect populations.

Water levels fluctuated around the province. Waterbird productivity was low or non-existent at many sites (e.g., Stump Lake and Separation Lake south of Kamloops), marginal in lakes near Prince George and Quesnel, high in wetlands near Chetwynd, Fort St. John, and Dawson Creek and moderate in the Okanagan Valley and Cariboo-Chilcotin region.

In general, there was widespread concern about swallow numbers and nesting success. **Linda Durrell**, who lives on a ranch on the Chilcotin River near **Riske Creek**, reported that there was a shortage of swallows this year. She only had two sightings of **Cliff Swallows** all summer, a species that normally nests each year but did not nest for the first time in memory. The **Barn Swallow**, a common nester each year, was seen only once.

In the **Clinton** area, **Pat Janzen** also noticed the decline in swallow nesting. She blames part of the high incidence of nestling deaths to blowfly infestations and swallows nesting too close to metal roofs where very high temperatures caused nest failure.

This year's total of **10,377 breeding records** was very impressive and the highest-ever recorded since the Scheme began in the mid-1950s. Of these, **285 active participants submitted 5,118 cards** for the 2002 nesting season and another **5,259 nests** were added to the BCNRS from historical records.

Two new species, the **Black-necked Stilt** and the introduced **Eurasian Collared-Dove** were new breeding species for British Columbia.

Nineteen people (active and historical) accounted for about half of all nest records. Twenty-two species were represented by more than 100 cards and together made 59% of the total.

Not included in this year's report was a stack of nest cards 7 inches high that **Sandy Proulx** sent us in January 2003. He spent the entire winter season extracting historical information from notebooks for his bluebird nest box trail in the **Quesnel** area.

## Highlights

### Species

Two new breeding species were discovered - an old species that was overlooked and an exciting new shorebird. Our **provincial total** now stands at **312 species**, the highest in Canada.

The **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, originally an inhabitant of dry forests on the Indian subcontinent, reached the southeastern United States from a group of 50 or so doves that escaped from their owner in the Bahamas in December 1974. By the mid-1980s it was found breeding in Florida, only 50 miles away. Although considered to be sedentary, young doves wander widely and now local populations have become established north to Delaware and west to California. The species was introduced into British Columbia, in the vicinity of **Cawston**, about 1991 and have been nesting in feral populations there since at least 1998. In 2002, our first nest with eggs and another recently fledged brood was first documented.

While watching birds at the **T'Kumloops Marsh** near **Kamloops**, on May 10, **Ian Barnett** and **Wayne Weber** spotted an adult **Black-necked Stilt**. The bird hung around, was joined by a mate, and a week later seasoned naturalist **Rick Howie** first noticed that the male appeared to be in an incubating position. On May 29 **George Gardner** photographed a nest with 4 eggs and by June 7 **D. Whiting** saw the first chick. The next day **M. Weninger** saw all four chicks with the adults. By the third week in July the juveniles were flying.

This find, thoroughly monitored and documented by members of the **Kamloops Naturalists Club**, represents the first successful nesting of the Black-necked Stilt in British Columbia. Another pair nested along the wet shores of a marsh at 150 Mile House a few years ago but a dog destroyed the nest and eggs.

Many new local range extensions were reported. These included **Anna's Hummingbird**, **Least Flycatcher** and **Lazuli Bunting** in the **Lower Mainland**, **White-throated Sparrow** near **Vanderhoof**, **Short-eared Owl** near **Prince George**, **Black Tern** and **Trumpeter Swan** near **Chetwynd**, **Northern Hawk Owl** at **Meldrum Creek**, **Bobolink** near **Moberly Marsh**, **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Rusty Blackbird** near **Hudson Hope**, **Lark Sparrow**

near **Rock Creek**, and **Great Gray Owl** near **Spillimacheen**. **Elsie Stanley** extended the northern limit of the breeding range for the **Gray Catbird** to Dunster near **McBride**.

**Mark Phinney** and **Chris Dicorrad** discovered the province's first **Connecticut Warbler** nest with eggs, southwest of Dawson Creek. An incubating female was flushed from the ground on June 14 but the well-concealed nest wasn't located until 5 days later. It was built in a multi-aged trembling aspen stand in a small opening of pole-stage aspens.



Nesting habitat of the Connecticut Warbler southwest of Dawson Creek. Photo: Mark Phinney

Another rare find was a **Wilson's Warbler** nest with young discovered at the base of a salmonberry bush in Campbell Valley Park in Langley by **Glenn Ryder**. Unlike the interior form of this species that nests above ground, the coastal race, known as *Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*, nests on the ground.

Nesting dates continue to change as more people report their findings to us. **Jean Waite** found a ½ grown **Red-necked Grebe** fishing along the shore of **Williams Lake** on **October 31**. The young bird looked "youthful and fuzzy". This observation extends the breeding season by a month from September 30. In **Langley**, **Glenn Ryder** found a brood of six **Ring-necked Pheasants**, about ¾ fully grown, on **September 21**. This is the latest breeding date for the coast.

As research continues in North America on the **Brown-headed Cowbird**, records of hosts and their impact on breeding success over a long period of time become significant. This year we received 106 reports of parasitism. In Langley, **Glenn Ryder** watched two adult **American Robins** feeding a big cowbird chick in their nest on June 24. Surprisingly, a single robin egg was found cold and unhatched, but intact, in the nest! Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism involving robins is a very unusual event anywhere in British Columbia. In fact, there are only two other reports (from nearly 2,800 robin nests) for the coast, both of which contained cowbird eggs.

A real surprise was the number of confirmed and suspected **Broad-winged Hawk** nests and breeding

territories located outside the Peace River region. **Sandra Kinsey** and **Laird Law**, along with staff and students from the University of Northern B C, provided details for a nest site near **Prince George**, **Doug Leighton** and **Ellen Zimmerman** watched territorial birds in the Blaeberry Valley north of **Golden**, a territorial pair was reported from the Vanderhoof area, and **Robert Ferguson** found a nest with two young in an old Northern Goshawk platform west of **Spillimacheen**. Within the immediate vicinity of the latter nest Robert also found an active Great Gray Owl nest!

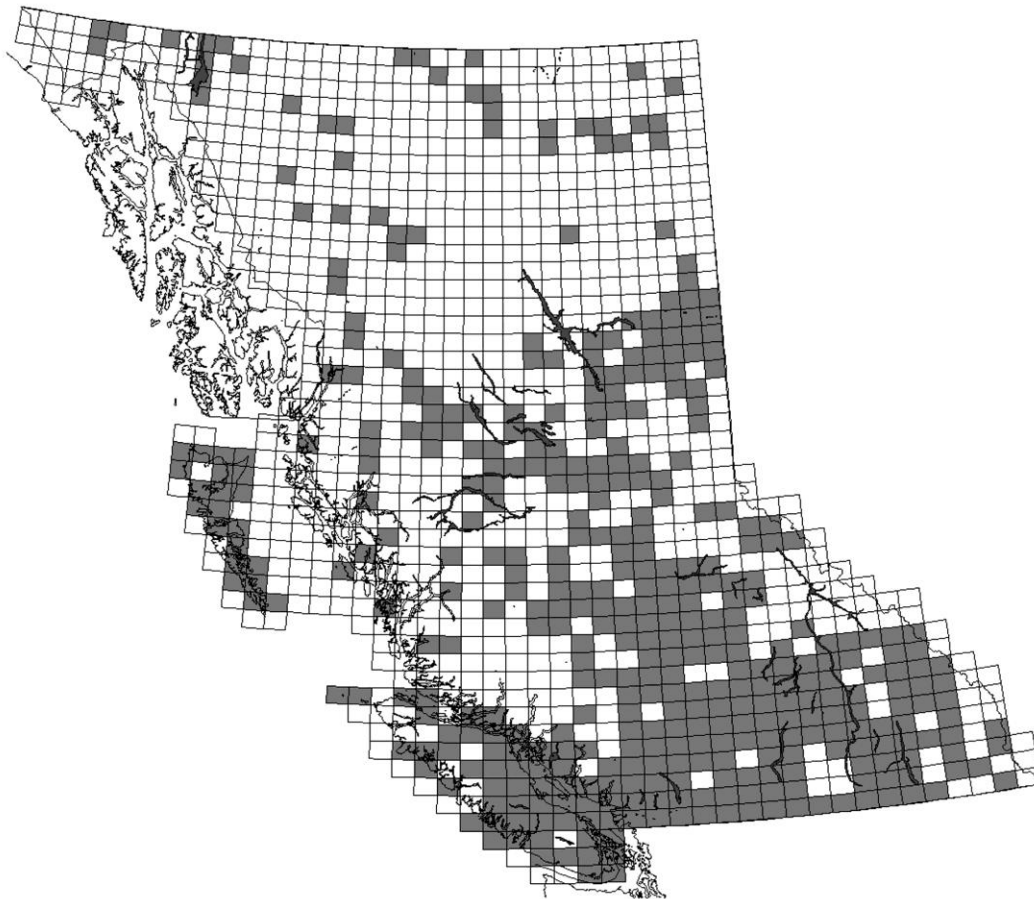
**Mallard** topped the list for most cards (902) followed closely by **Canada Goose** (737). Many of the large number of breeding records for **American Coot** (491), **Barrow's Goldeneye** (368), **Common Loon** (296), **American Wigeon** (195), **Common Merganser** (200) and **Bufflehead** (156) were extracted from field notebooks, museum collections, Ducks Unlimited Canada waterfowl surveys, and the Williams Lake Field Naturalists Society newsletter *Muskrat Express*.

Other less common species well represented this year included **Sandhill Crane**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Merlin**, **American Avocet**, **Long-billed Curlew**, and **American Dipper**. The large number of Peregrine Falcon nest cards (e.g., 71) were from clutches collected on Langara Island (QCI) and transferred from museum collections in the United States.

## Coverage

As expected, most cards received were from areas across the southern third of the province. Vancouver Island was again well represented as was the entire Lower Mainland, Manning Park, Princeton area, Thompson Valley, Okanagan Valley, West Kootenay, Creston Valley, Revelstoke area, Shuswap Lake, and the Caribou-Chilcotin region. Thanks to **Sandy Proulx** and his extensive nest box trail we received our first thorough coverage of the **Quesnel** area. Fieldwork in the **Chetwynd** area by **Linda Van Damme**, **Sandra Kinsey** and **Laird Law** helped fill in some information gaps from a little known area of the province. Other areas for which information on file is poorly represented but well covered this year included **Lac La Hache** (*Ken MacKenzie*), **McBride** (*Elsie Stanly*), **southern Vancouver Island** (*P. Ray Williams* and *Geoff Barnard*), **Campbell River** (*Ed Silkens*), **Douglas Lake** (*Hilary* and *Orville Gordon*), and **Dawson Creek** (*Mark Phinney*).

In total, **444 grids** were covered, our **all-time high**, beating the previous high set in 2000 by 119 grids (an increase of 37%). The productive wetlands west of Williams Lake (e.g., 92O/16) had the most cards (773 nests) many of which were extracted from the comprehensive field reports of the late **James A. Munro**.



Provincial coverage for the British Columbia Nest Record Scheme in 2002.

## Participants

Children appear to be better informed about the environment than ever before but they are cut off from their play opportunities in the natural world by the stresses of urban living, traffic and personal safety concerns, lack of mentoring, and changing lifestyles. In a recent survey of 5,000 people who work in conservation, 70% stated that a major childhood experience with wildlife was the reason for their commitment to conservation of the natural world. For many of these people, nest finding was the sole reason.

Toddlers and teenagers must be introduced to the natural world by showing. They must know it's okay to hold a frog, band a bird, or find a nest. **Emily Müller**, highlighted in our **Participant Profile**, is a case in point. With a little support and encouragement she quickly developed a passion for nest-finding and during her youth provided the only information for the Germansen Landing in our files. Her discoveries became an important link in interpreting breeding ranges between southern and northern areas of the province.

We know that some of our participants are already spending time with young people. **Chris Charlesworth** is encouraging **Ryan Tomlinson** in becoming a "complete" birder. **Janice Arndt** regularly has her children (and others) share natural discoveries together. **Linda Van Damme** has spent time with children in the Creston Valley. Between soccer and hockey games, **Mark Nyhof** shows his sons a Great Horned Owl nest. **Dawson Harpur** is a regular hitchhiker on dad's shoulder around the ranch.

The BCNRS is a wonderful avenue to temporarily divert kids from global warming, acid rain, loss of habitat, and peer pressure to the joys of nature discovery.

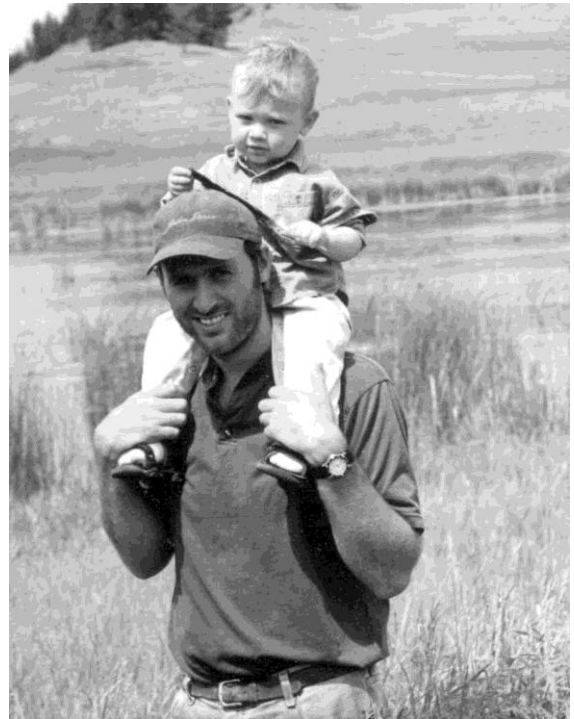
A childhood discovery of a Northern Cardinal nest in Ontario eventually led **Linda Van Damme** to a lifetime interest in nest-finding. She continues to enjoy the challenge that birds put in front of her to hide their nests and this year she again put a lot of searching time in the field documenting an impressive **975** individual breeding records. By October 1, the deadline for submission of nest records, Linda had already spent a month or so filling out cards.

While all cards are important a few individuals really put in a big effort this year. These active field naturalists included **Wayne Campbell** (837 cards), **Glenn Ryder** (801 cards), **Hilary Gordon** (347 cards), **Vicky Atkins** (307 cards), **Mark Nyhof** (264 cards), **Lorri Harpur** (236 cards), **Gary Davidson** and **Chris Siddle** (227 cards), **Harry van Oort** (183 cards), **Kenneth Wright** (168 cards), **Sandy Proulx** (163 cards), **Doug Brown** (122 cards), **Mike Preston** (121 cards), **Donna Williams** (105 cards), and **Cyril Colonel** (104 cards).

The growth and future of the BCNRS depends on participants "spreading the word" on the importance of long-term breeding information to the science of

ornithology, protection of wildlife habitats, and conservation of birds in British Columbia. This year **Kenneth Wright** epitomized the effort and commitment that is required to keep our program among the best and most useful on the continent.

Ken submitted 168 cards from widely scattered areas of the province documenting many previously unrecorded locations. He encouraged seven other people (e.g., **Jeff O'Kelly**, **Ian G. Routley**, **Dennis Klausen**, **Peter Clarkson**, **John Goats**, **Maria Mascher**, and **Christopher Gressler**) to become involved in the Scheme. He filled in cards for his personal research (e.g. **Harlequin Duck** and nesting **marine birds**), participated in our colonial fresh-waterbird survey (e.g., **Horned Grebe**), recorded waterbird broods during aerial surveys, encouraged pilots to document raptor nestings and submit details to him. In addition, he constantly served as an ambassador in promoting the objectives and function of the Wildlife Data Centre that houses the BCNRS.



Over 70% of people with a passion for wildlife were influenced by a major childhood experience with nature. Here, Dawson Harpur shares his dad's passion for the outdoors.

The large number of **Black-capped Chickadee** nests was due, in part, to research carried out by **Harry van Oort**. It is rare to obtain specific information on the eggs, young, and success for cavity-nesting species. **Laurie Rockwell** continued his long-term study on **Gray Flycatcher** in the Okanagan Valley. His results were disappointing this year. He only had evidence of two nests with young and could not confirm any fledging.

