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# William Glen Smith (1923–1993)
## Wildlife Biologist and Bird Artist

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### INTRODUCTION

Not many decades ago youngsters first connected with nature through hunting and fishing, and for some the experiences cemented a life-long interest in wildlife. It was their first introduction to the outdoors and often became the most important activity in their adolescent years, far more enticing than schooling and socializing. The freedom to explore and discover was attractive and the new experiences would last forever and often lead to a career in wildlife biology (Figure 1). William Glen Smith took that route which became an important part of shaping the early foundation on which wildlife and non-game management developed in British Columbia. He was an unheralded proponent in political battles for provincial government policies on the management and protection of habitats for wildlife. Glen was also an accomplished bird artist whose artwork brought enjoyment to hundreds of people (Figure 2).

**Figure 1.** Like many hunters and wildlife biologists who enjoyed time in the field, dogs were constant and unconditional companions. In this photo Glen Smith is hunting with his Brittany spaniel "Chukar".

Glen had just started high school (Grade 10) when World War II began. The Great Depression

**Figure 2.** Glen enjoyed painting bird portraits and described it as a "hobby that got out of hand" so much so that he was often seen sketching at meetings. *Gray Jay drawing by Glen Smith.*

loomed large in his father's life, so Glen enlisted and spent six years in the army including 2½ years overseas in close combat fighting. When he returned home as a 22-year old, he had to think about a career. Glen completed high school matriculation, attended the University of British Columbia, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) degree (Figure 3). Summer student jobs in the field convinced him that he wanted to be a wildlife biologist. He knew that it would require education, experience, mentoring, and a unique skill set. He also learned that wildlife management was challenging and that it was always a balancing act between those of environmental concerns and of human needs.

**Figure 3.** Glen's pioneering study of the food habits of three species of rock-frequenting shorebirds for his Honours BSc thesis, which included the Black Turnstone (photo). That study stimulated a career in wildlife biology. His research still stands as an important contribution to the knowledge of their diet during the non-breeding season. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

Following graduation, Glen served as a provincial regional wildlife biologist in Cranbrook for nine years and subsequently in 1963 moved to Victoria to become Chief of Wildlife, a position that he held for 10 years. He retired in 1973 to go into wildlife consulting and to devote more time to painting.

Most people today, including many Provincial wildlife biologists, are unaware of the groundwork that Glen Smith laid for us, but we, unknowingly are the benefactors as we strive for an improved voice for wildlife today. For example we enjoy the annual wildlife spectacles in the Creston Valley because Glen was instrumental in establishing the province's first wildlife management area there. That much of the low elevation Crown Land in the East Kootenay has been protected for wildlife. What follows are my personal recollections of Glen Smith, my mentor and friend, and other memories and facts that I have gleaned from his reports, notes, newspaper interviews, and recollections of his friends.

Eight notebooks and several of Glen's noteworthy field notes from 1955 to 1984 have been donated to the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies library as part of their program to preserve historical information on the natural history of British Columbia.

## THE EARLY YEARS (1923–1945)

### Family on the Move

Glen was born on 23 June 1923, in the small hamlet of Baldur, Manitoba located about 180 km southwest of Winnipeg and just north of the Manitoba/North Dakota border. In the early years his parents, William Smith and Emma Cornack Smith, moved around the province and in 1924 their second child, Keith, was born in Dauphin, 200 km north of Baldur. Five years later, in 1929, which was the start of the Great Depression, the family moved to Vancouver, BC. Glen's father had a hard time finding a permanent job and consequently the family moved at least three more times until his father found stable employment at the Essondale clinic and farm (later called Riverview Hospital). Eventually, there were five children: Glen, Keith, Gary, Lois, and Harrison.

Glen and his brother Keith were actively involved from an early age with a local environmental group, the *League of Conservationists,* one of the first of its kind in British Columbia. Both brothers had always been keenly interested in nature, and as boys, much preferred strolling in the woods adjacent to their home observing wild creatures than in studying in a school room.[1]

Canada officially entered World War II in autumn 1939 when Glen was 16 years old. He enlisted and went through training in New Westminster and England before entering combat in 1943. The latter experiences were traumatic and he returned home a war veteran

at 22 years old. Now he had to focus on a career that required completing his high school education and perhaps a university degree.

## The WAR YEARS (1939–1946)

### The Official Record

Glen enlisted in the *Westminsters' (Motor) Regiment* and for the first two years the regiment underwent basic training and general maneuvers in several locations across Canada before being shipped to England in November 1941. Here they spent another two years in several posts that provided home security for England against any potential invasion by Germany. The general movement of the Westminster's, and other troops, is well chronicled (Figure 4).[2,3]

**Figure 4.** The New Westminster troops moving position in central Italy, 1945. *Photo courtesy the New Westminster Regimental Museum, New Westminster BC.*

The Regiment never got into combat until November 1943, after the successful landings in mainland Italy by other allied troops. Then they became part of the broad allied front, forcing the Germans to retreat northward on the Italian Peninsula. The going was hard, the terrain was rugged, it rained all winter and the enemy was close. In February 1945 the regiment was moved to Holland. Westminster Regiment ceased fighting on April 30, 1945. They spent the next seven months in war-torn Holland (see Figure 5) awaiting transport home. But first they were shipped to England before an ocean-going vessel was available – the Queen Elizabeth. They travelled to New York, then to Toronto, before travelling across Canada to their home base. They weren't mustered back home until January 19, 1946; it was only after they were back in New Westminster, BC that they were released from duty.

### Some of Glen's Recollections of the War

It is not possible to know now what Glen actually went through and how he felt during his time in training and when in battle. Nor can we appreciate post-war effects on his personal life. But even at the age of 17 he was promoted from private to corporal, so he must have shown leadership abilities even then. The following are a few stories that Glen related to his friends about his experiences during the war.

Glen related one incident that happened when they were securing the fields and farmlands. He was sent into a farm house to make sure it was clear, but when he got to the second story he lay down for a rest and fell fast asleep. The roof of the house was hit by a German shell, so a couple of his company were sent up to check on him. They found him lying on the floor covered in debris and figured he was dead. They had to keep moving so had planned to come back later to retrieve his body. After the mission was completed, Glen's comrades returned but when they got to him he was shaking the debris off his clothing - he had slept through the whole thing!

Not everyone was so fortunate, Glen told Don Robinson of one time when his company came across a wounded Canadian soldier, - they looked around and found a door to use as a stretcher and carried the soldier back to the aid station, however, by the time they got there the poor fellow had died.[4]

On another occasion, when the troop was billeted in a small Italian village, Glen met a young, pretty Italian girl and tried to win her heart and the support of her family by bringing them gifts of shoes and food. In the old tradition of Italian families the young couple were constantly chaperoned by an elderly aunt who kept a watchful eye on them. Nothing came of the romance and soon Glen was moved back to the front lines, never to see his Italian *innamorata*

again.[5] It was in this village that Glen produced two watercolour paintings of the village street scene that he kept for the rest of his life.

When Glen was finally repatriated back home at the war's end, his mother, Emma, told her daughter-in-law, Arlene, that Glen would wake up in the middle of the night screaming (Figure 5). He had entered the war effort as a 16 year-old and had emerged a mature war veteran of 22. Glen long suffered the effects of his war experiences.[6] This was long before Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was diagnosed or even recognized – it was just called 'Battle Fatigue' back then, and no special treatment was offered to those affected.

