

B.C. FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1994-1995

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Abstract — Thirty-one 1994-1995 records of 27 species were accepted as authentic by the B.C. Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee. Nine records of eight species were considered either insufficiently documented or incorrect.

Key words: British Columbia, rare bird reports.

The following report summarizes B.C. Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee decisions on reports submitted to it in 1994 and 1995. When there were only a small number of observers, all observers' names included in the submission are listed. When such a list is too long, only the first observer and those who submitted field notes (*) are listed. (ph.) indicates that photographs were taken. No names are listed for those records which were not accepted. Records are considered "accepted" if fewer than two members reject the record, and "not accepted" if more than two reject it. If exactly two members reject a record, then the record is re-circulated with copies of members' comments from the first round of voting. In some cases, all the evidence is sent out to appropriate experts for their adjudication. In this period, for example, the Hermit Warbler information was sent to Dr. Michael L. Morrison for his opinion.

Members of the committee during this period were Barbara Begg, Jack Bowling, Dick Cannings, Gary Davidson, Rick Howie, Alvaro Jaramillo, Derrick Marven and Chris Siddle.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) (94-10)

One immature, Kalamalka Lake, Vernon, 25 September 1994, Phil Gehlen (*), Chris Siddle (*), Mary Collins.

SNOWY EGRET (94-22)

One immature, Harrison River Bridge, 6-7 November 1994, John Dorsey (*), Mike Toochin, Rex Kenner (*), plus many others.

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*) (94-3)

One adult, north end of Acland Road, North Kelowna, 16 April 1994, Chris Charlesworth (*), Chris Siddle (ph.), plus several others. Charlesworth (1994) described details of this bird, which was first reported on 13 April and last seen 22 April.

EMPEROR GOOSE (*Chen canagica*) (94-23)

One adult, Centennial Park, Delta, 4 December 1994, Allen Poynter (ph., *). NOTE: On 5 December 1994, this bird collided with a B.C. Hydro powerline and broke a

leg; it was picked up by Wildlife Rescue on 11 December at the Beach Grove Golf Course.

FALCATED TEAL (*Anas falcata*) (94-2)

One male in alternate plumage, Tofino mudflats, 19-22 April 1994, Rory (*), William and Aurora Paterson. Paterson (1994) described details of this occurrence.

FALCATED TEAL (95-1)

One male in alternate plumage, Tofino Inlet, 20 January to 26 February 1995, Bryan Gates (*), Barbara Begg (*), Mark Wynja (*), Guy Luneau (*), Aziza Cooper (*), Robert Ramsey (*).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*) (95-11)

One adult, light morph, Highway 97A, 9 km. north of Enderby, 13 May 1995, Chris Siddle (*), Elsie Nykyfork.

YELLOW RAIL (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) (94-11)

One adult, Ottertail Marshes, 10 km. south of Field, Yoho National Park, 10 June 1994, Peter Sherrington (*), Wayne Smith, Cliff Wallis, Cleve and Ray Werschler. Details, including a drawing of the bird, were described by Sherrington (1994).

WHOOPIING CRANE (*Grus americana*) (95-15)

One, near the Gravelle Ferry on the Quesnel River NTS map sheet 93 B/16, 15 August 1995, Lorraine Andrusiak (*), Shey Simpson (*), Brian Mitchell (*).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*) (94-14)

One adult male of subspecies *L. l. baueri*, 112th Street, Delta, 6 August 1994, Alvaro Jaramillo (*), Richard Veit, plus at least six others. Jones and Holder (1996) listed this bird as being present from 3 to 21 August.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*) (94-17)

One adult moulting from alternate into basic plumage, Iona Sewage Treatment Plant, Richmond, 3-4 September 1994, Rick Toochin (*), Tom Plath (ph.), Sharon Toochin (ph.), plus many others. Further details, including two photographs by Tom Plath, were published by Toochin (1995a).

SLATY-BACKED GULL (*Larus schistisagus*) (95-3)

One adult in basic plumage, Delta, 19 February to 5 March 1995, Alvaro Jaramillo (*, ph.), Mark Wynja (*).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*) (94-18)

One juvenile, Ucluelet, 24 October to 5 November 1994, Derrick Marven (*, ph.), Keith and Pat Taylor.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO (*Coccyzus americanus*) (94-20)

One found dead, Kelowna, 27 July 1994, Verna Smythe.

NOTE: This record was not reviewed by the committee. The specimen was given to R. J. Cannings and is now in the Cowan Vertebrate Museum at the University of British Columbia (specimen # 15169). Two photographs were provided to the committee for our records.

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD (*Calypte costae*) (95-13)

One adult male, Port Coquitlam, 2 June 1995, Larry Cowan (*), Karen Bidniak (ph.).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (94-15)

One, Blackie Spit, South Surrey, 13 August 1994, Jo Ann MacKenzie (*), plus several others.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*) (94-21)

One, Triangle Island, 29-30 September 1994, Rick Toochin (*), Mike Toochin. Further details were published by Toochin (1995b). Although there are previous records for British Columbia (Campbell *et al.* 1997), this is the first provincial record with satisfactory documentation (Campbell *et al.* 1997).

TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (94-19)

One, Esquimalt Lagoon, Victoria, 10-14 November 1994, Derrick Marven (*, ph.), Keith Taylor, David Allinson, plus many others.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Polioptila caerulea*) (94-13)

One male in alternate plumage, Bowen Island, 12 June 1994, Sandra Sutherland (*). Campbell *et al.* (1997) considered this the third record for British Columbia.

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*) (94-9)

One adult 8 km. southwest of Swan Lake on road to Tumbler Ridge, 20 June 1994, Mark Phinney (*), Sandra Kinsey, Laird Law. Campbell *et al.* (1997) listed this as the fourteenth British Columbia record.

SIBERIAN ACCENTOR (*Prunella montanella*) (94-24)

One bird seen by many observers over several weeks; Mr. Kime's report also mentions a second bird seen less frequently during the period, Tappen, 5 March to 10 April

1994, Frank Kime (*, video).

Further details of the event were published by Kime (1994) and a detailed description, with a photograph in Kime and Kime (1995). Another photograph appeared in Campbell *et al.* 1997:Figure 625). This is British Columbia's second record, the first to be verified by more than a single observer and by photographs (Kime and Kime 1995; Campbell *et al.* 1997). All previous North American records are from Alaska, except for one near Port Townsend, Washington (Jaramillo 1994). All previous North American records have been single day events (Jaramillo 1994).

YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*) (95-8)

One immature, Martindale Flats, Saanich, 4-8 September 1995, Jo Ann MacKenzie (*), Barbara Begg (*), Derrick Marven (*), Bryan Gates (*), plus many others. Campbell *et al.* (1997) considered this the third record for British Columbia.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*Lanius ludovicianus*) (95-9)

One, Martindale Flats, Saanich, 6-7 September 1995, Bryan Gates (*, ph.), Barbara Begg (*).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Dendroica caerulescens*) (94-5)

One male, University of British Columbia Endowment Lands, 20 April 1994, Vancouver, Karen Wiebe (*).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (*Dendroica fusca*) (95-5)

One adult male in alternate plumage, near Steamboat Creek, 60 km. west of Fort Nelson, 5 June 1995, Prue Spitmann (*). Details of this sighting were published by Spitmann (1996).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER (95-6)

One immature, Vernon, 29 August 1995, Chris Siddle (*).

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*) (94-6)

One female, Old Hedley Road, 11 km. east of Princeton, 20 May 1994, Kim Herzig (*).

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW (*Amphispiza bilineata*) (94-12)

One adult male in alternate plumage, Maple Ridge, 27 May to 4 June 1994, Amy Newman (ph., *), Greg Vaughan, Jo Ann MacKenzie, Wayne Weber, plus many others. This and the next record are among 19 occurrences listed for Canada in a review by Escott (1994).

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW (94-8)

One adult male in alternate plumage, Commonage Road, Vernon, 3 July 1994, Phil Gehlen (*), Mary Collins.

LARK BUNTING (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) (95-2)

One adult male in alternate plumage, 1 km. north of the

U.S. border crossing at Nelway, 27 May 1995, Douglas Cooper (*), Paul van Wijk.

BRAMBLING (*Fringilla montifringilla*) (94-16)
One adult male in alternate plumage, Valemont,
4 September 1994, Judy Warne (*).

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY (*Sula nebouxi*) (95-7)
One immature, Hecate Straits, 15 July 1995.

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*) (94-4)
One adult, Richmond, 28 April 1994.

WHITE-TAILED KITE (95-8)
One, Pitt Meadows, 18 April 1995. This bird was reported to be present in Pitt Meadows on all but one day from 18-22 April (Toochin 1996).

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) (94-1)
One, Delta, 28 January 1994.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (*Buteo lineatus*) (95-20)
One, Alouette River, 4 December 1995.

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LONG-TOED STINT (*Calidris subminuta*) (95-12)
One adult, Reifel Refuge, 19 September 1995.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) (95-19)
One, Richmond, 30 May 1995.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (95-10)
One, Prince George, 25-26 August 1995.

HERMIT WARBLER (*Dendroica occidentalis*) (94-7)
One male, Alberni Valley, 18-27 May 1994.

NOTE: This report gave the committee considerable difficulty. The report was accompanied by a tape recording of the bird, but the similarity between this bird's song and that of a Townsend's Warbler (*D. townsendi*) and the possibility of hybrids still left the committee with a split decision. All the information was sent to Michael L. Morrison, University of California, Berkeley. He concluded that the bird was not a Townsend's Warbler, might be a Hermit, but was probably a hybrid. After consulting with Sievert A. Rohwer of the Burke Museum at the University of Washington, the original observers now also believe the bird most likely to have been a Hermit x Townsend's Warbler hybrid (Innes and Innes 1995).