**Vicky Atkins** and **Alice Beals** again submitted good numbers of waterbird records, especially for **Pied-billed** and **Red-necked Grebe**. They also discovered



three **Great Horned Owl** nests in the Vernon area all within 4.5 km of each other.

**Eva Durance** continued as one of the very few individuals to search alpine areas for species like **White-tailed Ptarmigan**, **Horned Lark**, **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch**, and **American Pipit**.

Every teacher looks forward to personal time and space at the end of their teaching year that usually occurs in late June. This year **Gary Davidson** and **Chris Siddle** went on a short birding and nest-finding trip into the Cariboo-Chilcotin region. They spent much of their “down” time filling in nest cards!

We contacted **Myrna Bosomworth** for a few more details on a pair of **Great Gray Owls** that were nesting near **Princeton**. A few days later we received **2-½ page account** detailing the very private lives of these owls and the long history of nesting in the area.

### Quality of Information

#### *Filling in the Blanks*

We have reached a point now where most participants are recording information at a level that brings consistency and quality to our high standards of information collection. This means data analysis is more statistically accurate and our interpretation of the life requisites for individual species is more meaningful.

Please remember to print or write legibly in the spaces and using dark ink, not pencil. The 4-letter code (see WBT Wild Bird Trust of B. C. Wildlife Report No. 2 – *Common and Scientific Names, Sequence and 4-Letter Codes*) can be used for species names and subspecies (races).

For example, if a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** nest is found please indicate if it is an “**Audubon**” Warbler (AUWA) or “**Myrtle**” Warbler (MYWA). Other species with easily identifiable subspecies include **Dark-eyed Junco** (e.g., “Oregon” or “Slate-colored” Junco), **Horned Lark** (e.g., “Arctic” and “Dusky” Horned Lark), **Northern Flicker** (e.g., “Red-shafted” or “Yellow-shafted” Flicker), and **White-crowned Sparrow** (e.g., “Gambel’s” and “Puget” White-crowned Sparrow).

Whenever possible, please try to describe the stage of development of nestlings (e.g., eyes closed, naked young, some down on head, pin feathers, etc.) or the estimated age of downy young (especially waterbirds) referring to stages of development shown in Appendix 1.

A new batch of nest cards was printed with only minor modifications. A bit more space was provided to record the grid and the back of the card was rearranged slightly.

#### *Prints and Diagrams*

More people included a sketch on the back of a card showing the precise location for nests, including major colonies. These are very helpful to have on file

and become more useful with time as habitats are altered.

Colour prints attached to cards, including the actual nest site, general habitat, adults and young, and mortality are filed with each card and later will be cross-indexed to the B C Photo File. Examples of prints received included **Pileated Woodpecker** (Janice Arndt), **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** (Joop Bergen and Don Young), **Connecticut Warbler** (Mark Phinney), **Great Blue Heron** (Cyril Colonel), **Mountain Bluebird** (Sandy Proulx), **Bald Eagle** and **Bank Swallow** (Alexander Muir), **Eared Grebe** (Wayne Campbell), and **Cliff Swallow** (Ted Goshulak).



A hungry Western Bluebird chick begs for food from a seemingly uninterested parent. Photo: Laure Neish

#### *Repeat Visits*

A huge effort this year was put into re-visiting nests to determine their success. Over time this information will have a major input into the effects of global warming, the spread of acid rain, and the impacts of habitat alterations and urbanization.

**Jennifer Bergerjon** and **Don Young** watched some nests regularly and often recorded between 14 and 35 visits before success was known. **Vicky Atkins** watched a **Great Horned Owl** between March 11 and May 23 recording 26 visits before the young left the nest. **Martina Frey** followed a **Common Loon** nest (19 visits) and **Red-necked Grebe** (14 visits) from eggs to fledged young. **Laurie Rockwell** paid 13 visits to a **Western Bluebird** nest.

Many others, especially those involved in monitoring activities such as bluebird trails, waterbirds, Osprey and raptors, carefully planned repeat visits to get additional information on clutch and brood size. **Cyril Colonel**, **Sandy Proulx**, **Ed and Monica Dahl**, **Clifford Day**, **Geoff Barnard**, and **Harry van Oort** made especially big efforts.

**Cyril Colonel** saved time from transferring information from field notebooks to nest cards by

carrying his cards with him wherever he went in the **Creston Valley**.

### *Negative Information*

Completing cards for species that have traditional nesting sites such as raptors, colonial-nesting swallows, swifts, and waterbirds, colonial marine birds, and loons can be helpful in interpreting changes in distribution, effects of weather on breeding activities, chemical contamination, and disturbance. For example, fluctuating water levels around the province this year impacted colonies of nesting blackbirds, Black Terns, grebes, waterfowl, and gulls.

For example, a **Black Tern** colony near **Prince George** was not successful in 2002 due to unusually high water levels and lack of available nesting substrate. A card was completed for this colony indicating “no breeding activity” along with a count of the adults flying around the lake.

### **Notes From the Field**

Each year nest-finders see and experience events that are rarely included on nest cards and seldom make it into electronic databases. Here are some of their stories:

#### *Belly Crawl*

A pair of **Horned Grebes** found nesting near Kleena Kleene decided to make a beaver pond their summer home. Eggs were incubated and young appeared, but as the summer progressed the pond quickly began to dry up. By August 11 the pond was nearly dry and 2 adults and a ½ grown young were in big trouble.

**W. A. B. Paul** discovered the situation and returned to town to gather up nets and a carrying cage. When he returned with recruits a couple of hours later to rescue the family, the grebes had scrambled 100 yards through dense shrubs to the safety of a nearby swamp.

#### *For the Love of Ducks*

**Sandy Proulx** observed a **Mallard** and her brood of nine downy young approaching a 4-lane highway in **Quesnel** during the first week of June. Turning on his emergency flashers, he was able to stop the traffic from behind and a woman in the other lane also saw what was happening and stopped traffic behind her. The hen and her brood crossed the wide-open span of concrete, moments before a “big rig” came thundering along.

#### *Grilled Snacks*

The **House Sparrow**, ever so opportunistic, is being reported more around the province picking insects from the grills of vehicles when they stop in parking lots and gas stations. On June 30, **Linda Van Damme**

watched a female feeding her fledged young “insects bits” plucked from vehicle grills in **Prince George**.

### *Swallows Under a Hot Tin Roof*

**Pat Janzen** noticed that some **Barn Swallows** in **Clinton** like to build their nests up high in buildings close to a metal roof where the sun beats down on them. The heat reflected from the roof creates an oven for the nestlings and they either cook or crawl over the edge of the nest and out to get away from the extreme temperatures. To solve the problem Pat takes the nest (and its contents) down and places it in a plant pot that she hangs down at least a foot from the roof. The parents continue to feed the young and all turns out well!



With notes from his bluebird trail since 1995, Sandy Proulx of Quesnel spent the winter months filling in cards for the BCNRS. WBT Image: Michael I. Preston

#### *No Riding Here!*

On May 25, **L. Pickens** discovered a **Killdeer** nest with 5 eggs in a horse-riding ring in **Maple Ridge**. The nest, along with its agitated parents, was reported to owners of the stable. They immediately suspended all horse activity, as well as a drainage project, until June 9 when all five chicks successfully left the area. In the meantime, regular updates were provided on the nesting birds.

#### *Subterranean Chickadees*

Experienced naturalist **Glen Ryder** knows that each day in the field brings unexpected discoveries. While enjoying a walk through **Campbell Valley Park** in Langley he noticed a pair of **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** flying into the ground with bills full of food.

Puzzled, he checked the spot and located a small hole at ground level in a rotten vine maple tree. With a penlight he searched the darkness and soon located five nestling chickadees huddled together in the safety of their moss, fur and feather nest built several inches below the ground! Surprisingly they all fledged.

#### *Vacation Awry*

Vacation time is precious and many of us spend months planning for our annual get-a-way. In **Oliver, Elsie Nykfork** received a call in early June that a **Calliope Hummingbird** had just built its nest on the rear view mirror of a large motor home that was being packed for summer vacation. The nest contained 3 eggs along with an agitated mother buzzing about. The owner of the motor home decided to delay his vacation. By June 17 the nest held 2 nestlings and during the first week of July the motor home hit the road. As the owner commented, "it's a good thing they don't raise two families a season."

#### *A Rescue that Sucked*

In July, **Jean Waite**, who lives in **Williams Lake**, noticed her usual hungry family of **American Kestrels** screaming for food. The family seemed unusually excited but she didn't know why. Soon she received a call from a neighbour who reported strange noises coming from his fireplace chimney for the past several days. Perplexed, he arranged two mirrors in order to investigate the commotion and found a young kestrel caught on the smoke shelf, out of reach. With a god deal of ingenuity he managed to suck it out with a vacuum cleaner. The fledgling seemed to be hurt so he put it in a box and went to find out where it might be cared for. But on his return, when he opened the box, the bird took to its wings and flew 200 yards, where one hopes it rejoined its nestmates and was fed.

#### *The Bear Facts*

**Jim Sims** reports in the Williams Lake Field Naturalists newsletter *Muskrat Express* an unusual interaction between a pair of nesting **Bald Eagles** and a **black bear** at **Eagle Lake** in the Cariboo. In early July, a cabin owner on the lake heard a pair of adult Bald Eagles making loud protests near their nest. An investigation revealed that a black bear had climbed the nesting tree and was now in the nest that was on the top of the tree. The eagles made unsuccessful dives at the

bear in an attempt to drive it off. At times the bear defended itself by standing in the nest and striking out at the eagles. The two young eagles met a bad end. Over the next four days the bear was seen back in the nest on a couple of occasions. One time it appeared to be sleeping in the nest as its four feet hung out over the edge of the nest.

#### *Persistent Loons*

Each year a pair of **Common Loons** nests on **Dina Lakes** about 25 miles north of Mackenzie. And each year **John** and **Vi Lambie** record their activities as part of the monitoring program for the B C Nest Record Scheme.

On June 1, the Lambies found a loon nest with 2 eggs built on a point where the lake narrows. By June 9 the water level in the lake rose and flooded the nest. Slowly the water level receded and by July 10 the same pair of loons had a new nest. It was situated at the base of a willow near the old nest, and contained a single egg. From July 10 onwards only one adult raised the chick, the mate was not seen again. The family was last seen on September 15.

#### *Mobile Babies*

A **Weyerhaeuser** employee from Vancouver Island provided the following account of a pair of **Barn Swallows** and their adaptability to a local situation to successfully raise their family.

You may have heard of the swallows that return to

San Juan Capistrano every year. Well, we've got something that beats that by a kilometre.

It's a common thing for birds to return year after year to the same nesting place. But how many birds choose a mobile location for their nest and return to it 10 years straight? That's exactly what's happening at **China Creek** Dryland Sort where swallows have been nesting on the L-79's counterweight. Unperturbed by the machine movement or noise, the mother bird simply follows the machine around the sort as it goes about its business and feeds her chicks wherever the machine happens to be.

#### *A Whack to Remember*

Naturalist **Dave Bush** tells of an amusing incident involving a family of **Green-winged Teal** and a **beaver**. While watching from shrub cover at a pond near



Good numbers of Bald Eagle nests were added to our collection this year. Two interesting stories are featured here for this well-known species. WBT Image: R. Wayne Campbell

**Salmo** he watched a brood of 6 ducklings feeding a short way from their mother. Suddenly a beaver appeared on the scene and let go with a resounding whack of its tail. The baby teal let out panic peeps and went racing over to their mother. Three of them scooted right underneath her wings. Shortly, little heads, with big eyes, were seen peeping out at the beaver. It wasn't long before feeding resumed, with mother very close.

#### *Egg-eating Bald Eagle*

In late May, **Alan Bear** found a pair of **Common Loons** with a completed nest in **Maple Lake** near Courtenay. An adult loon had been incubating a single egg for a week or so, when, on May 29, an adult Bald Eagle raided the nest and ate the contents of the egg. Alan checked the nest and found shell fragments and parts of yolk that suggested the embryo was beginning to develop.

#### *Sorry for the Inconvenience – Trail Closed*

While walking through **Lighthouse Park** in West Vancouver on May 23, **Adrian Stone** and **Elaine Graham** discovered a **Rufous Hummingbird** nest with 2 eggs. The nest was built on a low-lying branch of an arbutus tree directly over a main walking trail. Concerned for the welfare of the hummers, Adrian and Elaine quickly arranged to have the trail closed to public traffic. The baby hummingbirds hatched on June 13 and by June 28 they had fledged and the trail was reopened.

#### *Ship Ahoy!*

When **Linda Van Damme** boarded the B C ferry at **Shelter Bay** on July 6 she noticed a frenzy of noise and activity as **Barn Swallows** flew about to greet their mates who were incubating eggs or brooding young on various structures around the ferry. Eight nests were counted of which five were deemed active. Most swallows had chosen a site high up and away from human access, although the blowing of the horn must have unsettled the hen. Two pairs built only 0.9 m (3 ft) from the deck. Passengers milling about did not seem to notice, nor did the female flush when the vehicles unloaded at **Galena Bay**. In speaking with one of the employees, it was obvious that they enjoyed the avian activity and even boasted about the number of broods and young each nest had produced.

#### *From Tears to Relief*

In April 1959 the late **Lorne Frost** discovered a rare nest of the **Barred Owl** near **Adams Lake**. Knowing the importance of the record, he collected an adult and two fresh eggs and sent them to Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan at the University of BC for identification. The specimens were preserved in the museum collection.

In the same year the remaining adult remated and the new pair raised 2 young. The nest, situated in a cavity in the top of a large black cottonwood was used each year for the decade.

#### *Committed Mother*

**Shelley Mickelson** found what appeared to be an abandoned baby **American Robin** in her yard in **Nanaimo**. She put the fledgling in an outdoor guinea pig cage and started collecting worms to feed it. Soon its mother found the baby and started visiting the outside of the cage to feed her chick. The cage was opened and immediately the mother robin flew right into the cage to continue feeding. Both soon left fat and healthy.



Mobile Home! That was the case for this pair of Barn Swallows nesting on an active BC Ferry. Photo: Linda Van Damme

#### *Shopping for a New Home*

**Glen Ryder** found a **Brown Creeper** nest behind the bark of a large western redcedar tree in **Campbell Valley Park** in **Langley** in early June. The nest contained 5 eggs and was only 3 feet above the ground. It was obvious on closer inspection that the nest had been used for many years as nest materials had accumulated to over 2 feet tall. The creepers have now run out of space and must find another site next spring.

Maybe some of the bark strips, mosses, spider webs, fur and feathers could be removed each year to allow continued use.

#### *Owlets Rescued*

Falconer **Martin Lee** received a telephone call from a farmer near **Nanaimo** in early May that **Great Horned Owls** were killing and eating his poultry. By the time Martin arrived the next day both adults had been shot and unknown to the farmer the owls were nesting nearby in an old Red-tailed Hawk nest. Martin climbed the tree, secured the downy babies, and spent the next

six weeks catching mice for the youngsters. He released the healthy and active young owls in late June far from their nest site. Martin also provided some advice to the farmer on inexpensive ways to protect poultry and live with owls at the same time.

### *A Long Climb from the Nest*

When looking for a place to dig out its nest a woodpecker probably isn't aware of how quickly a cavity can be excavated and the difficulties that may be encountered inside the tree. In **North Surrey, Glen Ryder** watched a **Northern Flicker** examining a potential nest site in a broken off western hemlock. Everything seemed to fit the prospect of a new home so the digging began. After 14 days to complete its home the bird moved in and began laying its 5 eggs. The eggs were laid over two feet down from where it initially drilled its entrance hole. That's a lot of wood chips!



With over 92,000 occurrence records, and 1,200 breeding records, the WBT Wildlife Data Centre boasts the largest regional database on Common Loon anywhere. WBT Image: Michael I. Preston

### *Youthful Eyes*

**Daniel Helm** (11 years old) writes, "My family and I love to explore the **Tumbler Ridge** area. In winter we ski up canyons and sometimes find old **American Dipper** nests beside frozen waterfalls. In summer, we spend our free time in different canyons in search of dinosaur footprints. The song of dippers is usually in the background, and we try to find their nests. An ideal day is when we find dino tracks and a new nest. In Martin Canyon, when we reached a waterfall and couldn't go any further, we climbed a tiny bit up and found what we think is the most northerly known American Dipper nest in BC right above us on a ledge."