**Figure 5.** Even though the main German Army had left Arnhem, Holland by the time the Westminsters' Regiment arrived, there were still pockets of resistance, trying to slow the allied forces down. The horrible memories of war stayed with Glen the rest of his life. *Photo courtesy the New Westminster Regimental Museum, New Westminster BC.*

## A CAREER IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

### Back to School

Although Glen was only 22 when he was released from duty, having spent the last six years in the army, two of them under extremely heavy fighting, he had not yet finished Grade 10. When he returned home the only job he was qualified for was working as a labourer in a sawmill on the 'green chain', which involved moving the newly sawn lumber off the conveyor belt and stacking it. He soon realized that there must be more that he could do with his life so he left the job and went back to school. He completed his grade eleven and twelve equivalencies and immediately enrolled in the zoology program of the Arts Faculty at the University of British Columbia.[6]

Like many aspiring students interested in wildlife, he was fortunate to get summer work in his field of interest and over the four years of university he picked up valuable experience and met wildlife biologists. From 1950 to 1952, Glen worked on waterfowl surveys, including: banding moulting, flightless geese and ducks as well as participating in brood counts for the BC Game Commission (Figures 6 and 7). In 1953, he worked on similar waterfowl projects in Alberta for the Canadian Wildlife Service and in 1954 he worked on fisheries studies for the BC Game Commission.

During his undergraduate studies, Glen met Professor Ian McTaggart-Cowan who would become Head of the Department of Zoology in 1953.[7] He accepted Glen as a candidate for an Honours BSc thesis and suggested he study the food habits of rock-frequenting shorebirds. The research, the first for the three species involved, was completed in 1952. It remains as one of the few studies carried out on Black Turnstone (*Arenaria melanocephala*), Rock Sandpiper (*Calidris ptilocnemis*), and Surfbird (*Aphriza virgata*) during the species' non-breeding season.

Bachelor's theses are rarely ever cited in the primary literature but Glen's significant and detailed research has been listed in four peer-reviewed publications. [8,9,10,11] An abridged version of his thesis appears in this issue of *Wildlife Afield* (see pages 42-59).[40]

After Glen graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1952 he started working on a master's degree

**Figure 6.** Glen Smith and other university students picked up field experience banding waterfowl during the summer. Here a crew of University of British Columbia zoology students are enroute to band waterfowl in lakes and marshes in the interior of the Province. All three students, Joe Bryant (top), Frank McLeod (left) and George Mitchell later had careers as wildlife biologists. *Photo by Lawson Sugden 1950.*

**Figure 7.** Brood counts to determine and monitor productivity, especially for Barrow's Goldeneye for which British Columbia has a significant portion of the North American breeding population, such survey projects provided students with valuable work experience each summer. *Photo by Alan D. Wilson*.

and completed two years of course work. He became frustrated with his assigned research project that involved laboratory time instead of one that required field work. Glen left university and was fortunate to land a job with the BC Game Commission as a regional game biologist for the Kootenay-Boundary District of southeastern British Columbia.

**Regional Game Biologist – East and West Kootenay (1954–1964)**

In the 1950s wildlife management was thought to be only concerned with setting bag limits and seasons and catching poachers. Game wardens considered it their responsibility to manage wildlife. The BC Game Commission and its staff had no control over the management of habitat - that was the purview of other resource managers; and land use in the East and West Kootenay, especially the East Kootenay, was undergoing a dramatic change due to increased urbanization, land alienation, open-pit mining and river impoundment.

Like other university-trained biologists that were hired at that time to manage the province's fish and wildlife, they were also ex-officio BC Police with all of the legal powers of a police constable. Thus employed by the provincial government, they entered into the realm of the game wardens, which up until that time were the sole face of the Game Department in the province's regional districts. Even before the inception of the Game Commission in 1918, game wardens had been in full control of both fish and game management, including the establishment of hunting and fishing regulations, the setting of fishing and hunting seasons and bag limits, and hunting seasons and catching poachers (Figure 8). As well, they conducted predator and nuisance animal control; in fact they were the sole face of the wildlife resource in their districts. But when the biologists came on staff, they took over the setting of regulations, seasons and bag limits, which did not always meet with the approval of the game wardens.

To this time game wardens had received the respect and support from Vancouver headquarters, their recommendations were seriously listened to, and they were respected in their communities by hunters, fishermen, and the general public. They were

**Figure 8.** Illegal hunting of big game out of season, such as this poached American Black Bear, is a year-round source of frustration for Provincial wildlife biologists and managers. *Photo by Dennis A. Demarchi.*

both policemen (many had been officers with the BC Police prior to the war) and were considered experts on most outdoor matters.[12] However, Glen was able to work with those men; and like other game biologists at that time, his war experience gave him respect, but he had to be diplomatic as well.

At that time in our history access to many interior towns was limited by distance, poor roads and low travel budgets. For example, the drive to the East Kootenay from Vancouver using the TransCanada Highway around the Big Bend of the Columbia River took three days. It was much quicker and easier to travel back and forth between the East and West Kootenay and the coast via Idaho and Washington states especially after the interstate freeways were constructed in the mid- to late 1950s. Train travel was available, across the southern and middle parts of the province, but air travel was limited. Even travel within the East and West Kootenay was slow. Early BC Game Commission and Fish and Game Branch vehicles were two-wheel-drive sedans, which were often unreliable in winter conditions. In most small communities there was limited hotel accommodation available, so the biologists would usually stay at the homes of the game wardens, which would have been impossible if they were not on friendly terms with each other.[4,5]

Glen arrived in the East Kootenay at a pivotal time in its ecological history. As a result of early logging practices, extensive wild fires in 1929 and 1930 burned most of the forests of the Rocky Mountain Trench south of Canal Flats, but by 1954 the area became prime, open winter habitat for big game, especially Rocky Mountain Elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*; Figure 9) and Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). But this open habitat was also used by ranchers and farmers to graze their cattle, often to excess. At the same time plans were underway for the construction of several dams on the Columbia River system. Several dams were being constructed in the West Kootenay that would flood the Duncan River, Arrow Lakes, and the Big Bend of the Columbia River, and a hydro-electric dam in Libby Montana that would flood the Kootenay River in the East Kootenay as far north as Bull River, BC. This caused much disruption to the lives of the local citizens, including many whose homes and livelihoods were slated to be destroyed. To make matters worse, government delayed in settling with the displaced people. In order to complete those projects all the Crown Lands adjacent to the reservoirs were frozen against further alienation until after 1970 when the reservoirs began to flood.

**Figure 9.** Managing conflicts among big game, such as Rocky Mountain Elk and cattle and ranchers, hunters, and politicians was a constant challenge for the wildlife biologist. *Photo by Dennis A. Demarchi.*

When Glen started work in the Kootenays, there was no recognition of the intrinsic value of wildlife by other provincial resource managers and even local Rod and Gun clubs were only interested in bag limits, hunting seasons, the hunting of male animals, and elimination of large predators. When Glen tried to

implement a cow Moose (*Alces alces*; Figure 10) season, the local rod and gun clubs were so opposed to the idea that they printed and posted signs that pleaded "PLEASE DO NOT SHOOT COW MOOSE!"; Figure 11). The non-government environmentalists only consisted of the rod and gun clubs and some naturalist clubs; there was very little common interest in land-use practices and conservation issues.

With the signing of the Columbia River treaty between Canada and the United States in 1964 and the commencement of dam construction on the Kootenay, Duncan, and Columbia rivers, it was unrealistic to rally support against the destruction of wildlife habitat. Glen, however, was able to solicit support from several key members of the East and West Kootenay rod and gun clubs, who became his main support while he served in the Kootenays and later as Chief of Wildlife Management in Victoria.

**Figure 10.** Part of the strategy of wildlife biologists to manage big game in certain parts of British Columbia was to open hunting of adult females. This action was a critical tool to help maintain healthy herds and supported the principle of sustainable yield. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell*.

