

B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT: 1993

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The B.C. Field Ornithologists Records Committee was established in early 1992 to review records of unusual birds in British Columbia (Davidson 1993).

The purpose of the committee is two-fold: (1) to review reports of rare birds critically, and (2) to encourage thorough documentation of unusual birds. In reviewing the records, members are concerned with two issues: was the bird identified correctly?; 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 seven-person committee in 1993 consisted of two from the lower mainland (Dick Cannings and Alvaro Jaramillo), two from Vancouver Island (Barbara Begg and Derrick Marven) and three from the interior (Jack Bowling of Prince George, Gary Davidson of Nakusp and Chris Siddle of Vernon).

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

Records reported in 1993 are summarized below. Where there were only a small number of observers, all observers' names have been listed. If such a list is too long, only the first observer and those who submitted field notes (*) have been listed. (ph.) indicates that photographs were taken. Several reports received by the committee that indicated that photos were obtained, did not actually include copies of such photos. Records 93-14, 93-17, 93-25 and 93-26 are the only 1993 submissions for which the committee has photos. If anyone has photos of any of the other records, copies would be greatly appreciated. No names have been listed for those records which were not accepted.

The BCFO Records Committee would like to thank those observers who took the time to document unusual

sightings and to submit them either to the Committee directly or to the regional editor of *Audubon Field Notes* (formerly *American Birds*). We appreciate your efforts and hope you will continue to support our efforts by documenting Review List species in British Columbia. The current version of the review list appears in Davidson (1994).

ACCEPTED RECORDS

LITTLE BLUE HERON, *Egretta caerulea* (93-17)

One immature, mouth of Courtenay River, Courtenay, 19 September, Doug Innes (ph., *) plus seven others. Details appear in Innes (1993).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK, *Buteo regalis* (93-8)

One light morph adult, Mount Kobau, 4 June, Denise Brownlie (*), Chris Charlesworth (*), Gwynneth Wilson, Lesley Robertson.

MONGOLIAN PLOVER, *Charadrius mongolus* (93-9)

One adult male in breeding plumage, Rose Spit, Queen Charlotte Islands, 22 June, Peter Hamel (*), Margo Hearne.

MONGOLIAN PLOVER (93-14)

One adult male, Esquimalt Lagoon, 26-29 July, Richard Yank, Barbara Begg (*), Tim Zurowski (ph.), Ron Satterfield (*) plus at least seven others.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa lapponica* (93-3)

One, Queen Charlotte Islands, 14 May, Margo Hearne (*)

Note: this report was somewhat lacking in details and did not give a specific location; as a result, it was nearly rejected. Observers are encouraged to provide as much information as possible!

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (93-18)

One juvenile, identified as subspecies *L. l. baueri*, foot of 112th St., South Delta, 22-26 September, Derrick Marven (*), Alvaro Jaramillo (*), Michael Price (*) plus at least nine others.

CURLEW SANDPIPER, *Calidris ferruginea* (93-16)
One juvenile, Iona Island Sewage Treatment Plant, 16-28 September, Mark Wynja (*), Wayne C. Weber (*) plus at least 12 others.

SLATY-BACKED GULL, *Larus schistisagus* (93-26)
One adult, Columbia River, Revelstoke, 18 December, and Revelstoke Landfill, 17-23 October, Patrick Sullivan (*), Orville Gordon (ph.), Doug Powell.

SLATY-BACKED GULL (93-22)
One winter plumaged adult, mouth of Goldstream Creek on east side of Kalamalka Lake, Vernon, 11 November, and Vernon Landfill Site, 11, 13 and 14 November, Chris Siddle (*), Gary Davidson (*), plus at least eight others. Details of records 93-26 and 93-22 are documented in Siddle (1993). These and record 93-28 are also listed in a recent review of North American records of this species (Cormier and Savard 1994).

SLATY-BACKED GULL (93-28)
One winter plumaged adult, Burns Bog Landfill, Ladner, 27 December 1993 to 26 February 1994, Alvaro Jaramillo (*), Rick Toochin, Mike Toochin, Tom Plath and Steve Metz.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus fuscus* (93-19)
One breeding plumaged adult, east side of Arrow Lake at Burton, 28 September - 18 October, Gary Davidson (ph.), Chris Siddle (*) plus many others.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus cinerascens* (93-12)
One juvenile, Lochside Trail, central Saanich, 16 July, Gerry Ansell (*) plus nine others.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER, *Tyrannus forficatus* (93-10)
One, believed to be adult female, Iona Island, 16 June, John Luce (*), Wayne C. Weber (*), Sharon Toochin (ph.) plus many others.

SCRUB JAY, *Aphelocoma coerulescens* (93-21)
One, Musqueam Park, Vancouver, 28 July 1993 - 7 April 1994, Gloria and Peter Sven (*), Alvaro Jaramillo (*), Wayne C. Weber (*), Allan Drab (ph.) plus many others.

DUSKY THRUSH, *Turdus naumanni* (93-1)
One, Langley, 2 January to at least 9 April, John Ireland (*), Dick Cannings (*), Michael Patten plus many others. The discovery of this bird was described by MacKenzie (1993).

SIBERIAN ACCENTOR, *Prunella montanella* (93-27)
One, Everett Crowley Park, Vancouver, 15 December, Alvaro Jaramillo (*).