### *Nighthawks on the Move*

A number of years ago **Allen Poynter** located a **Common Nighthawk** nest with two nestlings about a week old near **Nicola**. He discovered the nest and its

occupants around 1700 hours and returned to the site two hours later to take photographs. In the meantime, the chicks had moved (or had been moved) about 15 feet away from the original nest site. While he was changing film at the new site the adult female moved one of the chicks 3 more feet away.

### **Historical Information**

The task of searching for breeding records in old government and consultant reports, field notes, wildlife surveys, correspondence, museum catalogues, naturalist club newsletters, books, and scientific journals continued. Although the **BCNRS** was the major source of information for the breeding component of ***The Birds of British Columbia*** numbers shown in the volumes are not indicative of the total number of actual nest cards. Due to lack of support and time restraints in completing the books nest cards were never completed for thousands of nests.

For example, the **Common Loon** account was compiled from 626 breeding records of which about half were actually from nest cards. Since then, we have more than doubled the number of cards transferred from historical sources. We estimate that we have at least another 600 nest records to transfer.

The **Williams Lake Field Naturalists Society** newsletter ***Muskrat Express*** has been a major source of historical breeding (and occurrence) records. Hundreds of nest cards and nearly 110,000 occurrence records have now been transferred from the 22 years that the newsletter has been issued.

The extensive field notes and reports of the late **James A. Munro**, our Chief Migratory Bird Officer in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, continue to be searched and will so for the next several years. This year we transferred 377 breeding records to our cards. Other significant numbers of historical records that were transferred included **Mary Pastrick** (158 cards), **Linda Durrell** (115 cards), **B. C. Fish and Wildlife Branch** (96 cards), **Jean Waite** (91 cards), **David A. Munro** (89 cards), **M. Timothy Myers** (84 cards), and **S. J. Darcus** (53 cards).

### **List of Species with Total Breeding Records by Family**

**Family Gaviidae – Loons (307)** : Red-throated Loon – 12, Pacific Loon – 1, Common Loon – 294

**Family Podicipedidae – Grebes (776)** : Pied-billed Grebe – 38, Horned Grebe – 6, Red-necked Grebe – 87, Eared Grebe – 577, Western Grebe – 67, Clark's Grebe – 1

**Family Hydrobatidae – Storm-Petrels (1)** : Leach's Storm-Petrel – 1

**Family Pelecanidae – Pelicans (6) :** American White Pelican - 6

**Family Phalacrocoracidae – Cormorants (7) :** Brandt's Cormorant – 1, Double-crested Cormorant – 1, Pelagic Cormorant – 5

**Family Ardeidae – Bitterns, Herons, Egrets, and Night-Herons (93) :** American Bittern – 1, Great Blue Heron – 90, Green Heron – 2

**Family Cathartidae – New World (American) Vultures (2) :** Turkey Vulture – 2

**Family Anatidae – Geese, Swans and Ducks (3,268) :** Canada Goose – 714, Mute Swan – 3, Trumpeter Swan – 4, Wood Duck – 42, Gadwall – 28, American Wigeon – 194, Mallard – 893, Blue-winged Teal – 82, Cinnamon Teal – 34, Northern Shoveler – 20, Northern Pintail – 51, Green-winged Teal – 24, Canvasback – 94, Redhead – 69, Ring-necked Duck – 46, Lesser Scaup – 114, Harlequin Duck – 8, Surf Scoter – 2, White-winged Scoter – 17, Bufflehead – 156, Common Goldeneye – 36, Barrow's Goldeneye – 356, Hooded Merganser – 36, Common Merganser – 189, Red-breasted Merganser – 5, Ruddy Duck – 51

**Family Accipitridae – Osprey, Kites, Eagles, Hawks and Allies (309) :** Osprey – 121, Bald Eagle – 81, Northern Harrier – 8, Sharp-shinned Hawk – 3, Cooper's Hawk – 10, Northern Goshawk – 4, Broad-winged Hawk – 2, Swainson's Hawk – 3, Red-tailed Hawk – 63, Golden Eagle – 14

**Family Falconidae – Falcons (118) :** American Kestrel – 16, Merlin – 25, Gyrfalcon – 1, Peregrine Falcon – 71, Prairie Falcon – 5

**Family Phasianidae – Partridges, Pheasant, Grouse, Ptarmigan and Turkey (248) :** Chukar – 4, Ring-necked Pheasant – 13, Blue Grouse – 45, Willow Ptarmigan – 3, Rock Ptarmigan – 4, White-tailed Ptarmigan – 20, Ruffed Grouse – 122, Spruce Grouse – 32, Sharp-tailed Grouse – 2, Wild Turkey – 3

**Family Odontophoridae – American Quail (76) :** Mountain Quail – 1, California Quail – 75

**Family Rallidae – Rails, Gallinules and Coots (544) :** Virginia Rail – 25, Sora – 31, American Coot – 488

**Family Gruidae – Cranes (29) :** Sandhill Crane – 29

**Family Charadriidae – Plovers (224) :** Semipalmated Plover – 22, Killdeer – 202

**Family Haematopodidae – Oystercatchers (12) :** Black Oystercatcher – 12

**Family Recurvirostridae – Stilts and Avocets (48) :** Black-necked Stilt – 1, American Avocet – 47



This image of the Black-necked Stilt eggs from T'Kumloops Marsh in Kamloops is permanently archived in the BC Photofile as 2012.  
Photo: George Gardiner

**Family Scolopacidae – Sandpipers, Phalaropes and Allies (141) :** Greater Yellowlegs – 10, Lesser Yellowlegs – 7, Solitary Sandpiper – 6, Spotted Sandpiper – 59, Upland Sandpiper – 1, Long-billed Curlew – 34, Least Sandpiper – 4, Common Snipe – 7, Wilson's Phalarope – 12, Red-necked Phalarope – 1

**Family Laridae – Jaegers, Skuas, Gulls, Terns and Allies (169) :** Mew Gull – 13, Ring-billed Gull – 1, California Gull – 1, Herring Gull – 1, Glaucous-winged Gull – 69, Arctic Tern – 4, Forster's Tern – 2, Black Tern – 78

**Family Alcidae – Auks, Murres and Puffins (38) :** Common Murre – 11, Marbled Murrelet – 1, Rhinoceros Auklet – 1, Pigeon Guillemot – 22, Tufted Puffin – 3

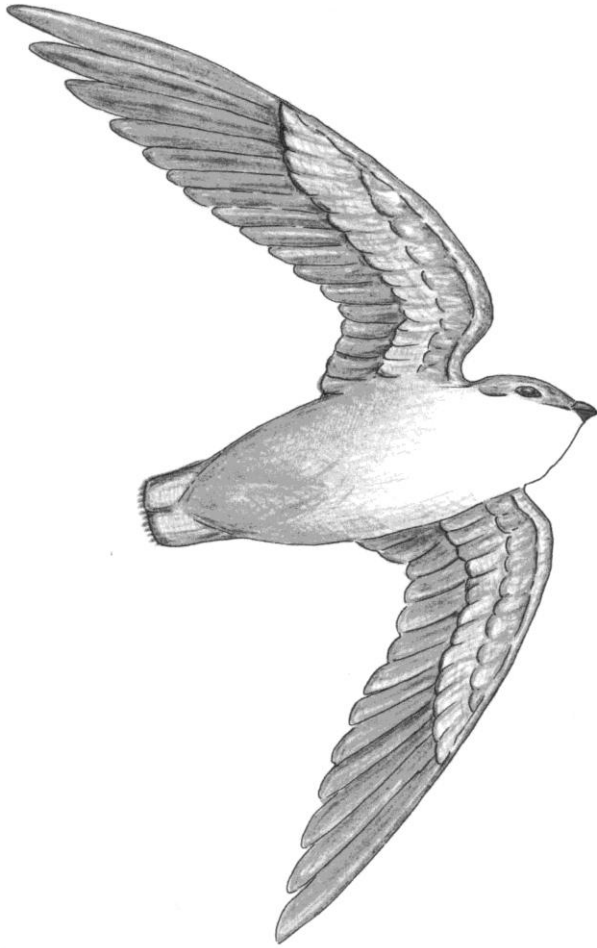
**Family Columbidae – Pigeons and Doves (17) :** Rock Dove – 4, Band-tailed Pigeon – 4, Mourning Dove – 7, Eurasian Collared-Dove – 2

**Family Tytonidae – Barn Owls (39) :** Barn Owl – 39

**Family Strigidae – Typical Owls (205) :** Flammulated Owl – 5, Western Screech-Owl – 19, Great Horned Owl – 87, Northern Hawk Owl – 6, Northern Pygmy-Owl – 2, Barred Owl – 20, Great Gray Owl – 16, Long-eared Owl – 26, Short-eared Owl – 11, Northern Saw-whet Owl – 13

**Family Caprimulgidae – Goatsuckers (40) :** Common Nighthawk – 39, Common Poorwill - 1

**Family Apodidae – Swifts (9)** : Black Swift – 4, Vaux's Swift – 3, White-throated Swift – 2



Despite the local commonality of the Vaux's Swift in British Columbia, remarkably few nests are found for this evasive nesting bird. Drawing: Amy Thommasen

**Family Trochilidae – Hummingbirds (80)** : Black-chinned Hummingbird – 1, Anna's Hummingbird – 4, Calliope Hummingbird – 19, Rufous Hummingbird – 56

**Family Alcedinidae – Kingfishers (15)** : Belted Kingfisher – 15

**Family Picidae – Woodpeckers (298)** : Lewis's Woodpecker – 7, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – 15, Red-naped Sapsucker – 54, Red-breasted Sapsucker – 33, Williamson's Sapsucker – 8, Downy Woodpecker – 9, Hairy Woodpecker – 39, Three-toed Woodpecker – 9, Black-backed Woodpecker – 17, Northern Flicker – 76, Pileated Woodpecker – 31

**Family Tyrannidae – Tyrant Flycatchers (167)** : Olive-sided Flycatcher – 2, Western Wood-Pewee – 9, Willow Flycatcher – 24, Least Flycatcher – 17, Hammond's Flycatcher – 1, Gray Flycatcher – 5, Dusky Flycatcher –

7, Pacific-slope Flycatcher – 7, Eastern Phoebe – 7, Say's Phoebe – 11, Western Kingbird – 49, Eastern Kingbird – 28

**Family Vireonidae – Vireos (28)** : Cassin's Vireo – 4, Hutton's Vireo – 5, Warbling Vireo – 14, Red-eyed Vireo – 5

**Family Corvidae – Jays, Magpies and Crows – (155)**, Gray Jay – 44, Steller's Jay – 5, Blue Jay – 5, Clark's Nutcracker – 6, Black-billed Magpie – 31, American Crow – 24, Northwestern Crow – 15, Common Raven – 25

**Family Alaudidae – Larks (3)** : Horned Lark – 3

**Family Hirundinidae – Swallows (497)** : Purple Martin – 3, Tree Swallow – 256, Violet-green Swallow – 34, Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 6, Bank Swallow – 15, Cliff Swallow – 120, Barn Swallow – 63

**Family Paridae – Chickadees (159)** : Black-capped Chickadee – 93, Mountain Chickadee – 27, Chestnut-backed Chickadee – 39

**Family Aegithalidae – Bushtit (30)** : Bushtit – 30

**Family Sittidae – Nuthatches (55)** : Red-breasted Nuthatch – 19, White-breasted Nuthatch – 2, Pygmy Nuthatch – 34

**Family Certhiidae – Creeper (13)** : Brown Creeper – 13

**Family Troglodytidae – Wrens (80)** : Rock Wren – 3, Canyon Wren – 1, Bewick's Wren – 6, House Wren – 27, Winter Wren – 33, Marsh Wren – 10

**Family Cinclidae – Dipper (37)** : American Dipper – 37

**Family Regulidae – Kinglets (20)** : Golden-crowned Kinglet – 16, Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 4

**Family Muscicapidae – Bluebirds, Thrushes and Allies (576)** : Western Bluebird – 19, Mountain Bluebird – 288, Townsend's Solitaire – 16, Veery – 2, Swainson's Thrush – 21, Hermit Thrush – 5, American Robin – 222, Varied Thrush – 3

**Family Mimidae – Mockingbird, Thrashers and Allies (12)** : Gray Catbird – 12

**Family Sturnidae – Starling and Allies (107)** : European Starling – 106, Crested Myna – 1

**Family Motacillidae – Wagtails and Pipits (4)** : American Pipit – 4

**Family Bombycillidae – Waxwings (46)** : Bohemian Waxwing – 1, Cedar Waxwing – 45

**Family Parulidae – Wood-Warblers (105)** : Tennessee Warbler – 3, Orange-crowned Warbler – 10, Yellow Warbler – 31, Magnolia Warbler – 1, Cape May Warbler – 1, Yellow-rumped Warbler – 20, Black-throated Gray Warbler – 3, Black-throated Green Warbler – 1, Townsend’s Warbler – 4, American Redstart – 4, Northern Waterthrush – 1, Connecticut Warbler – 1, MacGillivray’s Warbler – 3, Common Yellowthroat – 19, Wilson’s Warbler – 3

**Family Thraupidae – Tanagers (7)** : Western Tanager – 7

**Family Cardinalidae – Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies (12)** : Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 1, Black-headed Grosbeak – 8, Lazuli Bunting – 3

**Family Emberizidae – Towhees, Sparrows, Longspurs and Allies (377)** : Spotted Towhee – 37, Chipping Sparrow – 20, Clay-colored Sparrow – 2, Brewer’s Sparrow – 6, Vesper Sparrow – 23, Lark Sparrow – 7, Savannah Sparrow – 9, Le Conte’s Sparrow – 1, Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow – 1, Fox Sparrow – 1, Song Sparrow – 195, Lincoln’s Sparrow – 2, Swamp Sparrow – 1, White-crowned Sparrow – 19, Golden-crowned Sparrow – 1, Dark-eyed Junco – 52

**Family Icteridae – Blackbirds, Orioles and Allies (479)** : Bobolink – 1, Red-winged Blackbird 138– , Western Meadowlark – 8, Yellow-headed Blackbird – 146, Rusty Blackbird – 1, Brewer’s Blackbird – 37, Common Grackle – 15, Brown-headed Cowbird – 106, Baltimore Oriole – 2, Bullock’s Oriole – 25

**Family Fringillidae – Cardueline Finches and Allies (94)** : Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch – 3, Pine Grosbeak – 14, Purple Finch – 3, Cassin’s Finch – 5, House Finch – 31, Red Crossbill – 8, Pine Siskin – 16, American Goldfinch – 9, Evening Grosbeak – 5

**Family Passeridae – Old World Sparrows (31)** : House Sparrow – 31

**Total nests/broods – 10,377**  
(2002 season – 5,118; historical – 5,259)

**List of Active and Historical (\*) Contributors in Alphabetical Order**

**A** Alaska Highway Pipeline Survey – 5\*, Ken Albrecht – 2\*, John Allen - 1, Andy Anderson - 1, Bill Anderson - 2, Errol M. Anderson - 22, Jerry Anderson – 1\*, Jerry and Gladys Anderson – 1\*, Morgan Anderson - 8, William J. Anderson – 2\*, Cathy Antoniazzi - 5, Cathy and Helen Antoniazzi – 1\*, Janice E. Arndt - 39, Alf Atkins - 2, Lloyd Atkins - 5, Vicky Atkins

- 211, Vicky Atkins and Alice Beals - 96, and Peter Axhorn – 1\*.