In the 1950's British Columbia was in the early stages in its development history. The government of the day was intent on pulling the province out of the economic doldrums following the Great Depression and World War II and one way to increase revenue in provincial coffers was to increase the tax rolls by alienating Crown land, mainly for settlement and agricultural purposes. No consideration was given to other resource values, especially not to wildlife. In

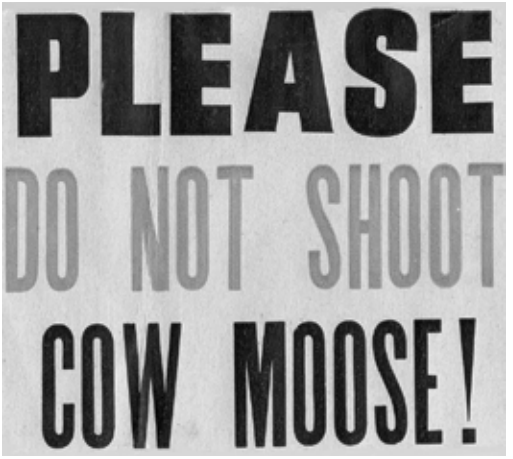



**Figure 11.** This sign pleading hunters not to shoot cow Moose was posted in the southern portion of the East Kootenay Trench. It was prepared and posted by the local rod and gun clubs as a protest against Glen's liberalized hunting seasons.

fact, the province's fish and wildlife were considered to be an impediment to development.[13]

Responsibility for managing the forests rested with the District Forest Rangers, whereas responsibility for issuing grazing permits on Crown land rested with the Grazing Branch staff within each forest district. The Lands Branch was concerned with putting Crown land into private ownership to provide taxes to the provincial government and to oversee the leasing of Crown land for livestock grazing. A booklet was even prepared on how to acquire Crown land and the Department of Agriculture promoted the expansion of agriculture, especially livestock.

Glen played a pivotal role in protecting Crown Land in the East Kootenay Trench from further alienation. His efforts resulted in the region having the least privatized land of all of the major valleys south of the TransCanada Highway in the province. The then Social Credit government of W.A.C. Bennett was hell bent on alienating as much Crown land as possible to expand settlements and agriculture in the province. One example involved several United States-based Christmas tree companies who paid individual ranchers to buy small parcels of Crown Land under the guise of harvesting Christmas trees,

and then after the requisite time had passed the ranchers then sold those parcels to the large tree companies. That way these large companies did not have to pay royalty fees on the harvested timber and Christmas trees that they would have had to pay if they harvested on Crown Land, plus they got to own the land in the end (Figure 12).[5,14]

**Figure 12.** A Mule Deer standing in an extensive Christmas tree farm north of Radium Hot Springs, BC. There was little or no wildlife habitat management opportunities in an intensive Christmas tree farm. *Photo by Dennis A. Demarchi, March 1981.*

Upon his arrival in the Kootenays in 1954, Glen immediately recognized the interdependence of winter ranges and habitat for the survival of big game, primarily wild ungulates like Rocky Mountain Elk, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*). This was a radical concept at that time as the key to big game production and management in North America was thought to be the product of shooting females as well as males to reduce the harvestable surplus prior to the onset of winter and eliminating predators.

Glen enlisted NDP MLA Leo Nimsick who argued in the provincial legislature against the government's land use policy in the East Kootenay using his report *The Dependence of Big Game on the Un-alienated Crown Lands of the East Kootenay*.[15] Nimsick gave an impassioned plea on the floor of the BC Legislature and ended it by saying, "And if you don't believe me, ask game biologist Glen Smith!."[5] The fact that most of the high value wildlife lands in the East Kootenay Trench remain in Crown ownership today is the result of Glen's constant battle to stopping the alienation of Crown Land on important ungulate winter ranges.

One of the areas that needed special attention was the Kootenay River floodplain and delta in the Creston Valley, a major migration corridor and breeding area for waterbirds. Following on James A. Munro's report for the Canadian Wildlife Service[16] and publications in the Provincial Museum[17,18] and with support of key rod and gun members, notably Frank Shannon and Mickey McEwan, Glen was able, in November, 1968, to have critical marshes, lakes, and rivers in the Creston Valley established as the first Wildlife Management Area in the province. The area was officially dedicated by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance as a RAMSAR site in February 1994 (Figure 13).[13] While the initial international recognition was primarily for protecting significant waterfowl habitat, Glen's foresight has made the Creston Valley one of the premier destinations to watch birds in the province. Through June 2012 there were 303 species recorded in the area of which 172 breed in the area – one, like Forster's Tern, is not known to breed anywhere else in the Province (Figure 14).[19,20]

**Figure 13.** The official dedication of the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area as a RAMSAR site took place 16 years after it had first been protected as a special wildlife management area and 25 years after Glen first proposed these extensive wetlands for special status. *Photo by Cyril Colonel, Creston, BC, 14 August 2011.*

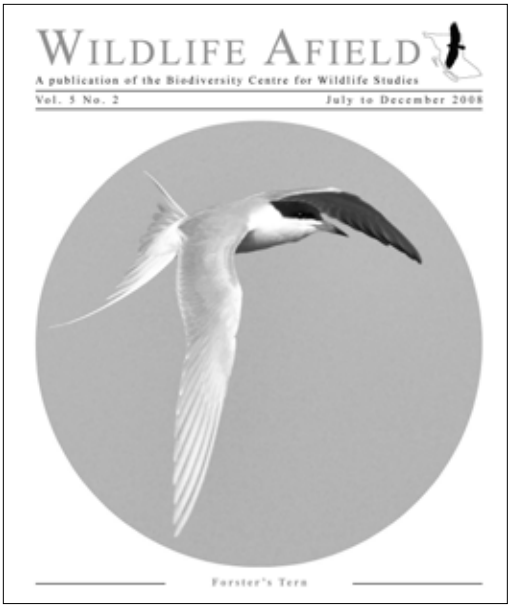



**Figure 14.** The early value of wetlands in the Creston Valley for migrating and breeding waterfowl and marsh birds was well known to biologists like Glen Smith. Today, these habitats are protected as the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area and provide sanctuary for the only breeding population of Forster's Tern in the Province.

**Figure 15.** Official portrait of W. Glen Smith, Chief of Wildlife Management, in the British Columbia Department of Recreation and Conservation, Victoria, BC. Photo *circa* 1965.

**Chief of Wildlife Management – Victoria (1964–1973)**

In the spring of 1964 Glen took a promotion first as Assistant Chief of Wildlife Management with the BC Fish and Wildlife Branch in Victoria and later as Chief (Figure 15). During the latter tenure he met Peter H. Pearse, an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at UBC. Pearse had learned of the non-profit organization *Resources for The Future* group in Washington DC, led by Dr. John Krutilla. The group conducted independent research to look at ways to measure the economic value of non-market resources, like wildlife, as a way to compete with marketable natural resources, such as forestry and hydro-electric projects.

Peter was looking for a comparable project in British Columbia and Glen suggested that a study of big game hunting in the East Kootenay was topical. Shortly afterwards Glen and Peter became working associates and life-long friends.[21] Peter recalls that he met Glen in the early 1960s as he was beginning his academic career. Peter was considering how to develop techniques for measuring the economic value of resource benefits that are not marketed, like recreation and wildlife. He needed research support and data, and Glen responded with startling enthusiasm. Peter later came to realize that Glen had despaired of the (then Social Credit) government's preoccupation with development – building highways, hydroelectric dams, and alienating 'vacant' Crown lands – without regard to the damage being done to wildlife and natural ecosystems. Things that didn't have a market value seemed to be regarded as valueless. Peter and Glen's interests converged, but equally significant, they seemed to stimulate each other in ways that led to debate, ideas, and fun.[21]

Their first report was ground-breaking. It included an in-depth revelation on the value that hunters placed on the opportunity to hunt big game in the East Kootenay (Figure 16).[22] This was followed by other studies on big game hunting, recreational fishing, and the big game guiding industry.