Note: single observer sightings such as this sometimes pose problems for records committees; this one was accepted on the basis of the quality of the field notes submitted; as one reviewer stated, "I defy anyone to differ with this identification after reading such excellent notes." Details were published in Jaramillo (1994).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, *Dendroica caerulescens* (93-25)

One first year male, frequenting several suet feeders in Nakusp, 12 December 1993 to 16 January 1994, Lucille Wells, Gary Davidson (ph., *) plus many others.

Note: this bird flew into a plate glass window and killed itself on 16 January, specimen preserved, Cowan Vertebrate Museum specimen #15172, at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

INDIGO BUNTING, *Passerina cyanea* (93-11)
One adult male, Premier St. Landfill, North Vancouver, 13 June, John Luce (*), Mary Peete-Leslie (*), Jo Ann MacKenzie (*) plus several others.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, *Pipilo chlorurus* (93-24)
One singing male, Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver 21-22 May, Gerry Ansell (*) plus at least ten others.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, *Quiscalus mexicanus* (93-23)

One probable adult female, Okanagan Landing Rd., Vernon, 5? December 1993 - 26 February 1994, Chris Siddle (ph., *), Gary Davidson (ph., *), Mary Collins, Phil Gehlen plus many others. Details of this observation were reported by Gehlen (1994).

LESSER GOLDFINCH, *Carduelis psaltria* (93-15)
One adult male of the Black-backed race, *C. p. psaltria*, Jericho Park, Vancouver, 6 September, Michael Price (*).

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

LAYSAN ALBATROSS, *Diomedea immutabilis* (93-7)
Five, Revelstoke, 3 June.

LAYSAN ALBATROSS (93-13)
One, ferry from Gabriola Island to Vancouver, 25 July.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER, *Stercorarius longicaudus* (93-20)
One, Vancouver, 24 August.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus colubris* (93-4)

One, Revelstoke, 17 May.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus crinitus* (93-5)

One, Radium Hot Springs, 22 May.

BROWN THRASHER, *Toxostoma rufum* (93-6)

One, Wilmer, 5 June.

PHAINOPEPLA, *Phainopepla nitens* (93-1)

One, Stanley Park, Vancouver, 17 January.

LITERATURE CITED

Cormier, C. and G. Savard. 1994. A Slaty-backed Gull at Saguenay/Lac St-Jean [:] first record for Quebec. *Birders Journal* 3:54-62.

Davidson, G. S. 1993. B.C. Field Ornithologists Records

Committee annual report for 1992. *B.C. Birds* 3:18-19.

Davidson, G. [S.] 1994. BCFO Bird Records Committee review list. *B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST* 4(3):6-7.

Gehlen, P. 1994. Great-tailed Grackle in British Columbia. *B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST* 4(1):17.

Innes, D. W. 1993. Little Blue Heron at Courtenay: second record for British Columbia. *B.C. Birds* 3:20-21.

Jaramillo, A. 1994. Siberian Accentor -- new to Canada. *Birders Journal* 3:93-98.

MacKenzie, H. 1993. A memorable birding experience. *B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST* 3(2):12.

Siddle, C. R. 1993. First record of a Slaty-backed Gull in the Okanagan Valley, with notes on identification. *B.C. Birds* 3:15-17.

BOOK REVIEWS

INTERACTIONS OF HUMANS AND BALD EAGLES ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY, by Kevin McGarigal, Robert G. Anthony, and Frank B. Isaacs. Wildlife Monographs No. 115, 1994. 47 pages, illus., softcover. Available from The Wildlife Society, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland 20814, U.S.A., \$4.50 U.S.

This scientific monograph describes a two-year study involving relatively non-disruptive methods to investigate human and Bald Eagle activity patterns. The study examined how breeding Bald Eagles responded to temporary human activities in Bald Eagle foraging areas. Based on the findings of the investigation, the authors developed a model of human-eagle interactions that was used to recommend spatial and temporal restrictions of human activities around eagle high-use areas during the breeding season. The study was conducted during spring-summer 1985 and 1986 along a 98 km. stretch of the Columbia River estuary between Longview, Washington and the Pacific Ocean. Six pairs of breeding Bald Eagles were studied each year -- three of the six pairs were studied both years. Each pair was sampled three times during each breeding season, i.e. during the incubation period (23 March - 13 May), nestling period (10 May - 13 July) and postfledging period (3 July - 27 August).

Each sample consisted of two sampling periods -- a three-day control period when "normal" eagle activity patterns were monitored, followed by a three-day period during which a high-use foraging area was "disturbed" for three days.

Disturbance consisted of one of the authors sitting in a stationary boat in the centre of a high-use Bald Eagle foraging area. Observers watched Bald Eagles during control periods from a motorboat or from a land-based vehicle located at least 500 m. from the birds. During the disturbance periods, observations were apparently conducted from the same motorboat used to "disturb" the eagles. Daily observation periods, often begun at first light, were usually eight hours long, and included morning low tide, which coincided with peak foraging activities.

Normal Bald Eagle activities were monitored continuously if possible. During periods when one of the pair was incubating or brooding, only the foraging individual was watched. Later during the nestling period, both members of the pair were watched as they foraged. All observations of eagles and human activities were plotted on large scale photographs that allowed identification of individual trees, pilings and other eagle