**B** Bona Baillie - 2, Jerry Baker - 1, Stan Baker – 1\*, Geoff Barnard - 34, Ian Barnett – 1\*, Avery and Letty Bartels - 2, Tom Basford - 1, Daniel Bastaja - 4, Cordula Baumbach - 1, John Baumbrough – 1\*, BC Fish and Wildlife – 96\*, Alice Beals - 43, Dorothy Beatstra - 3, Ruth Beck – 1\*, K. Ray Beckett – 1\*, Frank L. Beebe – 19\*, Barbara Begg - 12, Sid Belsom – 2\*, Desmond Belton – 1\*, Bruce Bennett – 1\*, Fred Bennie – 2\*, Winifred Bennie - 85, Winifred and Fred Bennie - 2, Pauline Benny - 2, Arthur C. Bent – 1\*, Jim Bendell – 1\*, Jennifer Bergen and F. Don Young - 8, T.K. Berry - 1, Ed Beynon - 77, Andy Bezener – 3\*, Andrew Billings - 1, R. Billings – 1\*, Evelyn Bird - 1, Ian Bladen - 3, Peter Blokker – 7\*, Donald A. Blood – 10\*, N. Blyth - 1, Carol Boan - 1, Larry Boan - 1, Stephen Bolen - 1, A.G Bolton - 1, Rick Bonar – 11\*, J. Boone – 1\*, Myrna Bosomworth - 1, Jack Bowling – 14\*, A. Braun – 1\*, Andre Breault – 2\*, Mike Brick - 1, Tom Broadley - 3, J. Broadwell - 2, Allan Brooks - 14, J.F.D. Broomfield – 1\*, D.E. Brown - 1, Doug Brown - 122, Quentin Brown - 6, Denise Brownlie – 2\*, Melinda Buchanan - 1, E.R. Buckell - 2, Ruth Bumpus – 4\*, M. Burbidge – 2\*, Jim Burbridge and Jack Bowling – 1\*, Joop Burgerjon – 1\*, Ross Burnis - 1, Clyde H. Burton - 24, Walter Burton – 13\*, Dave Bush – 4\*, Beverly H. Butcher - 78, and Robert W. Butler – 22\*.



The top five nesting species in 2002 accounted for 30% of all records. The American Coot, ranked fourth with 491 records, accounting for nearly 5% of the total. WBT Image: R. Wayne Campbell

**C** Joy Calvert – 1\*, Brent Campbell - 1, Carol Campbell – 1\*, Eileen C. Campbell and James W. McCammon - 1, Jim Campbell - 1, John and Betty Campbell - 1, Lucile Campbell - 57, R. Wayne Campbell - 787, R. Wayne Campbell and Brian D. Petrar – 1\*, R. Wayne and Eileen Campbell - 1, R. Wayne Campbell and Gary S. Davidson – 1\*, R. Wayne Campbell and Jim Spencer - 1, R. Wayne Campbell and Ken Kennedy – 46\*, C. Camsett - 1, Canadian Wildlife Service – 1\*, G. Clifford Carl – 2\*, W. Caspell – 78\*,



Carol Cassentine - 2, Jim Chambers - 1\*, Jim Chambers and Helen Knight - 1\*, John Chambers - 1, Patrick Chambers - 2, Chris Charlesworth - 92, Myke J. Chutter - 6\*, P. Clapham and R. Clapham - 1\*, Bill Clarke - 1, A. Cober - 27, D. Code - 3\*, George Coe - 1, Mary Collins - 2\*, Andy Colman - 1, Cyril Colonel - 103, Cyril Colonel and Sheila Reynolds - 1, John Comer - 17\*, Dave I. Comfort and Sue Hackman - 1\*, Comox-Strathcona Natural History Society - 18\*, Tom Compton - 1, B.A. Cooper - 1, John K. Cooper - 14\*, John K. Cooper and A.L. Meugens - 3\*, John M. Cooper - 14, John M. Cooper and John K. Cooper - 1\*, E.R. Cossentine - 1, Danny J. Cott - 2, Evi Coulson - 1, Evi and Mel Coulson - 11, Evi Coulson and George Newell - 1, Vic Cousineau - 33, Larry Cowan - 1, Larry Cowan and Jill Deuling - 1\*, C. Cowlin - 1, R.A. Cummings - 1\*, Keith Cupp - 1, and H.H. Currie - 13\*.

**D** Ed and Monica Dahl - 23, Mark Daly - 2\*, A. Danvers - 1, S.J. Darcus - 54\*, Gary S. Davidson - 67, Gary S. Davidson and Chris Siddle - 97, Gary S. Davidson and R. Wayne Campbell - 2\*, Shirley Davidson - 1, Beth Davies - 1, Brian Davies - 2\*, Hank Davies - 1, Neil Dawe - 10\*, Jennifer Dawson - 1, Cliff Day - 15, Randall Dayton - 1, Anna Dean - 3, Mel Deanna - 1\*, Jason Diamond - 1, Chris DiCorrado - 12, Dorothy Diduck - 12, Dorothy and A. Diduck - 1, Paul Diggle - 1\*, Edwin Dixon - 2, John Dixon - 4, George Dobson - 1, Adrian Dorst - 24, Paul Douglas - 1, Ducks Unlimited Canada - 26\*, Dave Dunbar and Terry Cox - 1\*, Eva Durance - 59, Eva Durance and A. Bryan - 1, Linda Durrell - 115\*, and Michael Dyson - 1.

**E** John Eastwood - 1, Barry Edwards - 3\*, R. Yorke Edwards - 3\*, R. Yorke Edwards and John S. Tener - 3\*, Mary E. Egely - 3, P. Elliott - 14, Maurice Ellison - 10\*, Alice Elston - 1, L. Erickson - 1, Wayne Erickson and Joyce Lee - 2\*, and A.J. Erskine - 33\*.

**F** Emily Fanjoy - 8, Jamie Fenneman - 1, Kathy Ferguson - 1, Neil Ferguson - 1, Robert Ferguson - 3, Jess Findlay - 2, Randy and Jess Findlay - 1, Donna Finnestad - 1, E.H. Forbes - 2\*, Scott Forbes - 1\*, E.H. Forbush - 2\*, Bruce S. Ford - 1\*, Trevor Forder - 1, M. Forsythe - 1, Thelma Forty - 4, Gary Foster - 1, J. Bristol Foster - 1\*, M. Foubister - 1, John Franken - 1\*, Lorraine Fraser - 1, Tom A. Fraser - 11, Martina Frey - 28, D. Lorne Frost - 7\*, and Kathleen Fry and M. Keith - 1\*.

**G** Allan Gage - 1, George Galicz - 4\*, M. Gardiner - 1, C.B. Garrett - 1\*, Jeff Gaskin - 5\*, Bryan R. Gates - 2\*, D.V. George - 8\*, Ralph Gerein - 1, Percy D. Getty - 1, Bob and Fern Gibbard - 4\*, L.A. Gibbard - 19\*, Violet Gibbard and Les Gyug - 7\*, G.G. Gibson - 2, Janet Gifford - 12\*, J. Ginns - 35, Trent Gluklev - 1, W. Earl Godfrey - 1\*, Luther J. Goldman - 25\*, J.E. Victor Goodwill - 4, J.E. Victor and Margaret E.

Goodwill - 5, J.E. Victor Goodwill and Ron Satterfield - 1, J. Paul Goosen - 3\*, Hilary Gordon - 151, Hilary Gordon and Ellen Morris - 1, Hilary and Orville Gordon - 192, Hilary Gordon and Shuswap Naturalists - 3, Orville Gordon - 26, F.A. Gornall - 3\*, Cecilia Gorsuch - 5, Ted Goshulak - 3, Ted Goshulak and Stan Olson - 5, Louise Goulet - 1\*, Trevor Goward - 4\*, Douglas Graham - 1, Elaine Graham and Adrian Stune - 1, James Grant - 23\*, Al Grass - 5, Sandra Gray - 1, Bill Green - 5, Charles deB. Green - 13\*, Tony Greenfield - 42\*, Jim Groome - 1, Charles J. Guiguet - 15\*, John Guilford - 1, John Gwilliam - 1\*, Les Gyug - 2, and Les Gyug and Ryan Tomlinson - 21.

**H** Miriam Haavik - 1, Douglas J. Haddow - 5\*, Penny Haering - 22, John Hague - 1, Delbert Ray Halladay - 2\*, Larry Halverson - 5, Michael Hames - 1, Daphne Hamilton - 1, Willie Haras - 40, George A. Hardy - 1\*, Lorri Harpur - 236, Elizabeth Harris - 1, Robert Harris - 14, Robert Harris and Ernie White - 1, J. Hart - 1\*, F. Hartman and Gerald Van Tets - 1\*, David F. Hatler - 4\*, Regan Havard - 1, Robert B. Hay - 3\*, Grant W. Hazelwood - 4\*, Todd Heakes - 2, M. Healy - 1, Doug Heard - 1, Dorothy Hearn - 2, E.B. Hearn - 1, A.F. Hedley - 2, Ruth Hellevang - 16, Charles and Daniel Helm - 20, Roy Helset - 1, Phil Henderson - 14, Edward Hennan - 6\*, Joan E. Heriot - 2, R. Jerry Herzig - 10\*, Werner and Hilde Hesse - 4\*, Donald Highe - 1, Donna and Bruce Hill - 1, Edward Hillary - 36,



Rick Howie accepts the WBT "Critter of the Year" award on behalf of the Kamloops Naturalist's Club for monitoring the first successful nesting of Black-necked Stilt in British Columbia. WBT Image: Michael I. Preston

John Hind-Smith – 1\*, Carol Hoar – 3\*, Keith Hodson – 2\*, Madge Hollington – 2\*, Brenda Holman - 1, Jerry Holman - 2, Tracey D. Hooper - 31, Randy Hopkins - 1, Dennis Horwood - 2, Frank Hovenden – 2\*, Steve Howard - 1, Rick Howie – 22\*, Jean Hudson – 1\*, Donna Humphries – 1\*, and W. Huxley – 3\*.

**I** Richard Inglis – 1\*, Doug Innes – 2\*, Doug and Marian Innes - 20, Doug and Marian Innes and Stan and Lyn Paterson - 1, Marian Innes - 2, and Jean Iverson – 1.

**J** Ian Jack – 1\*, Mary F. Jackson – 3\*, Tom Jackson – 3\*, Tom Jacobson - 2, Ross James – 2\*, Pat Jansen - 49, Janice Jarvis - 11, Len Jellicoe - 1, Ron Jenkins - 7, Richard S. Jerema – 5\*, Leo Jobin – 1\*, Daryl Johnson - 1, Ann Johnston - 1, W.B. Johnstone – 3\*, Anne Jones – 1\*, David Jones - 1, and Paul Jones – 11.

**K** Gary W. Kaiser – 1\*, Gary W. Kaiser and Scott Webb – 2\*, Richard and Beverly Kalmbach – 1\*, Tony Karup – 1\*, Brian Keating - 2, Grant Keddie - 1, J.E.H. Kelso – 3\*, John Kennedy - 2, Maureen Ketchison - 1, David King – 3\*, Reginald King - 3, Sandra Kinsey - 19, Sandra Kinsey and Laird Law - 2, Bill Kitchen – 1\*, G. Knezevich – 1\*, Helen Knight – 1\*, Helen Knight and Jim Chambers – 1\*, Nancy Krueger - 23, Nancy Krueger and Cathy Antonazzi - 2, Nancy Krueger and Doug Wilson - 1, and W. Douglas Kraugh – 1\*.



**An unusual nest site indeed! This female Rufous Hummingbird built her nest on a clothesline, using two pegs as support anchors, and raised two young. Photo: Linda M. Van Damme.**

**L** Elsie Lafreniere - 2, Hamilton M. Laing – 14\*, John, Vi and David Lambie - 6, John and Vi Lambie - 18, John, Vi, David and Melanie Lambie - 1, Vi and John Lambie - 6, Arthur N. Lance – 1\*, Laird Law - 3, Laird Law and Sandra Kinsey - 81, Steve Law, Sandra Neill and Glen Wood - 1, George Lawson - 1, Joyce Lee and Wayne Ericson – 1\*, Martin C. Lee - 6, Sybil Lees and Elspeth Kerr – 12\*, Douglas Leighton - 4, Enid Lemon – 4\*, Jack Leufesty – 1\*, Pat Levitt - 4, M. Lewis - 1, Peter Light - 1, Kathi Linnman - 3, Martha Livingston - 1, Eric C. Lofroth – 1\*, Max E. Lohbrunner – 1\*, Sharon and David Love - 1, David J. Low - 9, Betty and Jim Lunan - 2, Robert E. Luscher – 5\*, and Allan M. Lyon – 3\*.

**M** Bruce MacDonald - 2, Ed MacDonald - 1, S. MacDonald - 1, S. MacDonald and Ian Stirling – 1\*, John MacGregor - 1, Grant MacHutchon – 1\*, James W. Mack – 3\*, H. Mackay - 23, Ken

MacKenzie - 18, A.C. Mackie – 2\*, Jack Mackill – 36\*, Alan L. MacLeod – 1\*, Alan L. MacLeod and Bruce Whittington – 1\*, Betty MacLeod - 1, Nelson MacLinnnes and Art Morgan - 1, W.A. Maguire – 36\*, Diana Maloff - 31, M. Mark - 1, V. and E. Marsh - 2, Rick Marshall – 3\*, Kathy Martin – 2\*, Nancy Martin - 1, Patrick A. Martin – 6\*, Patrick W. Martin – 39\*, Derrick Marven – 21\*, D. Maynes - 1, Peter and Pat McCallister – 1\*, James W. McCammon - 1, Steve McConnell - 2, Peter McCouley - 2, Jack McDiaramid - 1, Ed McDonald - 7, A.S. McGill - 1, Dorothy McKay - 1, John McKay - 1, R.H. McKay – 12\*, Betty McKinnon - 1, William D. McLaren – 9\*, Don McIvor and Irene McIvor – 1\*, Ed McMackin - 21, Brian McMurdo - 1, George McNair - 1, Michael and Faye McNall – 5\*, Martin K. McNicholl - 1, Sandy McRuer - 2, M. Melisson - 1, Arthur L. Meugens – 7\*, Arthur L. Meugens and John K. Cooper – 3\*, Arthur L. and Mae M. Meugens – 1\*, Harry Middleton – 7\*, Don Miller - 1, Hettie Miller – 5\*, Joyce Miller - 1, Liddy Mohr - 1, Guy L. Monty - 5, Ed Moodie – 1\*, Cy Moorehen – 3\*, J.P.B. Mordy - 1, W.R. Morford - 2, Art and Lois Morgan - 3, Pearl Morganstem - 1, Mike Morrell – 1\*, Jackie Morris - 2, Mary Morris – 2\*, Ken P. Morrison – 1\*, Norma and Keith Morton – 1\*, G. Moyle - 1, Allister Muir - 18, Emily Muller - 19, Emily and Sarah Muller - 1, Bill Munro – 1\*, David A. Munro – 89\*, James A. Munro – 377\*, W.T. Munro – 2\*, O.J. Murie – 11\*, Dan Murphy - 1, Mick Murphy - 1, and M. Timothy Myers – 84\*.

**N** Eve J. Neale - 13, Laure W. Neish - 7, John Nelson - 1, W.A. Newcombe – 2\*, George Newell – 1\*, Murray and Katherine Newman - 1, Gwen Nicol - 17, C.E. Nielsen – 2\*, Johan Nielsen - 1, Edward Nygren – 1\*, Mark Nyhof - 264, Mark Nyhof and Bob Houston - 2, and Elsie Nykyfork – 27\*.

**O** Brent Olsen - 2, Lowell Orcott – 1\*, Ray Orser – 1\*, and Phil Owen – 1.

**P** Linda Page - 1, Del Parker - 1, Tom W. Parkin – 3\*, M.C. Pascozzo - 24, Mary Pastrick – 158\*, Trudy Pastrick – 8\*, Bob Patterson - 1, W.A.B. Paul – 11\*, Pat Paunell - 1, Theed Pearse – 8\*, Dave Pedley and Lynne Pedley – 1\*, C.C. Pemberton - 1, Tom W. Perkin - 1, David Perrin - 1, Janne Perrin - 22, Jim Perry - 5, Brian J. Petrar – 5\*, W. Philips - 1, Mark Phinney - 20, Mark Phinney and Chris DiCarrado - 1, S. Phippon - 1, Leonard Pickens – 2\*, Lola Pickens – 1\*, P.

Pike - 1, Tom Plath and Linda Koch - 1\*, Rosamund Pojar - 2\*, Len Polley - 1, John Polson and Al Grass - 1\*, Brad Potter - 1, Doug Powell - 8\*, G. Allen Poynter -



As part of our long-term monitoring, several nesting colonies yielded 78 Black Terns nests. Photo: Lorri Harpur

77, G. Allen Poynter and Richard Swanston - 1, Bill Preston - 3, Brian Preston - 1, J.W. Preston - 1, Marg and Al Preston - 1\*, Michael I. Preston - 3, Michael I. Preston and Brian Biever - 4, Michael I. and Joanna Preston - 115, and Sandy Proulx - 163.