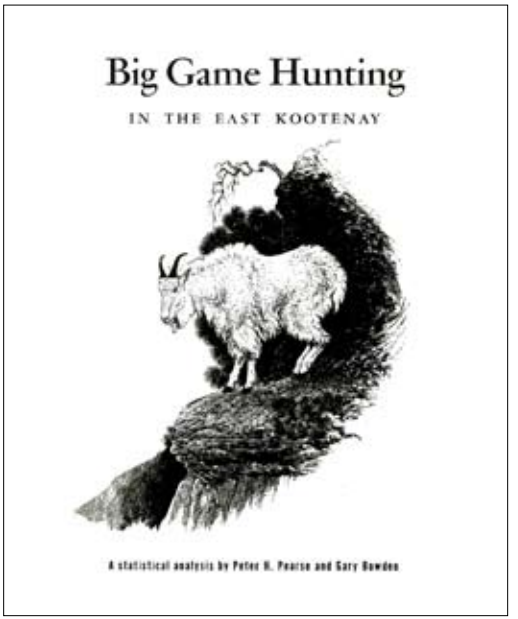



**Figure 16.** This report is the first to look at the economics of wildlife in British Columbia. It presents statistical findings of a survey of big game hunting activity for 10 species in the East Kootenay in 1964 and it documented for the first time in the province the economic value of wildlife as a non-marketed resource.

Glen's passion for the East Kootenay continued when he moved to Victoria and even though he was responsible for the management of wildlife for the entire province, his main drive was the protection of key wildlife winter ranges in the East Kootenay Trench. In 1964, when the Columbia River Treaty was signed, the provincial government had to start removing existing landowners and clearing the impoundment area in British Columbia. Glen argued that land holders and ranchers should not be compensated with Crown land at the expense of public wildlife and timber resources. In a courageous maneuver, by involving key members in the West and East Kootenay Rod and Gun clubs, he was able to convince the Lands, Forests and Water Minister to reverse his directive, which meant that cash, not Crown land, would be used as compensation for those displaced by the Libby Reservoir. Thus, the government could not move smoothly from promises of fair treatment of displaced land owners. This interministerial conflict caused the premier to bring the Ministers of Forests and Lands, Recreation and Conservation, and Agriculture together to form the Environment and Land Use Committee.[13]

In a newspaper interview in 1970 in Cranbrook, Glen said that the BC wildlife program was nothing more than a Salvation Army soup kitchen, and that there was nothing more they could do unless the wildlife program could have some say in the use of Crown land. He said,

*Over the past few years we have fought very hard to be recognized by government as a responsible department ready, willing and able to do the job we were set up to do, but these efforts have been continually frustrated because we have no say about the land on which the big game species live or die. Our role has been primarily one of doling out a diminishing resource. Try as we may, we can't get a program of land use management instated in this area. Without this the significance of big game in the economy will disappear.*

*The trade-off being made for wildlife, largely in other forms of land use, is less rewarding than the wildlife resource in economic terms. We feel very strongly that the public has a right to a better resource management program than is presently being carried on. The bulk of our frustration comes from the situation where the Fish and Wildlife Branch is charged with managing the wildlife resource, but have no direct say in the managing of Crown lands. All these come under the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources. The Grazing Division has the complete control of grazing on Crown lands and most of the grazing capabilities are allocated to cattle.*

*In fact, many of the prime ranges have been so badly overgrazed they are almost ruined* (Figure 17).[23]

**Figure 17.** A fence-line contrast showing the difference between an area that is only grazed by Rocky Mountain Elk (left) and the adjacent area that is grazed by both elk and cattle. The latter is typical of most ranges grazed by cattle during Glen's tenure in the Kootenays. *Photo by Dennis A. Demarchi, Tata Creek. BC, 1970.*

In spite of that outspoken criticism of the Provincial Government Glen was not dismissed nor reprimanded, but was later called to support the newly formed Deputy Minister's Environment Land Use Technical Sub-Committee. He quickly became frustrated with that position as he had to constantly listen to other bureaucrats defend their policies by citing their legislation back to him.[4]

**BIRD ARTIST**

Glen enjoyed drawing and painting and was especially comforted when he visited friends afterwards to see his framed handiwork adorn the walls of their homes. Friends liked the "feeling" of his paintings - the colours were never exaggerated or harsh. They were true to life! Glen painted and sold hundreds of his pieces, some of which had a more commercial use (Figure 18).

**Figure 18.** West Coast Savings Credit Union published a calendar of 12 male diurnal raptors, like this Northern Goshawk, by Glen Smith in 1984 that was given to their patrons. Complementary notes on each species were written by Glen's friend, Charles Guiguet, curator of the Birds and Mammal Division at the BC Provincial Museum in Victoria.

Glen started painting at an early age, probably influenced by his father who was an accomplished water colourist. His younger brother, Keith, was also a wildlife artist who painted with oils. Some of Glen's earliest paintings were water colours of street scenes in Italy during the war. Sometime after he moved

**Figure 19.** Black Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*), sea goose of the Pacific coast, in flight over a marine area during spring migration. *Painting (46cm x 61cm) by Glen Smith, 1980.*

to Victoria in 1964 Glen started painting with hard-pencil pastels of birds. The work required a sharp fine point which electric pencil sharpeners could not produce. He changed to using an acrylic medium in the late 1970s but again he was often frustrated with the results. His pastels were so popular, and didn't require much background, that only occasionally did he return to acrylics (Figure 19).

By 1980 Glen described his painting as a hobby that got out of hand. Glen had great photographic recall, having seen a bird in the field he could later paint it in detail, although he did use museum specimens and published illustrations when he was unfamiliar with a species. His artwork brought personal satisfaction because there was a tangible product at the end. Often his bird portraits were completed in a day. He remarked, "Either a painting is good or bad – but you knew right away!"[24]

In spring 1980, Glen completed a pastel of a male Sooty (Blue) Grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*) for me (see coloured insert). The reference for the drawing was a photograph the bird taken in a dark forest taken during a field trip with Pat Martin on the central coast. Amazingly, he was able to recall its feather detail and colour.

Sometimes during boring meetings or long telephone conversations Glen would produce a quick sketch of a flock of flying waterfowl, or an individual bird which he would later work on at home (Figure 20). When he finished, with the meeting or phone call, he would neatly fold his sketch in half and put in the waste paper basket; those of us who knew him would later retrieve the sketch.

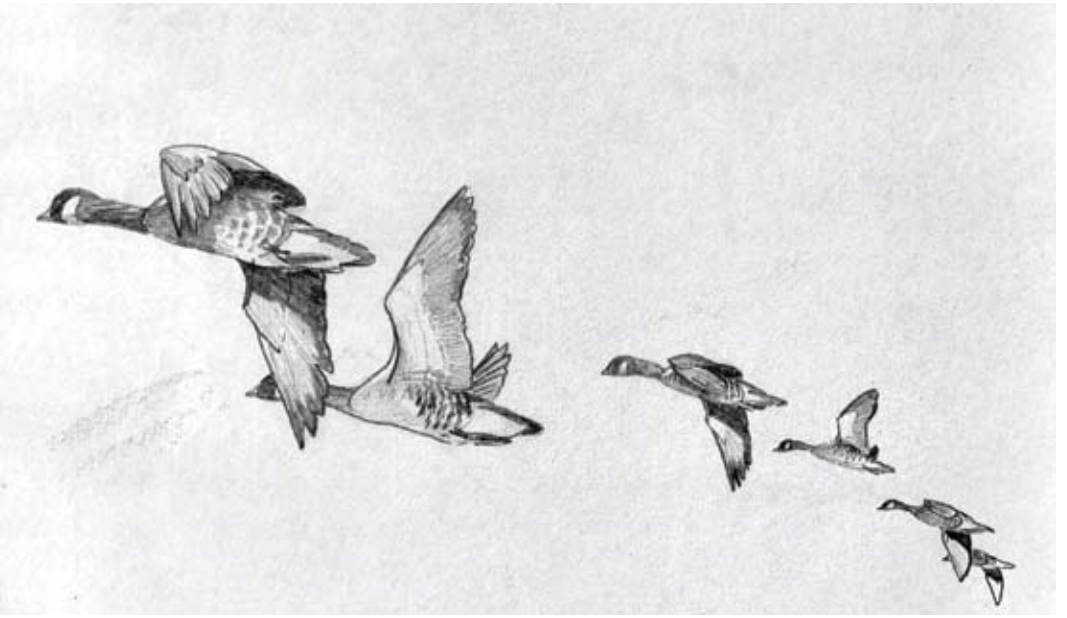
Colleagues in the Fish and Wildlife Branch encouraged Glen and often asked him to paint their favourite bird. Glen preferred to draw diurnal birds of prey, smaller passerines, and waterfowl.[4] His diurnal birds of prey were typically painted with tail feathers bunched and hanging down (see coloured insert).

Glen always started by sketching in the eye and the head, before roughing out an outline of the body and major feather tracts. Only then did he begin to lay

down the colour, starting again with the eye, then the head and finally the body, making sure that his hands never touched the pastels once it was laid down. He always painted the feet and any supporting structures (i.e., branch) last after the bird had been completed, otherwise he would not have been able to work on the body without smearing it with his hands.

Glen worked efficiently and often finished a painting at one sitting. Arlene Smith[6] recalled the time when she and her late husband Keith, also a wildlife artist,[25] were visiting Glen and his partner Ailsa, and during the evening Glen worked on a pastel drawing of a raptor. By the end of the evening the painting was finished! Arlene was an excellent pastel painter herself and she was amazed at the speed Glen had worked. In the spring of 1980 Glen wanted some extra money to go to San Miguel Allende, Mexico, where his wife was temporarily studying weaving. During a conversation I suggested he do a painting for me and less than 24 hours later he phoned and casually said that he had a grouse done, if I still wanted it! (see coloured insert).

**Figure 20.** While otherwise engaged, Glen often produced pencil sketches, like this Bushtit, which later thrown away. Some of Glen's friends, however, realized that his discarded sketches were worth saving and retrieved them from the waste basket. Graphite on paper, 1973.



Canada Geese, graphite on paper, unsigned.


Swainson's Trush. Pencil pastel on paper, 40cm x 30cm, no date.


Sooty Grouse. Pencil pastel on paper, 40cm x 30cm, 1980.


Black-billed Magpie. Pencil pastel on paper, 40cm x 30cm, 1975.

Adult Red-tailed Hawk. Pencil pastel on paper, 40cm x 30cm, no date.

## THE RETIREMENT YEARS

### Leaving Government and Wildlife Consulting

In early 1973 Glen grew frustrated with government bureaucracy and he also decided to leave his wife of more than twenty years. He quit his job and planned to devote more time to painting, but he was also now in demand as a wildlife expert.

In March 8, 1973, he wrote his staff, both in region and headquarters:

*You have no doubt heard by now that I am planning to leave the Branch soon. This is true, as I recently confirmed with the Director.*

*My real purpose in writing this letter is to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the support you have given me during my service with the Branch. I greatly value this and the personal friendship all of you have so freely offered me.*

*I keep my conviction that the work we have shared is immensely important, and I wish you every success in its continuance. This is an especially challenging time in the history of wildlife work in this Province, and I am certain that you have many achievements ahead.*

*One doesn't work with colleagues in any service for twenty years without having regrets on leaving. Needless to say I have such feelings. On the other hand I am looking forward to my new working situation, and to new ways of sharing in a common purpose.*

*Kindest personal regards,*
*Glen Smith*

Between 1973 and 1990 he consulted on a least 30 wildlife projects, mainly in British Columbia, but also in Alberta and the Yukon and Northwest Territories. In early spring of 1977 Glen was asked by Art Benson, Director of the Resource Analysis Branch and a colleague from UBC, to coordinate the wildlife investigations being conducted in the northeast area of the province that was being opened up for coal mining. Three reports on big game, waterfowl, and upland gamebirds were coordinated by Glen (Figure 21).[26,27,28]

**Figure 21.** The proposed development of sizeable coal reserves in sections of northeastern British Columbia in the mid-1970s prompted a proposal for mining that would open up 11,000 km$^2$ (4,300 mi$^2$) of untouched wilderness. Glen was directly involved in several provincial government reports that assessed the impact on populations of ungulates and waterfowl. He also emphasized, however, the importance of saving wetlands where Trumpeter Swans had been found nesting. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

When Professor Peter Pearse was appointed commissioner to the Royal Commission on Forest Resources in 1975, Glen was invited to serve as an advisor and external expert on wildlife.[21] Glen also reviewed all sections of the final report relating to wildlife/forestry relationships as well as making his own submissions on behalf of the wildlife resource.[29]

Some of the projects Glen selected to work on involved direct impacts on big game animals and their future survival, for example, the impacts of the construction of the Coquihalla Highway (No. 5) and the Okanagan Connector (Highway 97C) on wildlife, particularly those sections east of the Coquihalla Summit. His understanding of wildlife behaviour, combined with his interest in economics, lead him to believe that the welfare of wildlife and safety of the travelling public, would be safeguarded by the construction of a game-proof fence (Figure 22). This recommendation was not readily approved by the regional Ministry of Environment manager for the Thompson-Nicola District, but Glen persisted. Once again he was trying to highlight the value of wildlife,

only this time he was also dealing with the Ministry of Highways and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia**.** His rationale was that preventing huge monetary claims from vehicle/wildlife collisions would be far less expensive that the cost of erecting wildlife deterrent fences. His persistence was ultimately successful.

**Figure 22.** A section of the eight-foot wildlife fence along the Coquihalla Highway. The barrier has been very successful in reducing collisions with big game animals by keeping them off of the highway right-of-way. *Photo by Dennis A. Demarchi, north of the Coquihalla Summit, BC, June 2015.*

**Once a Friend, Always a Friend**

Glen was quite gregarious and likable – he made friends easily and maintained lasting relationships. Many he met in the Zoology Department at UBC later had careers in wildlife, like Patrick W. Martin, W.A. (Judge) McKay, Ralph W. Ritcey, Donald J. Robinson (Figure 23) and R. Thomas Sterling. He also developed a close friendship with many of his younger protégés and working associates and later with artists living on Saltspring Island.

Glen and Pat Martin were regional game biologists at the same time, Pat in the Thompson-Okanagan region and Glen in the Kootenay-Boundary region. When Pat left government service in 1969, he worked for a short time in Africa, and returned to British Columbia to fish commercially out of Sointula, an isolated village northeast of Port McNeil. This is something that he had done before the war. They quickly renewed friendships and in May 1977 Pat took

**Figure 23.** Two of Glen's long-time friends, Don Robinson and Charlie Guiguet's wife Muriel. *Photo by Bryan R. Gates, Victoria, BC, May 4, 2010.*

Glen on a spring trip to Hecate Strait where they fished for Pacific Halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) and Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). They also counted waterbirds for the Canadian Wildlife Service and the BC Resource Analysis Branch between Hunter Island in the south and Prince Rupert in the north.[30,31]

In a personal letter dated 4 June 1980, Pat wrote:

*Since you are a "free agent" why don't you plan a trip up here this summer or fall. I have a Mark II Zodiac & a twenty horse motor so we could take a tent, mosquito nets & sleeping bags & take off from Pr. Rupert for a week. Go to the big lagoon on Porcher Island & fish or go over to the Dundas Group where I know of some lovely fishy spots. You could sketch and fish. If that doesn't suit you we could hunt ptarmigan after August 15th in the high country of the Telkwa Mtns. Or come up in early Oct., maybe go to the Peace* [River] *for sharptails* [Sharp-tailed Grouse] *if the Ruffed Grouse are down locally.*

Another close friend was Charlie Guiguet who was eight years older than Glen and had already left

university at the time Glen was there. They first met at a wildlife conference in Vancouver when Glen was a regional game biologist in the Kootenay region and Charlie was a curator at the BC Museum (now the Royal British Columbia Museum). And in November 1964, Glen and Charlie flew into the Bush River, a tributary of the Columbia River in southeastern BC, and collected three Moose specimens for the BC Museum prior to the flooding of wetlands by the dam at Mica Creek. When Glen moved to Victoria in 1964 as chief of wildlife management they renewed acquaintances as both had a love of the outdoors and were war veterans. Charlie, who had a local reputation as a master fisherman, showed Glen his techniques to catch salmon. They also went hunting together for big game, waterfowl, and grouse.[32]

Glen was always seeking ways to learn what motivated his staff to effectively fulfill their responsibilities as regional wildlife biologists. At get-togethers with staff (Figure 24) he often posed the question, "What do you think your job is, to supply targets for hunters?" Of course the simple, direct and correct answer would be: "Yes." However, Glen wanted more in their answer that included provision and protection of habitats as well as managing the 'harvest' side of things.[33]

**Figure 24.** When Glen was Chief of Wildlife Management a workshop and bonding session of BC Fish and Wildlife Branch wildlife biologists was held each year at Green Lake in the southern Cariboo. In October, 1966, the staff included, from left to right: **Front Row** – Keith R.D. Mundy (Victoria), Harold B. Mitchell (Cariboo/Chilcotin), W.A. (Judge) McKay (Victoria), David J. Spalding (Okanagan), Otto Horvath (Creston Wildlife Management Area); **Middle Row** – Ken Sumanik (northern British Columbia), Raymond A. Demarchi (East and West Kootenay), Al West (RS, Lower Mainland), Ralph W. Ritcey (Thompson/Nicola), David R. Hurn (RS, Okanagan), Gordon W. (Bud) Smith (technician, Vancouver Island); and **Back Row** – Dennis A. Demarchi (East Kootenay), W. Glen Smith (chief of wildlife management, Victoria), Patrick W. Martin (RS, northern British Columbia), Donald S. Eastman (research biologist, UBC), Alan J. Luckhurst (Canada Land Inventory, Victoria), William (Bill) Morris (Canadian Wildlife Service, Vancouver), P. John Bandy (wildlife research, UBC), Donald A. Blood (Vancouver Island), and Rory P. Finnegan (Victoria). *Photo by Bryan R. Gates* (Lower Mainland), *Flying U Guest Ranch, Green Lake, BC, October 1966.* [RS = Regional Supervisor]

Ray Demarchi, who followed Glen as the regional biologist in the East and West Kootenay, remembers Glen's foresight and unconditional support of his staff, Ray benefited from both of these attributes over the nine years that Glen was his boss, including the nearly 30 years that Ray knew him as a friend and mentor and as a wildlife biologist. Although I had many bosses in my life none of them treated me with the respect and the support that Glen did."[5]

Glen developed a working relationship with economist and UBC professor Peter Pearse in the 1960s. They spent time together fishing and hunting and frequently on family weekends and holidays, most often on Lasqueti Island where Peter and his wife Ailsa had bought a waterfront property. Since there was no refrigeration, Glen built a smoker to preserve their catch of Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) using green, red alder (*Alnus rubra*) as the choice wood for flavour, of which he was duly proud (Figure 25).[21]

**Figure 25.** Ray Demarchi, regional wildlife biologist for the Kootenay region, was mentored by Glen Smith during his years in the Kootenays. *Photo by Dennis A. Demarchi, 1975.*

Peter and his wife Ailsa separated in the late 1960s, but his friendship with Glen and his family continued. Glen also maintained his friendship with Ailsa, who had left Vancouver with her two children and taken a teaching position in Rossland for a few years before moving to Victoria. Glen terminated both his employment in the public service and his marriage in 1973. A couple of years after he and Ailsa became a couple they purchased a property on Saltspring Island where they built a house and lived happily together until Glen died in 1993 (Figure 26).[21]

**Figure 26.** Glen and Ailsa at their home at Southey Point, Saltspring Island, BC. *Circa* 1992. *Photo courtesy Jane and Grant Pearse.*

**An Advocate for Wildlife**

After his retirement from his government position, Glen continued to speak out against the government's wildlife management practises, both in meetings and media, especially newspapers. In a newspaper interview in 1980 he related:[34]

*I don't think there's much in the way of political leadership involved in the environment. Most of our politicians are traditionally business-oriented people who see the environment as something to exploit. They don't understand the significance of evolution, they don't understand the significance of functioning ecosystems – to them it's all abstract and they don't know what to do with it.*

*Not that they are wilful, they just don't comprehend it.*

*Government agencies aren't suited to looking after the environment because of logistics as well as the political process. Governments just don't make good entrepreneurs. They are dealing with urgent things like jobs and the economy so the environment doesn't seem to have a place there.*

*The environmentalists aren't much help either. They're so damned divided in their opinions about things. It's almost become a religious cult to them. All this doesn't help the professional fisheries or wildlife managers do a better job.*

*You've got conflicting legislation, you've got conflicting philosophies, you've got a highly divided public sector and you're constantly faced with inadequacies in terms of funding and there's never any money for research.*

In a 1991 "Opinion Piece" published in the Victoria *Times-Colonist* newspaper he wrote:[35]

*Public use and enjoyment of wildlife is an important industry in this province, netting some $350 million annually, not to mention scientific and other values to society. The gross value of strictly wildlife-related activity in B.C. is about $1 billion.*

*Obviously wildlife is an important natural endowment that deserves careful attention and management. This has not generally happened in the past, a fact that contributes to the conflicts we see today between environmentally aware people and an uncomprehending forest industry.*

*Ample opportunity exists in this province to benefit from and to improve the natural association between wildlife and its forest habitat, provided the will exists to do so. This 'will' has been largely lacking in the past, or has been subjugated by inappropriate government policies and institutional arrangements for managing forest and wildlife resources, coupled with industry indifference respecting its obligations in using public lands.*

Not all decisions emanated from public criticism of government policies in the media. When there was an opportunity to transplant a number of California Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis californiana*) to south-facing slopes above Kamloops Lake (Figure 27), Glen made a professional decision and deflected impediments from the BC Grazing Division of the Forest Service in Victoria. Of course there was some outrage locally from the Forest Service district managers but it turned out to be such a successful wildlife restoration event that the cattle people eventually accepted it.[33]

**Figure 27.** Infrequently, wildlife managers and biologists had to transplant game animals, like California Bighorn Sheep, to bolster provincial populations, or to reintroduce populations that were extirpated elsewhere in North America. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell.*

## WRITTEN WORKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Many provincial government administrators prepare in-house reports that are rarely seen or available to the general public. Many of these are position papers that contain useful summary information that is of value in preparing environmental impact statements and assessing monitoring activities. Glen contributed information or authored the following list of 22 titles.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Smith, W.G. 1963. GMA 10 – Big Game. British Columbia Fish and Game Branch unpublished report, Cranbrook, BC. 4 pp.

Smith, W.G. 1963. Report to the B.C. Fish and Game Branch on Investigation of the Elk River Game Reserve. British Columbia fish and Wildlife Branch unpublished report, Cranbrook, BC. 18p.

Smith, W.G. 1963. GMA 11 – Big Game. British Columbia Fish and Game Branch unpublished report, Cranbrook, BC. 5p.

Smith, W. G. 1973. Proposal for a land acquisition program for wildlife in the East Kootenay. British Columbia Department of Recreation and Conservation,

**Figure 28.** The value of habitat for big game in the East Kootenay is the immediate juxtaposition of lower elevation winter ranges with summer ranges. *Photo by Dennis A. Demarchi*, *Bull River, BC, 2000.*

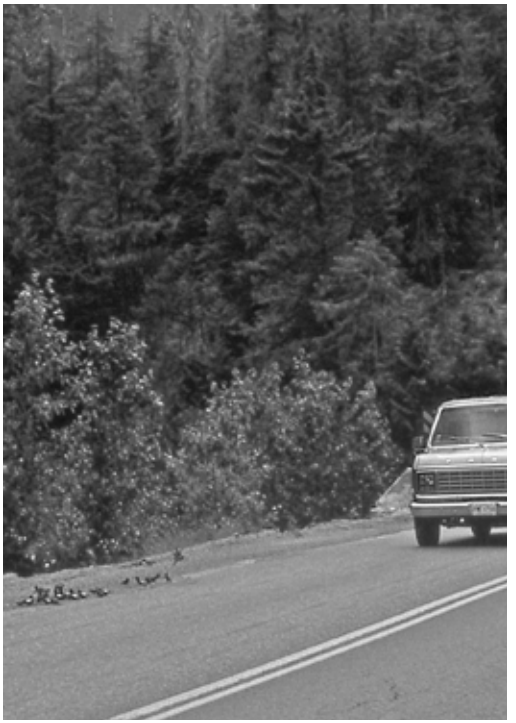

**Figure 29.** In British Columbia, Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) are regularly killed by moving vehicles in all seasons when flocks are drawn to road edges (centre) to pick up road salt and grit. *Photo by Douglas Wilson*.


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## REMEMBERING GLEN

When Glen was diagnosed with inoperable prostate cancer that had metastasized to his spine, he continued to paint. In early February he was working of a diptych of a pair of Gyrfalcons (*Falco rusticolus*), he had finished one and had most of the second completed when he collapsed and dragged the pencil across the page. He died early the next morning, 8 February 1993; he was just 69 years old.

Glen often worked with friends and colleagues on consulting projects, especially those having many years of field experience with big game mammals. Three experienced wildlife biologists, Ray Demarchi, David Spalding and Ron Jakimchuk, share their memories of working with Glen. As well, Peter Pearse and Jane Pearse each shared a common interest with Glen. And two friends, W.A. (Judge) McKay and Reg Ashwell, and Glen's partner Ailsa, each had written tributes to him.

I was the benefactor of a life-long friendship with Glen and we shared some hair-raising experiences. Glen enjoyed fishing off Oak Bay for young "blueback" Coho in his runabout and often he invited junior staff to accompany him for an afternoon. On one trip that I took with him in early March 1977 we ran into engine trouble while off Discovery Island, just south of Victoria. The engine stopped and wouldn't start. To make matters worse we were in an ebb tide and drifting rapidly in Plumber Passage past Chain Islets and heading towards Juan de Fuca Strait. At this point Glen decided to put out the anchor in a feeble attempt to slow us down.

However, it was erroneously attached to a stern cleat and it wasn't long before the anchor lodged onto some shallow rocks and began pulling the stern of the boat under. I went back to the stern and just touched the anchor rope with my knife and we were immediately free – but still drifting. Fortunately, we were able to hail a passing sailboat who towed us back to a wharf at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. A lucky escape! Ever the opportunist while being towed Glen put out a line and caught a couple of fish!

Peter Pearse - The 1960s were the early days of the environmental movement in British Columbia. Glen was a leader, not so much of the environmental movement (which frustrated him because of its single-mindedness) but of the emerging appreciation of the interrelatedness of things in nature – of ecosystems. His professional work drew him into the interplay of wildlife and forests and how they must be jointly managed, but his understanding went well beyond that to birds and fish and the full panoply of nature (Figure 30). Peter Pearse remembers him for the breadth of his understanding of nature, his sensitivity and powers of observation, his artistic talent, his professional integrity, and his friendship.[21]

**Figure 30.** Peter Pearse, and Glen worked together on many wildlife-related projects and developed a special personal friendship over the years. Peter and Penny Pearse with a large salmon. *Photo by Chris Smith*

Jane Pearse – Peter's daughter, fondly remembers the outings with her parents and Glen and Joy and recalled when Glen killed a chicken he would show the children the various structures and functions of the innards. It is something she recalls whenever she's preparing a chicken for dinner.[37]

Ray Demarchi – He was intelligent and considered a gentle man, but he didn't suffer fools. He hated bureaucrats, especially administrative and office managers who thought they knew best for the Fish and Wildlife Branch and the resource. If he had a fault, it was that he smoked too much and could never break that habit. Ray Demarchi fondly remembers the time as a new biologist when he was called to task for his conservative hunting regulations:

*When I was beginning as the regional wildlife biologist for the Kootenays, Glen gave me the support that I needed, by telling the senior executive of the Fish and Wildlife Branch that he had the confidence in my more conservative hunting regulations from what they were expecting And thanks to his support, for the next nine years that I was in charge of wildlife management in the Kootenay region under him, the recommendations from me and my staff were seldom if ever seriously questioned again.*[5]

W.A. (Judge) McKay – In March 1970 Glen had spoken out, in Cranbrook, on the sad state of wildlife management the province. As a matter of deep respect his friend W.A. (Judge) McKay wrote this poem for him and gave it to him when he got back to the office.

***The Saga of Soup Kitchen Smith***

*At this stage of man's evolution*
*Technological change is in force.*
*New methods are replacing old ones*
*As horsepower has replaced the horse.*
*But the newest of new systematics*
*To manage our resources with.*
*Is known of in management practice*
*As the system of Soupkitchen Smith.*
*Once we used to envisage a deer range*
*As a pail overflowing with deer.*
*And by skimming the top off the bucket*
*We knew we had nothing to fear.*
*But the bucket got trampled by cattle*
*And started to leak forthwith.*
*Now to get at the deer at the bottom*
*Get a ladle from Soup Kitchen Smith.*

W.A. (Judge) McKay
March, 1970

David Spalding – "Glen had the enviable gift of understanding when an offer of support was appropriate. In the winter of 1981 I was living in a small cabin on South Pender Island, having left my job with the provincial government 18 months earlier, vowing to forget both steady employment and my career as a wildlife biologist. In late November of that year I had a phone call from Glen: he wished to come to the island for a day or so with his friend Bob, visit and have a deer hunt. I thought that was a splendid idea and they arrived a few days later. They had their hunt (no luck). We had some good talks and drank quite a bit of alcohol. Shortly before Glen left he suggested I give serious consideration to wildlife consulting; if I was interested he would make enquiries. He phoned a few days later and suggested we could work together on a wildlife inventory program in the Tumbler Ridge area of north-eastern BC. I agreed. This was the beginning for me of a modestly successful few years of wildlife consulting. At the time, I was grateful for Glen's kindness in his recognition that I was having difficulty in starting my new life, and his help getting me back working part-time with wildlife. All well and good, but it was only after the passage of many years that I finally understood the significance of the gift Glen had given me."[38]

Ron Jakimchuk – "I had the good fortune to work with Glen when we were both independent consultants on wildlife impacts of the Coquihalla highway project, and the "Okanagan Connector." We assessed impacts of the various alignments and evaluated the need for exclusion fencing to mitigate road collision mortality on wildlife, notably deer and moose. An important part of the road fencing mitigation was to determine the best locations for wildlife crossing underpasses in order to facilitate their movements between habitats on either side of the highway. Glen was a delightful field companion - thorough, committed and a constant advocate of wildlife values. He had a great depth of experience supplemented with an energetic "boots on the ground" approach to evaluating wildlife use. There were no decisions made with a quick glance out of the vehicle window. As equals, we were constantly testing our assumptions about impacts.

Glen was a gentleman of the old school: articulate, kind and having a good sense of humour. A fierce advocate for wildlife, he never shrank from giving his opinion to the client whether in the field or in an official meeting. He never pulled any punches about adverse impacts or the need to make changes to the project to accommodate wildlife needs. One example was the bisection of a mule deer winter range on Mt. Drought at the east end of the Okanagan connector.

We wanted the alignment changed to skirt the winter range rather than go through the middle of it. We did not wish to have deer isolated from valuable winter range by the fencing necessary in this area, and to incur the habitat loss from the highway itself. It was a battle ultimately lost, but hard fought by Glen.

Glen would often call in for a visit to my office in Sidney when he was enroute to meetings in Victoria from his home on Salt Spring Island. In season, he would have some produce from his garden (notably tomatoes) to give to a secretary of the department he was visiting, or to other friends. I always enjoyed his visits as invariably there was animated discussion on the latest government action (or folly) adversely affecting wildlife resource values."[39]

Reg Ashwell – Four and a half months after his passing a memorial exhibition was held at Pat F. Wright's Field Mouse & Fritz Hug Gallery on Salt Spring Island. One hundred paintings and drawings held by 21 private collectors, mainly on the island, were presented, including several held by his ex-wife Joy and his partner Ailsa. In the show catalogue his friend and former gallery owner, Reg Ashwell, wrote:[36]

*The late Glen Smith, artist, biologist and wildlife conservationist will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He left behind a legacy for Canadians of many hundreds of his exquisite bird studies – beautiful works of art which vividly reflect his perfectionism and great awareness of the fragility of our environment. I knew him as a close friend for more than twenty years, and Gulf Islanders, – indeed, all British Columbians, have become a little poorer for his loss. His bird paintings have engraved themselves indelibly in the hearts of all those who truly care about our feathered friends and who appreciate the remarkable fidelity Glen achieved in his incredible interpretations in pastels of so many varieties of North American, and most particularly British Columbian wild birds.*

Ailsa Pearse – When Glen moved to Victoria permanently in 1964 he quickly developed a strong affinity and respect for the province's marine environment. From fishing to surveying marine birds was a constant attraction (Figure 31). Ailsa Pearse, Glen's partner, wrote the following poem prior to releasing of his ashes into the sea in February, 1993.

***Glen***

*Go softly,*
*Go gently,*
*Join the sea, the waves, the ocean floor*
*And all the creatures you have loved.*
*We grieve,*
*We mourn*
*To lose these last pathetic bits of you.*
*Now it's up to us*
*To see the wonder of the earth,*
*To find the mushroom Prince beside the road,*
*To marvel at the naked hummers in the nest,*
*To catch the flash of a Redtail on the chase,*
*To hear the Night-hawk's courtship dive,*
*To feel your spirit and the real you.*
*You've led the way, and opened doors,*
*You gave, you loved,*
*You told us so,*
*Now its's up to us.*

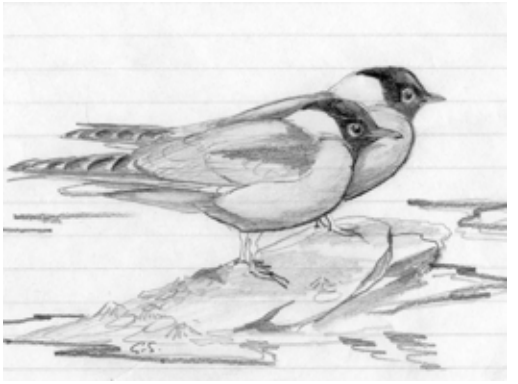

**Figure 31.** Glen's affinity with the ocean was enhanced whenever he saw the delicate-looking, graceful-in-flight, Bonaparte's Gull. This sketch of two adults resting during spring migration was created on a notepad from memory, probably completed during a meeting that he had to attend. Graphite on paper, no date.

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**Figure 32.** The 1950 book by James Munro on the Creston region highlighted the diversity of birds and mammals and the significance of the vast wetlands to waterbirds. Glen Smith recognized the area's intrinsic value to all wildlife and by the mid-1950s started the process to establish the Province's first wildlife management area. At the time Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) had not been recorded but today it is a regular visitor and breeds. *Photo by R. Wayne Campbell*.


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**Figure 33.** Large aggregations of scoters, especially Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) and White-winged Scoter (*M. fusca*) were tallied in Chatham Sound during winter surveys in 1977–1978. A few Black Scoters (*M. americana*) (shown) were also recorded. *Photo by Alan D. Wilson*.

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*This tribute is dedicated to the early Regional Wildlife Biologists who worked in near obscurity to defend and manage the wildlife resources of the Province for the future benefit of its citizens.*

This tribute to the life of W. Glen Smith has required the timely co-operation of several individuals who knew and worked with Glen- the challenge for me was to talk with his colleagues who knew him from his early days as a wildlife biologist. The following people provided encouragement, insight, and personal notes; in addition, they reviewed early versions of my manuscript: Donald J. Robinson, Director of the BC Fish and Wildlife Branch (retired); Peter H. Pearse, CM, Professor emeritus of economics and forestry at UBC; David J. Spalding, regional wildlife biologist and manager, Okanagan region (retired); and my brother Raymond A. Demarchi, regional wildlife biologist, Kootenay region (retired).

The following individuals provided anecdotes about Glen: Muriel, Joanne and Mark Guiguet, family friends, Sidney BC; Ronald D. Jakimchuk, environmental consultant, (retired); Jane Pearse, daughter of Ailsa Pearse and Peter Pearse; Ralph W. Ritcey, regional wildlife biologist, Thompson-Nicola region (retired); and Arlene Smith, Glen's sister-in-law, Qualicum Beach, BC.

Terry Leith, Canada Decoration (CD) Captain (retired), of the Royal Westminster Regiment Museum provided the military background for the Regiment that Glen fought under and Alton Harestad, professor emeritus, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC assisted in locating suitable images of the Westminster Regiment in action.

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***About the Author***

Dennis was born and raised in Kamloops, BC, where he enjoyed outdoor pursuits of fishing, hiking, and hunting. He attended the University of British Columbia where he received a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) degree and later a Master of Science degree at the University of Idaho (UI). His thesis topic was *Effects of Grazing on the Botanical and Chemical Composition of Range Vegetation in the Lower Chilcotin River Region, British Columbia*. After leaving UI Glen Smith offered Dennis a job with the BC Fish and Wildlife Branch evaluating land alienation issues in the Peace River region and after a year he was moved to Victoria. In 1973 Dennis left the BC Fish and Wildlife Branch to work for the British Columbia Land Inventory program where he conducted an ecological evaluation of wildlife habitat in the East Kootenay. (Figure 34).

In the late 1980s Dennis developed the Ecoregion classification for British Columbia which was used in *The Birds of British Columbia*, the first provincial bird book to link birds directly to habitats. The Ecoregion classification was also integrated into the Provincial Protected Areas Strategy in the 1990s.

In 1992 he was the recipient of both the 1991 Award of Excellence in Biology (now the Ian McTaggart-Cowan Award) from the Association of Professional Biologists in British Columbia and the Conservation Officer of the Year Award from the Shikar Safari International Society for his work on the Ecoregion classification.

In retirement, Dennis has maintained his interest in habitat evaluation projects in the Province working on *Habitat Assessment for Dry Forest and Grassland Dependant Birds in British Columbia*, *The Provincial Mountain Sheep Herd Registry*, *The British Columbia Grizzly Bear Habitat Classification and Rating*, and *Habitat Classification and Assessment for Marbled Murrelet*.

Dennis is currently president of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies, a position that he has held for the past several years as well as a member of the editorial team for *Wildlife Afield*. Recently, with colleagues Ron Jakimchuk and Wayne Campbell, he co-authored the first authorized biography *Ian McTaggart-Cowan: the Legacy of a Pioneering Biologist, Educator and Conservationist* (Harbour Publishing, 2015).

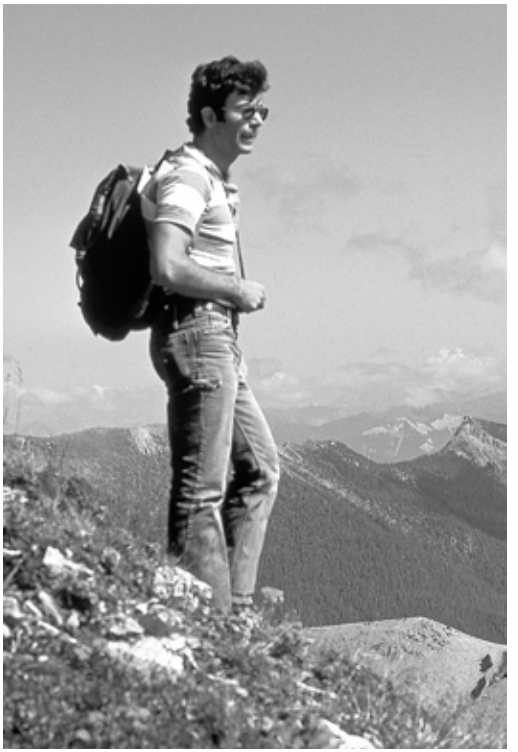

**Figure 34.** Dennis A. Demarchi during field work for the East Kootenay ungulate biophysical project. *Photo by Mary Jean Comfort, White Knight Park, August 1977.*