

**B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS RECORDS COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1992**

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The B.C. Field Ornithologists Records Committee was established in early 1992 to review records of birds considered unusual in B.C.-- generally those with fewer than 20 documented records. As with any new organization, we experienced our share of growing pains in the early stages. Fortunately, most of them seem to be behind us now. One of our first tasks was to establish our operating procedures. Rather than "re-inventing the wheel", we looked at the procedures of some other, long-established bird records committees (e.g. those for Ontario, Oregon, and the Vancouver area-- see Bain 1993, Nehls 1993, and Weber 1992) and stayed with a fairly traditional model. Next we had to produce a Review List-- a list of species unusual enough to warrant review in the first place. For a copy of the policies and procedures and the Review List, see Davidson (1994).

The purpose of the committee is twofold: (1) to critically review reports of unusual bird species, and (2) to encourage thorough documentation of unusual bird by observers. In reviewing the records, members are concerned with two main issues: was the bird correctly identified, and is there a possibility that this may be an escaped bird rather than a truly wild individual?

The committee structure is designed to give geographic representation to the entire province. The current membership of the seven-person committee is as follows: two from the Lower Mainland, Dick Cannings and Alvaro Jaramillo; two from Vancouver Island, Derrick Marven and Barbara Begg; and three from the interior, Chris Siddle (Vernon), Jack Bowling (Prince George) and Gary Davidson (Nakusp). The committee is chaired by Gary Davidson. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of former committee members David Stirling, Hank Vander Pol, and Wayne Weber, who have had to step down for various reasons.

Two or three times a year, the chairperson sends copies of rare bird reports to each of the other members. Each member must individually assess each record and return his/her decision to "accept" or "reject", along with his/her comments, to the chairperson. A record receiving more than two "reject" votes is deemed unacceptable. A record receiving fewer than two "reject" votes is immediately accepted. A record receiving exactly two "reject" votes is recirculated to members with copies of all members' comments, and a second vote is taken.

Below is a summary of those records reported in 1992 which have been reviewed by the committee. Where there were only a small number of observers, all observers' names have been listed. If there were many observers, only the one(s) who first reported the bird and those who submitted field notes (\*) have been listed. For unaccepted records, observers' names have not been listed.

**ACCEPTED RECORDS-- 1992**

CLARK'S GREBE (Record 92-8)-- one, Okanagan Landing, 29 June, Chris Siddle (\*), Gary Davidson.

GARGANEY (Record 92-9)-- one, Iona Island, Richmond, 13 and 14 September, Richard Klauke,  
Jo Ann MacKenzie (\*), about 10 others.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (Record 92-1)-- one adult, Crescent Bay, Nakusp, 9 May, Gary Davidson (\*).

WHITE-TAILED KITE (Record 92-2)-- one, Victoria Airport, 21 April, Barbara Begg (\*), and

Colwood, 26 April, David Allinson (\*). Although these two records were 5 days apart and 24 km apart, it is considered highly probable that the same individual was involved. For details, see the article by Begg (1992).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (Record 92-11)-- one adult, foot of 112th Street, Delta, 12 to 19 July, Paul Lehman (\*), at least 20 other observers.

LITTLE STINT (Record 92-12)-- one adult (breeding plumage), Iona Island, Richmond, 2 to 4 June, Richard Veit (\*), Wayne Weber (\*), Michael Price (\*), at least 40 observers.

ELEGANT TERN (Record 92-10B)-- one adult, Roberts Bank Jetty, Delta, 21 to 25 July (2 birds on 22 July), John Luce (\*), John Dorsey (\*), at least 10 other observers.

ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE (Record 92-13)-- one, Tofino, 15 to 25 August, Rory Paterson, Brent Beach, Bryan Gates (\*), Danny Tyson (ph.), many other observers.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (Record 92-14)-- one, Kelowna, 8 July, Denise Brownlie (\*), Eileen Dillabough.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (Record 92-3)-- one, Courtenay, 16-17 October, Barbara Sedgwick (\*), Doug Innes (\*), Vi Chungranes, Sid Belsom.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (Record 92-15)-- one, Port Alberni, 18 July, Don Cecile (\*).

RED-THROATED PIPIT (Record 92-4)-- one, Vantreight Farms, Central Saanich, 19-21 September, Keith Taylor (\*), Bryan Gates (\*), Barbara Begg (\*), Tim Zurowski (ph.), at least 30 other observers. For further details, see Taylor (1993).

HERMIT WARBLER (Record 92-5)-- one, Mount Douglas Park, Saanich, 28-29 April, Bryan Gates (\*), Hank Vander Pol, Mike McGrenere, Brent Diakow, Ron Satterfield.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW (Record 92-7)-- one, Somenos Lake, Duncan, 18-19 June, Derrick Marven (\*), Hank Vander Pol (\*), David Allinson. For further details, see the article by Marven (1992).

#### UNACCEPTED RECORDS-- 1992

ELEGANT TERN (Record 92-10B)-- one, Boundary Bay, Delta, 18 July.

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (Record 92-16)-- one, Iona I. sewage plant, Richmond, 26 September.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (Record 92-6)-- one, Duncan, 3 May.

BRONZED COWBIRD (Record 92-18)-- two, Whistler, 3 April.

[ED. NOTE: Two of the "Unaccepted" records, Nos. 92-10B (Elegant Tern) and 92-16 (Tropical Kingbird), although rejected by the BCFO Records Committee, were accepted by the Vancouver Bird Records Committee, based on the same field notes. I would like to respectfully suggest that these records be re-evaluated by BOTH committees, taking into account the comments made by members of the other committee. I believe it would improve the credibility of both committees if they agreed in their final decisions on such records.]

The BCFO Records Committee would like to sincerely thank all of those observers who submitted field notes and/or photographs of unusual birds, either directly to the Committee or to Chris Siddle in his former capacity as Regional Editor for American Birds. Our deliberations would not be possible without your cooperation, and we encourage your continued participation in documenting Review List species in British Columbia.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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