**R** Kenneth Racey - 8\*, Dave Rae - 1, William S. Rae and Verna Newson - 1\*, C. Rainville - 1, S. Ramsay - 2, Bob Ramshaw - 1, T.E. Randall - 1, Mary Rannie - 1, Bill Ransome - 7, Sandy Rathbone - 1\*, Jennifer Read - 1, T.C. Reid - 2\*, Tom E. Reimchen - 7, Sheila Reynolds - 10, Louise Rice - 10, Diane Richardson - 26\*, Ken Richardson - 1, Trevor and Gillian Richardson - 6, Dirk Rinehart-Pidcock - 37, J.P. Risling - 2\*, Elliot Ritchie - 4, J.A. Roach - 1, Neil Robbins - 2, Anna Roberts - 35\*, Leila G. Roberts - 4\*, Syd Roberts - 14, Mike Robertson - 2, Robin D. Robinson - 2\*, Steve H. Robinson - 11\*, Wilma Robinson - 6\*, I. Laurie Rockwell - 27, Michael S. Rodway - 11, Michael S. Rodway and Heidi Regehr - 1, Robin Rohmoser - 2, M. Roschitz - 1\*, Rand Rudland - 11, Craig S. Runyan - 1\*, and Glen R. Ryder - 801.

**S** John G. Sarles - 1, Mike Sather - 4\*, Ron Satterfield - 16\*, Ron and Joy Satterfield - 3\*, R. Scheer - 1, Jim Scheffer - 1, Jack Schieck - 1\*, Madelon A. Schoulten - 1\*, George Scolton - 1\*, Lorraine Scott - 2, Scout Island Nature Centre - 1, John Seargent - 1, Barbara M. Sedgwick - 10, Barbara M. and Daniel Sedgwick - 6, Brian G. Self - 3\*, B. Sendall - 1, Alex Sharp - 1, Janica Shaw - 1, Verena Shaw - 1, Michael G. Shepard - 15\*, Chris Shepard - 3\*, Katherine Shewchuk - 3, F.M. Shillaker - 2\*, Chris Siddle - 58, Chris Siddle and Gary S. Davidson - 3, Ed Silkens - 8, Jean Simmons - 1\*, Neil Simon - 1, Joe Simonyi - 1\*, Fred A. Simpson - 30\*, John Simpson - 1, Jim Sims - 58, P. Sinclair - 2, Ed Sing - 1\*, George Sirk - 47\*, Arnold Skei - 2\*, June Slocombe - 1, Joe Small -

1, Gail Smart - 1\*, George Smith - 1, Ian D. Smith - 6\*, Jerry Smith - 2, John Smith - 1, K. Smith - 1, R.H. Smith - 24, W.S. Smith - 6, Jean Smithers - 1, D. Sorensen - 1, Murray Sparks - 1, Gail Spitler - 29, Prue Spitman - 10\*, Prue and Bernie Spitman - 2\*, William Spreadborough - 5\*, Tine Stace-Smith - 2, Jack Stackwell - 1, John Stainer - 8\*, Elsie Stanley - 38, H.A. Stelfox - 1\*, Margaret Stevens - 1, Tom Stevens - 2, Brian Stewart - 1, David Stirling - 1, Hazel and Jim Street - 7\*, Sandra Street - 1, Sherwood S. Sturtz - 16, L.G. Sugden - 12\*, Ken R. Summers - 5, and R.L. Sweet - 1.

**T** Doreen Tait - 2\*, E.M. Tait - 6\*, Percy A. Taverner - 2\*, G.W. Taylor - 2\*, Tom Taylor - 1, Howard A. Telosky - 5, John Thompson - 7, Robert L. Thompson - 12, Kay Tindal and Dorothy Diduck - 1, Teresa Todd - 1, Calvin Tolkamp - 1\*, Ryan Tomlinson - 13, John Toochnin - 4\*, Rick Toochnin - 26, Daryl Torres - 1, H. Transell - 1, Colin Trefrey - 3\*, Ellen Tremblay - 1, Roger Tremblay - 14, Grant Tunie - 24, James D. Turnbull - 1\*, Bill Turner - 1, Ian G. Turner - 1, and Daniel Tyson - 2.

**V** Linda Van Damme - 943, Linda Van Damme and Cyril Colonel - 32, Ruth van den Driessche - 3\*, Hank Van der Pol - 1\*, Anneke Van Der Terre - 1, Ben van Drimmelin - 1\*, Harry van Oort - 183, G. Vinert - 1, Gerald Van Tets - 1\*, and John Vooy - 5

**W** Jean Waite - 91\*, Keith Walker - 1, R.H. Walsh - 1, Bill Ward and Orville Gordon - 1, Margaret Waring - 4\*, Ross Waters - 11\*,



BCNRS participant Ken Wright sent in 168 nest records from Lillooet and other remote BC regions. WBT Image: Michael I. Preston

Phil and Margaret Watson - 1, Jim Webb - 1, Wayne C. Weber - 24, Daniel Webster and W. Bailey - 1\*, Robert B. Weeden - 2\*, Rita Wege and Daryl Torres - 7, Rita Wege and Larry Prosser - 57, Ray M. Wershler - 3\*, Rick West - 1\*, Brian Westcott - 1\*, Donal E. White - 1\*, Edward G. White - 30\*, Mildred V. White - 6\*, Joan Whitmore - 1, Bruce Whittington - 2\*, Karen Wiebe - 4\*, Donna R. Williams - 105\*, Eldred Williams - 2, Georgina Williams - 1, Jack Williams - 7, Jason Williams - 2, John Williams - 2, M.Y. Williams - 1\*, Marilyn Williams - 1, Michael Williams - 1, P.Ray Williams - 89, Douglas J. Wilson - 2, Harold Wilson - 1, John Wilson - 1, James Winston - 1, Jim Wisnia - 2\*, Tom Witherspoon - 1\*, Michael Wolfe - 1\*, Marcus Womersley - 12, Glen Wood and Steve Law - 1, John G. Woods - 3\*, Gwen W. Wright - 1\*, Joan Wright - 1, Ken G. Wright - 22, Ken G. Wright and Diane Reesor - 1, Ken G. Wright and Doug Carrick - 1, Ken G. Wright and Trudy Chatwin - 1\*, and J.P. Wynne - 2\*.

**Y** C.J. Young - 7\*.

**Z** Fred C. Zwickel - 2\*.

**Total Contributors - 732**  
(Active - 417 ; Historical - 315)

## USE OF THE B. C. NEST RECORD SCHEME AND DATA BASES IN 2002

### Requests for Information

Requests for information on wildlife did not ease up in 2002. WBT staff and volunteers helped with the task of fulfilling nearly 1,000 requests, which included researching, summarizing, compiling, copying, and mailing material. The increase included requests for WBT publications and visits to the Wildlife Data Centre for information.

The following list is only a partial summary of names, affiliation or residence, and species or topic for which information was sent.

**Donald Abbott** (Victoria - Sky Lark), **Errol Anderson** (White Rock - Golden-crowned Sparrow), **Ted Antifeau** (B C Ministry of Water, Land and Air, Nelson - Yellow-breasted Chat), **Peter Arcese** (University of B C - Song Sparrow), **Janice Arndt** (Nelson - Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, and Evening Grosbeak), and **Rick Ashwood** (Port Alberni - Bald Eagle).

**Ron Bailey** (Campbell River - Merlin), **Patricia Banning-Lover** (WBT Wild Bird Trust of B.C., West Vancouver - bird-banding, birds striking windows, bird feeding, Purple Martin), **Steve Bennett** (Castlegar - birds in West Kootenay), **Brian Biever** (Chetwynd - American Goldfinch, American Robin, Trumpeter Swan), **George Bradd** (Tofino - bird checklists), **Bob Bradley** (B C Hydro, Surrey - birds of Nanaimo region, woodpeckers, and American Kestrel), **Jan Bradshaw** (Chase - American Kestrel and Osprey), **Chris Buis** (Aldergrove - American Coot and Pied-billed Grebe), and **Dr. Fred Bunnell** (Centre for Applied Conservation Biology, UBC - grassland birds, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Belted Kingfisher, and Vesper Sparrow).

**Barry Campbell** (University of Victoria - Great Horned Owl and Anna's Hummingbird), **Tessa Campbell** (Victoria - raptors and hummingbirds), **Dan Carson** (Victoria - birds of Radium and Golden), **Chris Charlesworth** (Kelowna - Ring-billed, California and Herring Gull), **Aldo Congrossi** (Ruby Lake - Redhead), **Reiko Corbin** (University of B C, Vancouver - birds of B C), and **Linda Crowhurst** (Vancouver - B C birds).

**Ken Davies** (Sandspit - Horned Puffin), **Alec Deas** (Smithers - B C Nest Record Scheme), **Dennis A. Demarchi** (Victoria) - Flammulated Owl, Swainson's Hawk, Western Screech-Owl, Sage Thrasher, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Brewer's Sparrow, Gray Flycatcher, Pygmy Nuthatch, Long-billed Curlew, Short-eared Owl, Common



Adrian Dorst of Tofino used the BCNRS to complete the breeding component of his new checklist, *Birds of the West Coast of Vancouver Island*. WBT Image: Michael I. Preston

Poorwill, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Nashville Warbler, "Timberline" Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Bobolink, Cassin's Finch, Northern Hawk Owl, and Western Meadowlark), **Bob Dooley** (Castlegar – B C birds), **Adrian Dorst** (Tofino – West Coast birds for checklist), **Robert Drake** (Saskatoon, SK – Burrowing Owl), and **Jill Dueling** (Greater Vancouver Regional District – red salamander and Trowbridge shrew).

**John Edwards** ( Kamloops – cormorants) and **Anthony J. Erskine** (Sackville, NB – B C Nest Record Scheme).

**Trevor Forder** (Kelowna – B C Nest Record Scheme), **Jane Forsyth** (Victoria – birds of Victoria) and **Jake Fraser** (Vancouver - albatrosses).

**George Gardner** (Kamloops – Black-necked Stilt), **J. E. Victor Goodwill** (Victoria – Common Loon), **Hilary Gordon** (Salmon Arm – record-keeping), **Orville Gordon** (Revelstoke – B C Nest Record Scheme), **Max Gotz** (Germany – birds of Whistler), **Chris Gray** (Edmonton, AB – Pileated Woodpecker), **Tony Greenfield** (Sechelt – Warbling Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Purple Martin), **Ralph Guerin** (Creston – Creston birds), and **Frank Guillon** (Smithers – Sandhill Crane).

**Larry Halverson** (Parks Canada, Radium – Western Screech-Owl), **Keith A. Hamm** (Korbel, California – coastal forest songbirds), **Bob Hansen** (Pacific Rim National Park, Ucluelet – gray wolf), **Lee Harding** (Coquitlam – B C Nest Record Scheme), **John P. Hayes** (Corvallis, Oregon – coastal forest songbirds), **Bill Heaton** (Victoria – House Sparrow), **Marilynne Hedley** (Surrey – window killed birds and squirrel control), Peter Harris (Prince George – loons), **Charles Helm** (Tumbler Ridge – birds Tumbler Ridge area, Bairds Sandpiper, American Dipper, Broad-winged Hawk), **Phil Henderson** (Langley – Lower Mainland wildlife), **Grant Hollands** (Sooke – long-toed salamander), **Tracey Hooper** (Sidney – Savannah Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Short-eared Owl, Spotted Sandpiper, Willow Flycatcher and Mallard), **Dennis Horwood** (Kitimat – Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Spotted Towhee and Pine Grosbeak), **Stuart Houston** (Saskatoon, SK – B C Nest Record Scheme), and **Rick Howie** (B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air, Kamloops – Osprey and Black-necked Stilt).

**Marian Innes** (Courtenay – bird songs) and **Bob Iverson** (Penticton – American White Pelican).

**Alan St. John** (Bend, OR – reptiles of B C) and **Fran Johnstone** (Westwold – Black-necked Stilt).

**Jeremy Kimm** (Sidney – Duncan birds), **Sandra Kinsey and Laird Law** (Prince George – Pacific Tree

Frog and Broad-winged Hawk), **Jim Kennedy** (Oliver – American White Pelican), **Markku Kostamo** (Vancouver – birds in Hecate Strait), and **Catherine Kristie** (Kamloops – Burrowing Owl).

**Vi Lambie** (Mackenzie – record-keeping), **Kate Langsley** (Creston – Northern Leopard Frog), **Jerry Langtry** (Cloverdale – Hutton's Vireo), **Peter Lawrance** (GVRD, Pacific Spirit Regional Park – Wandering Shrew, Ensatina), **Doug Leighton** (Golden – Broad-winged Hawk), **Enid Lemon** (Victoria – Mountain Bluebird), **Paul Levesque** (Victoria – Sharp-shinned Hawk), **Ernest Leupine** (Vancouver – Northern Saw-whet Owl), **Shelagh Levey** (Victoria – Spotted Towhee), and **Thomas Love** (Linfield College, OR – Ivory Gull).

**Ken McKenzie** (Lac La Hache – B C Nest Record Scheme), **Jo Ann Mackenzie** (Surrey – Heermann's Gull), **Ron McKilbureau** (Toronto, ON – Crested Myna), **Jill Mason** (Tumbler Ridge – Blue Jay), **Brent Matsuda** (California – amphibians and reptiles of B.C.), **Steven McCallister** (Parksville – Caspian Tern), **Scott McLean** (Surrey – Bushtit), **Ron McLaughlin** (Nanaimo – Northern Goshawk, Brown Creeper and Swainson's Thrush), **Ian Mitchell** (Prince George – wolverine and fisher), **Donna Moore** (Stave Lake – owls), and **Nick Murphy** (Smithers – songbirds and conservation), **Kathleen Moore** (CWS, Langley – seabirds).

**Leis Nielsen** (Osoyoos – B C Nest Record Scheme), **J. Norrie** (Summerland – B C Nest Record Scheme), and **Andrea Norris** (Victoria – woodpeckers).

**Neil O'Connor** (Vancouver – Pacific Coast Newt), **Kathleen O'Neil** (Fort St. John – Kechika wildlife), and **Joanne Outerbridge** (Shangri-la, Victoria – bird feeding).

**Jim Patterson** (Fruitvale – B C Nest Record Scheme), **Yvonne Patterson** (Nanaimo – Rhinoceros Auklet), **J. Perin** (Harrison Hot Springs – B C Nest Record Scheme), **Jane Petch** (Salmon Arm – fireworks and bird disturbance), **Jane Porter** (Greater Vancouver Regional District, Vancouver – Barred Owl and Western Screech-Owl), **W. F. Porter** (Abbotsford – B C Nest Record Scheme), **Joanna Preston** (Victoria – evolution of colour in birds) and **Sandy Proulx** (Quesnel – Mountain Bluebird, swallows and House Wren).

**Lloyd Reese** (Cawston – Eurasian Collard-Dove), **Dr. Tom Reimchen** (University of Victoria – amphibian larvae, Red-legged Frog, Bullfrog, marten, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Short-eared Owl, Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl, and short-tailed weasel), **Ian Robertson** (Robertson Environmental Services Ltd., Langley – birds in West Kootenay), **Jim Rogers** (Quesnel – birds of Stum Lake), **Arlene Robinson** (Fort St. John – swallows), **Manfred Roschitz** (Quesnel – Great Blue Heron), **Judy Russell** (Maple Ridge – rats and bird feeding), **Karen Ryall** (Alexis

Creek – B C Nest Record Scheme) and **Glenn R. Ryder** (Aldergrove – Hutton's Vireo).

**Verena Shaw** (New Westminster – B C Nest Record Scheme), **John Shepard** (Prince Rupert – Bald Eagle foods), **George Smith** (Ladner – muskrats), **Grant Simpson** (Burnaby – Purple Martin), **Peter Smith** (Cache Creek – Common Nighthawk), **Helen Spiegleman** (Vancouver – birds of Pacific Spirit Park), **M. Springman** (Victoria – Anna's Hummingbird), **Elsie Stanley** (McBride – B C Nest Record Scheme), **Robert C. Stebbins** (Berkley, CA – reptiles and amphibians in B C).

**Terry Tellier** (Toronto, ON – cavity nesting birds), **Howard A. Telosky** (Campbell River – Marbled Murrelet), **George Thompson** (Toronto, ON – House Wren), and **Graham Turnbull** (B C Ministry of Water, Land and Air, Nanaimo – raptors).



A family of Mountain Bluebirds opted to nest in a pair of cowboy boots rather than the box that was provided for them in a garage. Photo: Sandy Proulx.

**Linda M. Van Damme** (Nelson – 62 species for Creston Valley Bird Checklist, Common Merganser, House Finch and Grasshopper Sparrow).

**Betty Walker** (Oliver – B C Nest Record Scheme), **Wayne C. Weber** (Kamloops – Common Loon), **Bill White** (Sechelt – B C field guide), Dave Whiting (San Diego, CA – Brown Pelican), **Kathleen Wilkinson** (Langford – California Quail), **Jim Wisnia** (Squamish – birds of Squamish), and **Kenneth Wright** (Lillooet – birds for checklist, Dawson Creek birds and Boreal Owl).

**Tim Zurowski** (Victoria – Blue-gray Gnatcatcher) and **Fred Zwickel** (Cortes Island – Blue Grouse).

## Recent Publications and Reports

Information from the **WBT Wildlife Data Centre**, including electronic databases, library, and special collections, were used recently in the following scientific papers, books, reports, articles, and theses.

Ainley, D. G., D. N. Nettleship, H. R. Carter and A. E. Storey. 2002. **Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 666 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 44 pages.

Beyak, Trudy. 2001. **Finest Field Naturalist in B. C.** The Abbotsford News, November 26, 2001. Pages 1-3.

Bosakowski, Thomas and Dwight G. Smith. 2002. **Raptors of the Pacific Northwest**. Frank Amato Publication, Inc., Portland, Oregon. 151 pages.

Burger, J. and M. Gochfield. 2002. **Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 634 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 24 pages.

Butler, Rob and Moira Lemon. 2001. **Spring Shorebird Migration at Tofino Mudflats**. *Discovery* 30:30-32.

Cade, T. J. and E. C. Atkinson. 2002. **Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 671 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 32 pages.

Campbell, R. Wayne, Michael I. Preston and Linda M. Van Damme. 2002. **British Columbia Nest Record Scheme – 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Report – 2001 Nesting Season**. WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia Wildlife Report No. 8, North Vancouver. 26 pages.

Cardiff, S. W. and D. L. Dittmann. 2002. **Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 664 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 32 pages.

Comox Valley Naturalists Society. 2001. **Bird Check List – The Comox District, Vancouver Island, British Columbia**. Leaflet.

Demarchi, Dennis A., R. Wayne Campbell and Diana N. Demarchi. 2001. **Dry Forests and Grassland Birds Habitat Assessment**. British Columbia Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management Report, Victoria. 143 pages.

Dicer, Pamela and Marian Coope. 2001. **Birds at VNHS 2001 Camp, Cinnabar Basin**. *Discovery* 30: 55-56.

- Dorst, Adrian. 2002. **WBT Pocket Checklist – Birds of the West Coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia**. WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia Special Publication No. 4, North Vancouver. Leaflet.
- Drilling, N., R. Titman and F. McKinney. 2002. **Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 658 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 44 pages.
- Dugger, B. D. and K. M. Dugger. 2002. **Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 628 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 28 pages.
- Elphick, C. S. and J. Klima. 2002. **Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 629 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 32 pages.
- Gates, Bryan R. (compiler). 2001. **Victoria and Southeastern Vancouver Island – Checklist of Birds**. Victoria Natural History Society. Leaflet.
- Gill, R. E., B. J. McCaffery and P. S. Tomkovich. 2002. **Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 642 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 32 pages.
- Goguen, C. B. and D. R. Curson. 2002. **Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo Cassinii*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 615 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 20 pages.
- Green, M. T., P. E. Lowther, S. L. Jones, S. K. Davis and B. C. Dale. 2002. **Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 638 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 20 pages.
- Hartwig, Carol L., Donald S. Eastman and Alton S. Harestad. 2002. **Forest Age and Relative Abundance of Pileated Woodpeckers on Southeastern Vancouver Island**. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report PSW-GTR-181.
- Hawkins, James S., Andre Breault, Sean Boyd, Mike Norton, Gerard Beyersbergen and Paul Latour. 2002. **Trumpeter Swan Numbers and Distribution in Western Canada, 1970-2000**. *Waterbirds* 25 (Special Publication 1) :8-21.
- Hejl, S. J., J. A. Holmes and D. E. Kroodsmas. 2002. **Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 623 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 32 pages.
- Hejl, S. J., K. R. Newton, M. E. McFadzen, J. S. Young and C. K. Ghalambor. 2002. **Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 669 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 32 pages.
- Helm, Charles. 2002. **WBT Pocket Checklist – The Birds of Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia**. WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia Special Publication No. 6, North Vancouver, B. C. Leaflet.
- Houston, C. S. 1997. **Theed Pearse**. Pages 615-616 in *Biographical Dictionary of American and Canadian Naturalists and Environmentalists*. Greenwood Press, Westport, CT.
- Jackson, J. A. and H. R. Ouellet. 2002. **Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 613 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 32 pages.
- Jones, S. L. and J. E. Cornely. 2002. **Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*)**. In *The Birds of North America*, No. 624 (A. Poole and F. Gill, editors). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 28 pages.
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## Wildlife Workshops and Lectures

Fragmentation of information from British Columbia to databases outside the province, lack of commitment to gather and store historical information, inconsistency in the kinds of standard information currently being recorded and submitted, and the desperate need to centralize wildlife information so the “big picture” can be presented promoted a series of workshops and lectures to alleviate these problems.

Seven pilot workshops were presented around the province in 2002. Each session lasted 1-2 days and included in-house lectures, discussions, and hands-on activities as well as some field time. The results were encouraging. Every participant agreed that we should all be working together, on a united front, in gathering and presenting information for conservation issues in British Columbia.

Seven major workshops were given in **Dawson Creek, MacKenzie, North Vancouver, Quesnel, Tofino, Tumbler Ridge, and Vancouver**. In addition, over 20 complementary evening lectures entitled “Taking Wildlife Conservation in a new Direction”, were presented in **Burnaby, Calgary (AB), Chetwynd, Courtenay, Dawson Creek, Delta, Long Beach, Nanaimo, Osoyoos, Prince George, Sechelt, Surrey, Ucluelet, and Williams Lake**.

A presentation at the **North American Bluebird Society’s** annual meeting in **Penticton** in June helped people better understand the importance of all working toward a common goal and keeping information in the province in a central repository operated by a non-government organization.

## Long-term Monitoring and Inventory Projects

**WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia**, since its inception nine years ago, has continued many of the long-term monitoring, species inventory, and wildlife surveys that have been established in the province over the past 50 years. The information gathered is now stored in the **WBT Wildlife Data Centre** in Victoria which is the nation’s first regional central repository for comprehensive information on all wildlife.

Some of the projects related to the **Nest Record Scheme** have included regular and systematic surveys of all **colonial-nesting marine and fresh-water birds, terrestrial bird colonies** (e.g., swallows, swifts, etc.), documenting and monitoring **raptor nests** (e.g., Osprey productivity and falcon sites), **wetland surveys** (e.g., rails, bitterns and other waterbirds), **owl surveys** (e.g., Barn Owl and Long-eared Owl), **loon surveys**, and systematically searching for breeding range extensions (e.g., Pacific Loon). For example, our **Common Loon** database presently contains nearly 1,300 breeding records and over 92,000 occurrence records for the Common Loon.

We will highlight the results of some of these projects in each annual report.

## Western Grebes

**Linda Van Damme** reported that there was no evidence of successful breeding of the **Western Grebe** at **Duck Lake, Creston** in 2002. This is one of only four active colonies in the province. The water levels remained consistently high in Duck Lake where grebes depend on dense mats of aquatic vegetation to build and anchor their nests. The grebes had a late start but in early July adults were busy constructing nests (32 counted) with 23 adults sitting on completed nest platforms. However, by July 14 all nests had disappeared after a big storm.



This Western Grebe colony at Duck Lake in Creston is just one of several that are monitored regularly through WBT Long-term Monitoring and Inventory projects. WBT Image: R. Wayne Campbell

This is not an uncommon occurrence for the species. Usually this occurs in June after which the grebes still have enough of the season remaining to incubate eggs and raise at least one young to fledging.

By late July, adults on Duck Lake had rebuilt 35 nests among the sparse mat of aquatic plants. In mid-August adults were actively displaying courtship behaviour and many were observed turning eggs in the nest. But by the third week of August, the grebes abandoned the colony and no adults were seen with young, although observations were carried out until late September.

### Nest Box Trails

Thousands of nest boxes have been erected around the province for bluebirds. Other cavity-nesting species, including some small mammals, utilize these nest sites, while an army of naturalists monitor the boxes for success. Four individuals put in a special effort this year to monitor trails and complete nest cards. These dedicated people included **Hillary and Orville Gordon** (Douglas Lake), **Sandy Proulx** (Quesnel), and **Dirk Rinehart-Pidcock** (Kaslo).

In the **Quesnel** area, **Sandy Proulx** monitored 141 boxes. The season started slowly but soon picked up and in the end the bluebirds had their best season since 1998. He tallied 726 eggs of which 614 hatched and 573 young fledged.

### Wetland Monitoring

Part of our wetland monitoring program around the province includes specific counts of colonial-nesting species like **Red-winged** and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. This year excellent information was received for Chichester Bird Sanctuary in **Kelowna** (**Chris Charlesworth**), Myers Lake near **Rock Creek** (**Lorri Harpur**), **Burnaby Lake** (**Ian Jennings**), and several wetlands near **Chetwynd** and **Dawson Creek** (**Linda Van Damme**). At Myers Lake the tally was 116 Yellow-headed Blackbird nests and 21 Red-winged Blackbird nests, These totals are down from 1997 totals.

### Ospreys

The Osprey, at the top of the food chain, is a key indicator of the health of our fresh-water ecosystems. One of the principal functions of the BCNRS is to have on file long-term information, gathered annually, on the nesting biology and breeding success of fish-eating birds. Much of the historical information has already been summarized in *The Birds of British Columbia* but recently we have encouraged naturalists to monitor nests in their area. Some have taken it very seriously and have excellent data spanning many years. Below we have summarized some of their findings.

### West Kootenay (Nakusp to Fauquier)

**Gary Davidson** has monitored nests along Highway 6 that traverses sections of Upper and Lower Arrow Lake from 1994 to 2002. Most nests here are built on transmission poles in B C Hydro right-of-way corridors. Sometimes as many as three nests may be found on the crossbar between two poles.

The maximum number of nests observed were 48 in 1999 and 2002 of which 17 was the highest number active in any year. During 5 years of monitoring a total of 108 young Ospreys fledged from 59 nests. The average per nest was 1.83 birds.



Nelson Naturalists are recognized by the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists *Knowing Nature* Award for their volunteer efforts of monitoring up to 76 Osprey nests since 1997. Photo: Linda M. Van Damme

### West Kootenay (Balfour to Waneta)

**Rita Wege**, **Emilee Fanjoy**, **Elaine Moore**, **Robin Rohmoser** (1997-98), and **Larry Prosser** (1999-02) have faithfully monitored Osprey nests from 1997 to 2002. Nest sites have included pilings, bridges, living and dead trees, buoys, inactive poles erected for Osprey use, dam structures, wooden power poles, microwave dishes, navigation beacons, and an abandoned crane.

The maximum number of potential nest sites was 76 monitored in 2000 and the maximum number of active nests in any year was 56 in 1998. In total, 281 young Ospreys fledged from 204 nests for the 6-year survey period. The average per nest was 1.38 birds.

### Creston Valley

**Linda Van Damme** and **Cyril Colonel** have monitored Osprey nests from Kootenay Lake south to the United States border and the Kootenay flats from 1998 to 2002. Nests were built in dead black cottonwood trees, on power poles, navigation lights, buoys, railway trestles, bridges, pilings, and topped live trees.

The maximum number of nests monitored was 44 in 2002. In total, 189 young fledged from 104 nests. The average per nest was 1.82 birds.

## Rare and Sensitive Species

We received more requests this year than usual. Consultants, government and industry personnel, naturalists, university students and their advisors, hikers, bird listers, and photographers wanted detailed information on "Species at Risk", rare species in broad geographical areas of the province, specific locations for some nesting raptors, and best times to find nesting birds.

Some species of interest included **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Broad-winged Hawk**, **Crested Myna**, **Pacific Loon**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Caspian Tern**, **Clark's Grebe**, **American White Pelican**, **Short-eared Owl**, **White-headed Woodpecker**, **Northern Goshawk**, **Canada Warbler**, **Sky Lark**, **Rock Ptarmigan**, **Mountain Quail**, **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, **Bobolink**, **Purple Martin**, and **Sage Thrasher**.

As always, information was provided with the welfare of the species in mind, land ownership issues, and conservation value of information being released.

## Field Tips and Techniques

### *A Nest and a Mirror*

Sometimes nests tucked up close to rafters and roofs in homes can be difficult and dangerous to check by hand. **Patrick Chambers** cleverly used a small hand mirror to check an **American Robin** nest in **Clearwater**. The reflection in the mirror clearly showed three eggs and a nestling, data he collected without disturbing or damaging the contents of the nest.



A small mirror is used to check the contents of a difficult to reach American Robin nest. Photo: Patrick Chambers

### *To Climb or Not to Climb*

Climbing trees to check the contents of nest boxes put up for cavity-nesting puddle and diving ducks

can be a chore. And it becomes more difficult, and dangerous, to do as you get older!

You can save yourself scratches and bruises by closely examining the box from the ground before scaling the tree. Active duck nests frequently show traces of breast down at the entrance hole. The female



Bird down at the entrance to this nest box is a sure sign of nest activity. This nest belonged to a Bufflehead. WBT Image: R. Wayne Campbell

may leave these feathers upon entering or leaving the nest. Sometimes down floats up from the actual nest while the female is changing incubation positions.

### *Ravens and Owls*

Seasoned naturalists are curious and know that each day in the field can bring new life experiences and clues to discovering the relationship between animals of different species.

While searching for nests in May near Princeton, **Jerry Herzig** was attracted to loud noises of **Common Ravens** coming from a steep slope on **Mount Miner**. He followed the raucous calls and soon discovered what the ravens were excited about. Sitting in an old Cooper's Hawk nest, 25 feet up in a Douglas-fir, were three large **Great Horned Owl** young. Jerry thanked the ravens and filled out a nest card!

### *Suspicious Hooting*

When a **Great Horned Owl** is heard hooting in mid-day in the southern interior, especially in late May and early June, we know that recently fledged young or

large nestlings are probably nearby. **Ron Jenkins** used his experience to locate a nest, in a hollowed-out top of a rotten snag, beside **Isobel Lake**. The site contained three large owlets.

On the south coast, this field tip can be used to locate nest sites about a month earlier.

## From the Scientific Literature

### *CAN RESEARCHERS CONCEAL THEIR SCENT FROM PREDATORS IN ARTIFICIAL NEST STUDIES?*

Researchers leave scent trails as they move through brush conducting fieldwork and it is thought that predators use scents along trails as cues to locate nests. Biologists Sean Donalty and Scott Henke tested this hypothesis using artificial nests and replicated visits. They used 300 ground nests and three treatments, including masking human scent with a neutralizing agent, masking human scent by dog scent and keeping human scent as a control. Their results showed that no significant difference in the rate of predation occurred between the three treatments.

Wildlife Society Bulletin 29:814-820.

### *INTERACTIONS BETWEEN NESTING PILEATED WOODPECKERS AND WOOD DUCKS*

What happens when two large cavity-nesting birds want to use the same nest site? Richard Conner and his friends watched interactions between a nesting pair of Pileated Woodpeckers (with three fully feathered nestlings) and four pairs of Wood Ducks wanting to start their nesting season. To defend its nest, the male woodpecker often sat on a snag near its nest to guard the entrance from the ducks. Each time a female duck tried to enter the cavity the male woodpecker intercepted it in flight to discourage the Wood Duck's intentions. Twice, the male woodpecker actually entered the nest cavity and forcibly evicted the female Wood Duck.

Wilson Bulletin 113:250-253.

### *HOW MANY KILOJOULES DOES A BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE NEST COST?*

Reproduction takes a lot of energy in the life of a bird. For example, egg-laying takes a whopping 23% of the daily energy expenditure of female magpies. So, what about constructing a nest?

Thomas Stanley actually watched a pair of magpies build a nest and calculated that the activity cost 2.61 kJ per bird per day which translates to a relatively insignificant part of the bird's energy budget. It does mean, however, that each bird would need to increase its energy intake by 1% to cover energetic costs.

Over the 40 days it took to build the nest the adults made 2,564 trips for nesting materials, commuted 276 km, and spent 8.4 hours flying.

Journal for Field Ornithology 73:292-297.

### *NEST REUSE BY A GRAY CATBIRD*

Nest reuse within or between seasons is a rare phenomenon for birds with open cup nests. Often a new nest will be built near an old nest in previously held territories. James Marshall and colleagues followed a pair of Gray Catbirds and determined that the species successfully fledged young in the same nest that failed during the incubation stages the year earlier. It was not known if the pair of catbirds were the same birds.

Wilson Bulletin 113:337-338.

### *MALE INCUBATION AND MULTIPLE BROODING IN SAGEBRUSH BREWER'S SPARROWS*

Some aspects of the breeding behaviour of the "Sagebrush" Brewer's Sparrow, such as male incubation and frequency of multiple broods in a season, are poorly documented. Ph.D. research completed by Nancy Mahony with marked individuals in the southern Okanagan Valley showed that males may contribute up to 28% of incubation duties while in adjacent Washington state the figure approached 51%. In BC, 17% of females fledged two broods per season and two females fledged three broods.

Wilson Bulletin 113:441-444.



Thank goodness Barn Swallows can't smell. Otherwise this unusual nest site may prove a bit overbearing. Photo: Linda M. Van Damme

*NEST-SITE REUSE PATTERNS  
FOR A CAVITY-NESTING BIRD COMMUNITY  
IN INTERIOR BRITISH COLUMBIA*

Researchers K. Aitken, Karen Wiebe and Kathy Martin studied cavity-reuse for obligate cavity-nesting birds over five years in Beechers Prairie near Riske Creek in the Cariboo. They found that 8 % of used cavities were destroyed between years. Reuse rates were 17% for the cavities of weak excavators such as nuthatches and chickadees, 28% for formerly active woodpecker nests, and 48% for cavities previously used by secondary cavity nesting birds. Also, nest cavities in aspen that were deep with large entrances had the highest reuse.

Auk 119:391-402.

*ORGANOCHLORINES, PREDATORS AND  
REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS OF THE RED-NECKED  
GREBE IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA*

During a two-year reproductive success study of Red-necked Grebes biologist Ken De Smet determined that nesting losses approached 79%. The reasons included eggs lost during the hatching process (4.4%), losses due to waves (2%), intraspecific territoriality (6%), predation by raccoons (50%), and organochlorine residues contributed to the remaining losses.

Nearly 84% of failed pairs renested with 51% hatching at least one young. Ken raised concerns about reduced productivity and population declines among Red-necked Grebe populations in North America.

Condor 89:460-467.

*GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATION IN THE INSULATIVE  
QUALITIES OF NESTS OF THE NORTHERN ORIOLE*

Nest-finders are all familiar with the adaptive nature of the nesting habits in birds. In the mid-1800s, John James Audubon suggested that the Baltimore Oriole builds a more loosely woven nest in Louisiana than orioles nesting farther north. He suggested that the loose weave facilitated the dissipation of heat. Nearly a century and a half later, Val Schaefer looked at the insulative properties of nests of both Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles. His results showed that the insulative qualities of nests were significantly correlated with local temperatures and that nests in Canada are less resistant to heating by an external source of radiant energy.

Wilson Bulletin 92:466-474.

*HEARTWOOD DECAY AND VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION  
OF RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER NEST CAVITIES*

Hardwood decay, especially in trembling aspens, is a prerequisite for nest excavation for the Red-naped Sapsucker. The decay actually infects the aspen via the roots or broken branch stubs mostly at the base of the tree. This means that the sapsucker excavates its first nest

close to the ground and then makes progressively higher excavations in subsequent years.

Wilson Bulletin 105:674-679.



The Mountain Bluebird placed seventh this year, with 288 nest records. WBT Image: R. Wayne Campbell

*EVALUATION OF MIRRORS TO DETER NESTING  
STARLINGS*

It is well known that European Starlings nesting in buildings and houses can cause health, nuisance, and safety problems. Each year people try to develop ways to deter the pests, often with little success. Thomas Seamans and his colleagues decided to try installing flashing lights combined with mirrors and mirrors alone in active nest boxes. They determined that boxes with mirrors and lights had fewer nestlings than mirrored boxes but on average there were no differences noted in number of fledglings produced per nest. So, it appears that mirrors are not a practical way to repel starlings from nesting in structures.

Wildlife Society Bulletin 29:1061-1066.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1. Plumage Development of Young Waterfowl

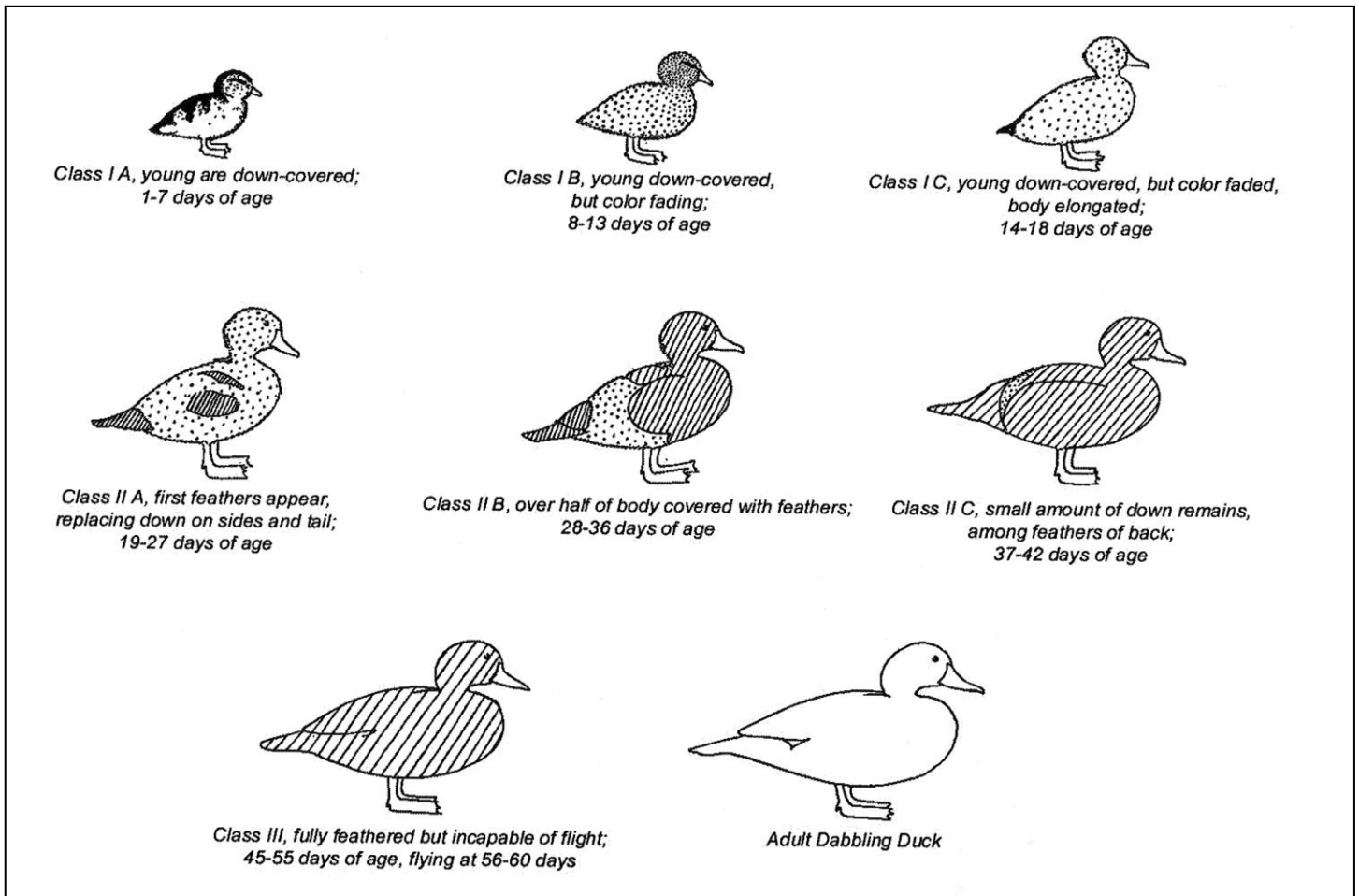
In the spring of 1997, the first B.C. Nest Record Scheme manual was issued by the WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia, along with participating partners, as WBT Wildlife Report No. 1. An important omission in that manual was the inclusion of plumage changes of waterfowl developed by J.B. Gollop and W.H. Marshall in their 1954 publication *A Guide for Aging Duck Broods in the Field*. This information, when recorded on nest cards, is very useful in determining breeding chronology and mortality figures as the young pass from the downy stage to the flight stage. Brood ages are recorded at three stages of growth as follows:

**CLASS I** – (Levels A, B and C) – downy stage that covers the period from hatching to the time body feathers begin to appear among the down. It usually lasts about three weeks.

**CLASS II** – (Levels A, B and C) – this stage, from about the fourth week through the sixth week, covers the period when the body feathers gradually replace the down plumage.

**CLASS III** – (Single Level) – this stage of development, which lasts for about 10 days, includes the period when the young appear fully-feathered just before their first flight.

Information for each brood can simply be recorded on each nest card as I-A, I-C, II-B, III, etc. The drawings, which have been modified from F.C. Bellrose's *Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*, should be used as the reference.



## Appendix 2. Guide to Timing of Visits to Nests of Passerine (Song) Birds.

Contents of nest when found or last visited	Next visit should be	Notes needed at next visit
Nest under construction	2 – 4 days later, to determine laying schedule	No. of eggs, warm or cold; parent at nest or not
1 – 3 eggs	3 – 5 days later, to confirm completion of clutch	No. of eggs, warm or cold; parent at nest or not
4 – 7 eggs	3 – 5 days later, to check clutch size	No. of eggs, warm or cold; parent at nest or not
Eggs and newly hatched young	6 – 8 days later, to check survival of young	Number, size, and degree of feathering on young
Young, naked or downy	5 – 7 days later, to check survival of young	Number, size, and degree of feathering on young
Young, pin-feathered	3 – 5 days later, to check survival of young	Number, size, and degree of feathering on young
Young, mostly feathered	2 – 4 days later, to check on fledging	Number and flying ability of young
Young which fly when approached	7 – 10 days later, to check on reuse of nest	
<b>Evidence of Failure</b> (if nest contained eggs or live young at an earlier visit)		
<b>Evidence of failure</b>	<b>Notes needed</b>	
Broken eggs	Evidence of predator (tracks, droppings, condition of nest)	
Dead young, in or near nest	Evidence for desertion (young unharmed), or predation (young injured, predator sign)	
<b>NOTE:</b> Most passerines have a clutch of 4 – 7 eggs, laid at daily intervals; incubation periods of up to 12 – 15 days; nestling periods of 11 – 19 days (open nesters near lower figures, cavity nesters near upper figures)		

## Appendix 3. WBT Wildlife Data Centre - A Central Repository for Historical and Current Information on Wildlife in British Columbia.

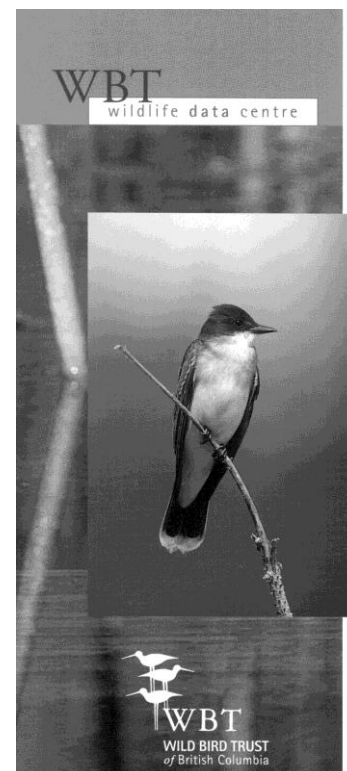
British Columbia now has North America's first **Wildlife Data Centre** that is a comprehensive and centralized repository dedicated to preserving, protecting, and disseminating information on wildlife in the province. **WBT** has acquired major historical collections of field notes, diaries, libraries, artwork, and photographs from experienced naturalists and professional biologists active throughout the province. Some of this information dates back to the 1870s.

Data is meticulously sorted and categorized. Information is added to appropriate databases, for example the British Columbia Nest Record Scheme, British Columbia Birds Databases, British Columbia Herpetology Databases, British Columbia Wildlife Library.

The extensive databases and reference material in the Wildlife Data Centre is presently being used to produce popular field guides, regional bird books and checklists, books on wildlife in jeopardy, and new seasonal distribution maps for species summarized by individual life histories to emphasize critical habitats.

The Wildlife Data Centre will grow to become the primary source for historical and current information on all aspects of the life history of more than 650 species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles in the province.

This image is a copy of the cover for the new WBT Wildlife Data Centre brochure. To learn more, please contact us at the address or phone number found at the end of this report.



## Appendix 4. Our Growing Databases and Conservation Values

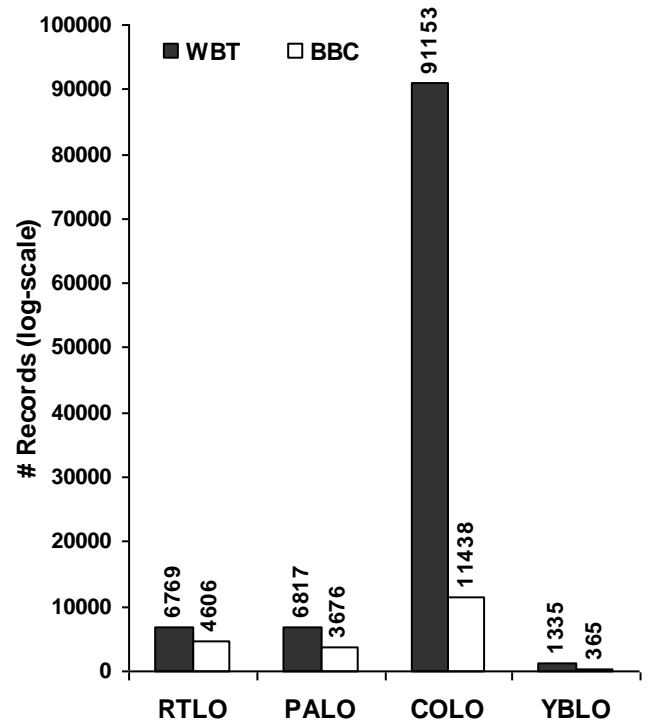
Over the past year a concentrated effort was put into searching, compiling and electronically entering occurrence and breeding information on **loons** in British Columbia. We were astounded by how much information was hidden in unpublished waterbird surveys, field notebooks, government and consultant reports, and long-term programs such as Christmas Bird Counts.

The purpose of the effort was to bring together new information and assess whether it justified updating species accounts for loons in the first volume of *The Birds of British Columbia*. The results were overwhelming.

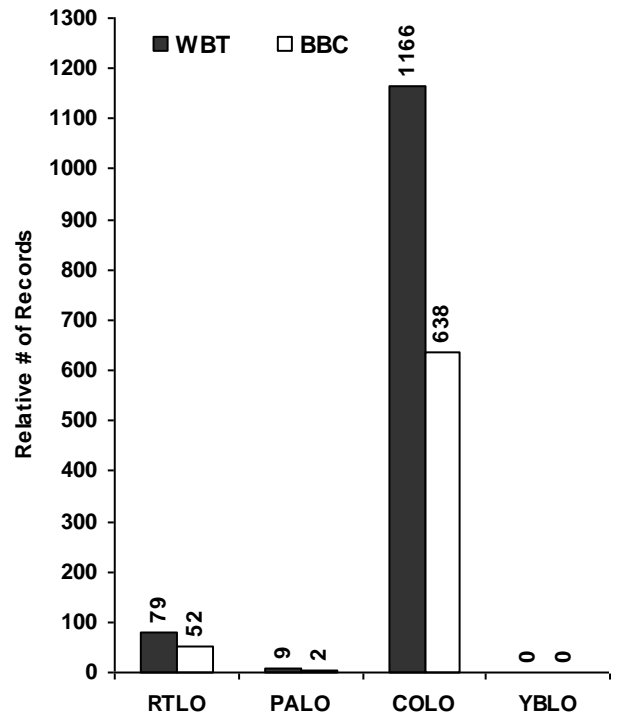
At present, the loon database includes **104,241 occurrence** and **1,213 breeding records** for the four species. As a result, we will now go ahead with summarizing the information into a current account for each species. Conservation concerns, research needs, and monitoring activities in British Columbia will be included. The prototype, **Common Loon**, is expected to be available on the WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia web site in late summer 2003.

One of the issues that we will be able to examine is the human impact on loons over the past 110 years. Threats come from recreational activities such as canoeing, swimming, fishing, and waterskiing, but also from shooting, loss of habitat from lakeshore developments, oil spills in both marine and fresh water environments, acid rain, entanglement in fish lines, and general harassment and disturbance.

While research shows that in some cases loons are successful in raising young on lakes with high activity as well as “quiet” lakes, we will be able to expand on each of the concerns above to look at each situation throughout the province. Monthly relative distribution and abundance maps will help pinpoint areas of aggregation that represent potentially vulnerable areas at a particular period in the life of any aquatic bird. As well, we will be able to highlight summer breeding populations throughout the province.



Comparison of the number of occurrence records for loons obtained by WBT since Birds of British Columbia (1990)



Comparison of the number of breeding records obtained by WBT since Birds of British Columbia (1990).



## Appendix 5. Quality Control and the British Columbia Nest Record Scheme

Over the past few years a huge effort has been put into examining individual nest cards for accuracy of information so that electronic entry of data can be started within a year or so. Data entry will be efficient, information more standardized, and the results of data analysis and scientific research more credible and accurate.

Over our 48-year history we have amassed about 200,000 nest cards. In 1955, our first year, we received 563 cards and by 2002 we tallied 10,377 cards for an increase of 1,838%. During the first 18 years, while the BCNRS was operating out of the University of British Columbia, we averaged 1,544 cards per year. Over the next 24 years, while the scheme was on loan at the Provincial Museum to write the Birds of British Columbia we average 2,455 cards per year – an increase in effort of about 160%. At that time the Scheme was coordinated from Penticton and Naramata so it operated at an arms length from government. During that period growth was steady, but due to commitments to complete the bird books, the Scheme was somewhat ignored and quality of information was not screened by ornithologists in Victoria.

Over the past 6 years, when WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia operated the Scheme, the average number of cards received each year increased to 8,533 – an increase of 348% over the previous 24 years. In fact, in the past six years, WBT has amassed more nest cards than in the entire previous 42 years. The reason is simple – the BCNRS is a high priority project and now receives full attention in promoting its significance to wildlife conservation and research through workshops, lectures, and publications.

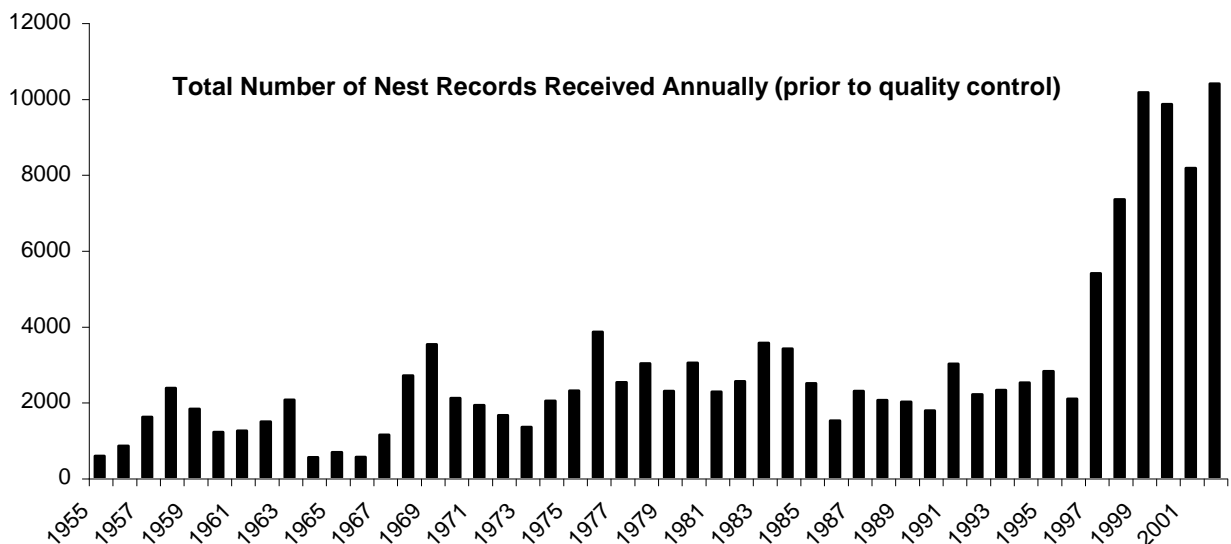
Each card in the BCNRS has now been checked for accuracy and completeness of information. Between 5 and 10% of cards from 1955 through 1972 contained information that did not represent a breeding record. Questionable and incomplete information and/or

inaccurate data accounted for up to 20% of cards for the period 1973 through 1996. Due to better communication and promotion of the BCNRS, less than 1% of cards were discarded for the period 1997 through 2002. Some of the information on these cards, however, could be salvaged and used as occurrence records.

Some examples of information that was included on cards and was not salvageable included:

- “Grebe sp.”, “Duck sp.”, “Teal sp.”, “Goldeneye sp.”, and “Warbler sp.”
- “Hairy Woodpecker – nested in 1985” (no other details except location)
- “Ptarmigan species – several families observed in summer 1956 in north-western B.C.”
- Deciphering age classes (e.g., young, juvenile, immature, and subadult) by volunteers extracting records from literature (e.g., 5 young California Gulls at Meyers Passage on May 16, 1967 from BC Bibliography 2969 and 1 young Mew Gull at the mouth of Scotch Creek on August 24, 1943 from BC Bibliography 2792).
- Information on old museum records that simply refer to a species, with no other comments other than “British Columbia”.
- Migrants where adults and juveniles/young were observed together (e.g., Lesser Yellowlegs, August 14 – 1 adult and 1 young feeding together in Aldergrove).
- Hundreds of “many suspected” nesting records (e.g., Virginia Rail, April 27, Vernon – adult sighted, known to nest here).

Although we have had thousands of cards submitted in the past that did not contain information relevant to the BCNRS, we now feel confident that our collections are accurate and ready for analysis.



## REQUESTING AND SUBMITTING CARDS

Our new and comprehensive instruction manual has now evolved into a large book that includes guidelines on the kind of information that should be included for wildlife sightings, nest cards, and monitoring programs. For example, we will search literature and contact biologists and naturalists to help develop standard field



WBT Raptor Workshop participants in North Vancouver enjoy an outing to the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats: WBT Image: Michael I. Preston

techniques for monitoring Osprey nests throughout the province.

We hope to have the publication available late in 2003. Meanwhile, nest cards for the 2003 season can be obtained from:

**B. C. NEST RECORD SCHEME**  
P.O. Box 6218, Station C  
Victoria, B.C. V8P 5L5

or

**WBT Wildlife Data Centre**  
1181 Royal Oak Drive  
Victoria, B.C. V8X 2T5  
Tel/Fax (250) 658-0999

or

**email: [wbtdatacentre@shawcable.com](mailto:wbtdatacentre@shawcable.com)**

We prefer to have nest cards completed and submitted by October 1 so the task of compiling and publishing the report can be completed by the end of the year and distributing the annual report can begin in February the following year. This year, compiling the cards into species and participant order took 2 ½ months! We appreciated the efforts of **Hilary Gordon** in sending cards to us in batches as they were completed. Some arrived in early June!

Most people had cards in species order and some even put families of birds in separate envelopes. We also appreciated the extra cost to send cards by **Express Post** so they would arrive on time.

For species acting as hosts for **Brown-headed Cowbird** eggs or young please fill out a separate card for the **BHCO** and cross-reference it to its host. For young or recently fledged BHCO young be sure to indicate if the young was in the nest on the front of the new nest card.

Also, **PLEASE** use a dark ballpoint pen or dark ink (not pencil) and write clearly.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The task of sorting, compiling, and summarizing the cards as they arrived was handled by **Andrea Norris, Joanna Preston, Doneen Cox, Sandra Grimwood, Amber Robinson, Joanne McDonald, Wayne Campbell, and Michael Preston.**

Regionally, **Hilary Gordon** and **Ken Wright** transferred nesting information to cards from local naturalists in the Shuswap and Lillooet areas, and **Linda Van Damme** gathered cards for the Creston Valley and West Kootenay.

The cover illustration of Common Loon was graciously provided by wildlife artist **Mark Nyhof** of Victoria. The Vaux's Swift drawing was donated by 15-year old **Amy Thommasen** of Bella Coola. Individual photographs have been credited.

We also thank our supporters, Banrock Wetlands Foundation Canada, BC Hydro, Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, and Weyerhaeuser.

We are grateful to everyone supporting the British Columbia Nest Record Scheme and the **WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia's** vision to retain information in British Columbia in a central and permanent repository.



The large collection of nest cards received in 2002 took nearly six weeks to sort!: WBT Image: Michael I. Preston

## Special Publications

1. **The Birder's Complete Life Checklist of British Columbia Birds.** R. Wayne Campbell. Leaflet. April 1998. \$2.50.
2. **Four Trip Field List for British Columbia Birds (including Mainland and Offshore Waters).** R. Wayne Campbell. 22 pages. October 1998. Out of Print.
3. **British Columbia Birds: A Complete Checklist.** R. Wayne Campbell, Linda M. Van Damme, Neil K. Dawe, and Stephen R. Johnson. Available Winter 2003. \$10.00.
4. **WBT Pocket Checklist: Birds of the Westcoast of Vancouver Island.** Adrian Dorst. March 2002. \$3.00.
5. **Pocket Checklist of the Amphibians and Reptiles of British Columbia.** R. Wayne Campbell, Brent M. Matsuda, David M. Green, and Patrick T. Gregory. Available Winter 2003. \$3.00.
6. **WBT Pocket Checklist: The Birds of Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia.** Charles Helm. April 2002.
7. **Creston Valley Checklist of Birds.** Linda M. Van Damme. May 2002.
8. **WBT Pocket Checklist: The Birds of Lillooet, British Columbia.** Ken Wright. September 2002.

## Wildlife Reports

1. **British Columbia Nest Record Scheme Instruction Manual.** R. Wayne Campbell. 46 pages. April 1997. [No charge to participants in *Birds in the New Millennium* projects] \$5.00
2. **British Columbia Birds: A Species List – 1997 (Common and Scientific Names, Sequence, and 4-Letter Codes).** R. Wayne Campbell. 22 pages. January 1998. [No charge to participants in *Birds in the New Millennium* projects] \$5.00
3. **British Columbia Nest Records Scheme: 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report – 1997 Nesting Season.** R. Wayne Campbell, Maureen L. Funk and Lyndis Davis. 22 pages. March 1998. [No charge to participants in *Birds in the New Millennium* projects] \$5.00
4. **Spring and Summer Birds of Dawson Creek, 1991-1995.** Mark Phinney. 60 pages. December 1998. \$7.00
5. **British Columbia Nest Records Scheme: 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Report – 1998 Nesting Season.** R. Wayne Campbell, Maureen L. Funk, Lyndis Davis and Jeremy V. Kimm. 24 pages. February 1999. [No charge to participants in *Birds in the New Millennium* projects] \$5.00

6. **British Columbia Nest Record Scheme: 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Report – 1999 Nesting Season.** R. Wayne Campbell, Andrea R. Norris, Maureen L. Funk and Jeremy V. Kimm. 26 pages. February 2000. [No charge to participants in *Birds in the New Millennium* projects] \$5.00

7. **British Columbia Nest Record Scheme: 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Report – 2000 Nesting Season.** R. Wayne Campbell and Michael I. Preston. 26 pages. January 2001. [No charge to participants in *Birds in the New Millennium* projects] \$5.00

8. **British Columbia Nest Record Scheme 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Report – 2001 Nesting Season.** R. Wayne Campbell, Michael I. Preston, and Linda M. Van Damme. 26 pages. February 2002. [No charge to participants in *Birds in the New Millennium* projects]. \$5.00

Copies of WBT Special Publications, WBT Wildlife Reports, and information pertaining to WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia or the Wildlife Data Centre may be obtained from:

**WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia**  
124 – 1489 Marine Drive  
West Vancouver, BC  
V7T 1B8

604-922-1550

[www.wildbirdtrust.org](http://www.wildbirdtrust.org)

or

**WBT Wildlife Data Centre**  
1181 Royal Oak Drive  
Victoria, BC  
V8X 3T7

250-658-0999

[wbtdatacentre@shawcable.com](mailto:wbtdatacentre@shawcable.com)

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Campbell, R.W., M.I. Preston, and L.M. Van Damme. 2003. *British Columbia Nest Record Scheme: 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Report – 2002 Nesting Season*. WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia Wildlife Report No 9., West Vancouver. 30 pages.

## WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia

### OUR MISSION

To initiate, develop, maintain, and support visionary and proactive programs for the protection, caring, and conservation of birds, and other wildlife, throughout British Columbia.

### WHO WE ARE

**WBT Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia** was founded in 1993 to aid in land acquisition for wildlife and promote scientific and educational activities for conservation. It fills an unoccupied wildlife resource niche in the province that complements the work of citizens, environmental groups, industry, and government agencies.

We are incorporated as a non-profit society under the **Provincial Societies' Act** (#S-31197) and as a charitable organization under the **Federal Income Tax Act** (#1004126-54).

### LAND FOR WILDLIFE

Wildlife is an integral part of our natural world and WBT is committed to acquiring parcels of land as nature sanctuaries. We believe that "*small can be beautiful*". Presently we have concentrated our conservation priorities in areas of high urban development in southwestern British Columbia.

Our flagship sanctuary, **The Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats**, abuts the shores of Burrard Inlet in Greater Vancouver. This 75-acre former industrial site has been restored and enhanced to include the installment of a freshwater marsh and pond system. Purple Martins have returned to nest after an absence of 50 years, and for the first time Ospreys are successfully raising young on offshore pilings. An additional five sanctuaries have been acquired since 1993. These include:

<b>McFadden Creek Nature Sanctuary</b>	<i>Salt Spring Island</i>
<b>Forslund / Watson Nature Reserve</b>	<i>Langley</i>
<b>The Corrigan Nature Sanctuary</b>	<i>Surrey</i>
<b>Broadmead Nature Sanctuary</b>	<i>Victoria</i>
<b>Trincomali Nature Sanctuary</b>	<i>Galiano Island</i>

### EDUCATION AND THE FUTURE

Early childhood experiences are the driving force in molding what a person will do, and perhaps be, in later years. In fact, in a survey of over 5,000 people working in environmental conservation, over 70% said it was a major childhood experience like banding birds, catching frogs, and looking for nests, that convinced them to commit their lives to the protection of nature. Our education mandate is simple: ***Whenever possible show, then discuss***

### GIVING WILDLIFE A CHANCE

The *WBT Wildlife Data Centre* adjoins a private, 11-acre nature sanctuary nestled in the Broadmead area of Victoria. The Centre offers ample space for a data entry office, data centre manager's office, collections room, reception area, meeting space, library storage, display case, recognition and awards wall, full kitchen and bathroom facilities, and a wildlife viewing deck.

Essentially a "***One-stop Shopping Centre***", we function with the security and curatorship of a museum, and the accessibility and long-term repository of a library.

Our electronic databases are extensive and growing daily! With comprehensive ecological information on birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, the Centre is a very busy place. In fact, here's a brief summary:

**Over 4-million wildlife records stored in digital format**  
**2,000+ new records are added every day from 625 participants in BC**  
**2,800+ requests a year for information from our databases are processed**  
**Established the largest and most comprehensive wildlife library in BC**

### AN INVITATION TO YOUR DATA CENTRE

With the purchase of the WBT Wildlife Data Centre in July 2002, we are now pleased to announce that visitors are welcome to tour the facilities. To arrange a visitation time, simply call us at 250-658-0999 or e-mail: [wbtdatacentre@shawcable.com](mailto:wbtdatacentre@shawcable.com). We are open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm.