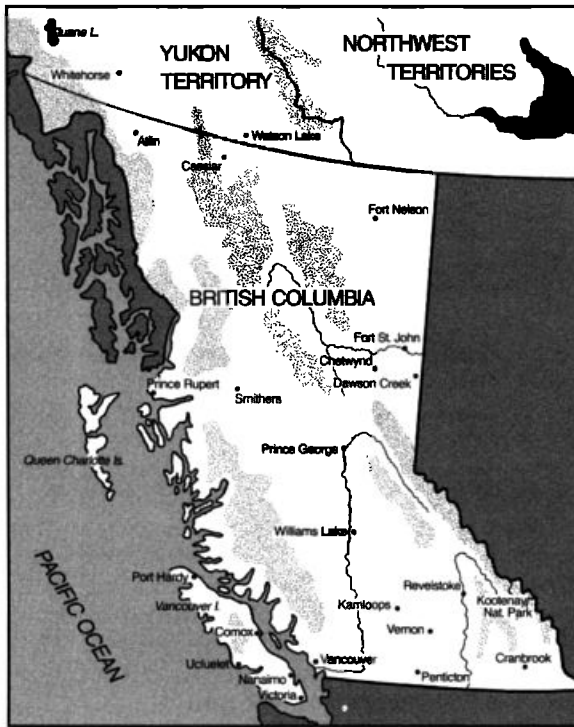


British Columbia–Yukon



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Most of the Region experienced a cool and wet spring interspersed with warmer periods. Probably the warmest weather, relative to time of year, occurred in early March in the south. April on the other hand provided most areas with more consistent snowfall than what was experienced in winter and thus a delayed leaf-out in the north. Birds responded to local weather conditions in a variety of ways, and large-scale patterns were not easily discernable. Individuals that were migrating north during warm stretches arrived record early, such as Cliff Swallows in the interior. Cooler wetter weather seemed to be the source of numerous fallouts and served to concentrate birds such as Western Tanagers, White-crowned Sparrows, and warblers in the valleys. Drought conditions to the east of the Region also may have influenced the invasion of

Black-necked Stilts in the south and Swainson's Hawks in the northeast.

Abbreviations: Chichester (Chichester Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna); C.I.P. (Cottonwood I. Park, Prince George); F.E.T.W. (Forests for the World, Prince George), Maude-Roxby (Maude-Roxby Bird Sanctuary); P.G. (Prince George), Reifel (Reifel I. Bird Sanctuary); R.P.B.S. (Rocky Point Banding Station); U.B.C. (University of British Columbia); U.N.B.C. (University of Northern British Columbia, P.G.); Whse. (Whitehorse, Yukon).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Red-throated Loons are seen only in small numbers during migration through the c. interior; e.g., 4 on Stuart L. near Ft. St. James 16 May (RRa). A single Pacific Loon was seen with a small flock of Common Loons at Kalamoior Park on the westside of Kelowna 30 Apr (*fide* DB). A notable spring congregation of Common Loons on Williams L. peaked at 180 on 18 Apr (PR). An alternate-plumaged

Yellow-billed Loon, a rare spring migrant, was at Judas Creek, Marsh L. 26 May (CE, PSi). An Eared Grebe, accidental in the Yukon, was reported from Schwatka L. 4 May (JJ). A concentration of 500 Western Grebes on Arrow L., Nakusp 5 May (GSD) was a good count for recent years. A Clark's Grebe was observed from the Iona South Jetty, Richmond 25 Apr (RTo). A juv. **Magnificent Frigatebird**, accidental in the Region, was sighted from a whalewatching boat off Flores I. near Tofino 12 May (MW). Rarely seen in the lower mainland, 15 American White Pelicans were seen on Iona Bay 27–28 May (m. ob.). They were observed roosting on the low tide, then feeding on the high tide. Another pair was seen flying over Maillardville in a southerly direction (*fide* LC). Where these birds are expected, Williams L. hosted a growing flock of 13 on 13 Apr (PR) that had reached 60 by 21 Apr (PR), with a few lingering until 26 May (PR). A Double-crested Cormorant shared a sandbar with the pelicans on Williams L. and was later joined by 3 others 28 Apr (PR). The cormorant that wintered in the Nelson area was last seen at Tagham 9 Apr (RW). The most northerly records of the species were from the Yukon: one at its traditional location on L. Laberge 29 Apr (*fide* BL), one at nearby Jackfish Bay 15 May (HG, YBC), and one was seen passing by Whse. 30 Apr (JJ). Great Egrets continue their range expansion, and this spring was no exception. Not only is the number of records on the increase, the egrets are also ranging farther afield. Yukon's first **Great Egret** was a sensational find at Partridge Cr. Farm on the Stewart R. in c. Yukon 18 May (DB, VB); it remained in the area at least through 19 May (CE, HG, PSi). Other individuals included singles at Deadman L. s. of Oliver 12 Apr (HK, JK), Guichon Ranch Ponds near Kamloops 1–6 May (GG), and Twin Creeks Ranch, Upper Hat Cr. 13 May (PM). A Snowy Egret was seen three km upstream from Robson on the Columbia R. 26 May (EB) for the only report of this casual visitor. Very rare in the Region, 7 **White-faced Ibis** were found at Somenos Marsh, Duncan 14–17 May (SW, EW), and 3 were still present there 19 & 28 May (DB, DM). Potentially 2 of these same birds were seen briefly along Sullivan Rd. near Sayward, n. Vancouver I. just before they took flight and headed s. 18 May; they returned again on 19 May (*fide* GM). A migration watch 26 Feb–27 May in Whse. recorded a total of 7058 swans (33% Trumpeter, 22% Tundra, 45% unidentified) (JJ, AR). Turkey Vultures continue to increase in the province and are expanding their range northward, as evidenced by 2 ads seen near McBride 17 May (JS). Nineteen

Greater White-fronted Geese were in Giscome, e. of P.G. 5 Mar (MA), and the next day 107 were present (NK). This is by far the largest single location tally on record for the British Columbian interior. A Snow Goose, very rare in the Okanagan, joined a flock of Canada Geese at the Summerland Research Centre 7 Mar (TL). Rarely seen in flocks along the Columbia R./Arrow Lakes Valley, 12 Snow Geese near Robson 24 Apr (PG) were unusual. Ross's Geese were well represented this spring, with singles in Surrey 30 Apr (RTo) and in a field with Canda Geese 22 km n. of Merritt 24–27 Mar (RH, SR), the latter a 4th local record and in the same area where 11 were found in Apr 1997. A flock of 40 Ross's Geese in the Kispiox Valley n. of Hazelton 2 May (RS) furnished the highest tally ever recorded in the Region; they were with 8 Snow Geese. Two Ross's were seen in flight over Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver 28 Apr (RTo). Five Brant, rare migrants in s. Yukon, were at Judas Cr. 26 May (CE, PSi). Wood Ducks arrived early in the cen. interior, where 8 were noted on Williams L. 1 Apr (PR). The Shelley Oxbows of the Fraser R. 15 km e. of P.G. hosted 21 on 11 Apr (CA) and an impressive 40 there 13 Apr (HA, DD). At the n. edge of their range, a pair was near downtown Ft. St. James 14 May (RRa), providing the 2nd local record. Eurasian Wigeon have become such a regular sight along the coast that they are no longer mentioned. In the interior, where they are much less common, they are nevertheless increasing, although almost all sightings are of single males such as one on Vaseux L. in the s. Okanagan 6 Mar (WW), one on Munson's Pond in Kelowna 21 Mar (*vide* CC), one in Vernon 21 Apr (DGC), and 4 between 23 Mar (JA) and 8 Apr (GSD) in the Kootenay region. At least 9 (some 15 sightings) were at Williams L., a significant count for the interior (PR). A male Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal and a hybrid Common x Green-winged Teal were at Boundary Bay Regional Park in Tsawwassen 30 Mar (*vide* CG). Another Common Teal, the Yukon's 2nd, was noted at M'Clintock Bay 22 Apr–5 May (CE, JJ, PSi). Kelowna's returning individual was at Maude-Roxby 16–18 Apr (*vide* CC). A male Northern Pintail x Mallard hybrid was a curious sight on the Stewart R., Yukon 18 May (PSi). Rare in the Okanagan, a pair of Harlequin Ducks was seen on Swan L., Vernon 28 Apr (DGC)

HAWKS THROUGH OWLS

Laird Law discovered a promising raptor migration viewpoint last year near Stoner, 35 km s. of Prince George. This year he and his keen-eyed helpers devoted eight days in Mar

Table 1. Raptor migration totals for Stoner Mountain during March and April.

Species	Age	Total
Osprey		11
Bald Eagle	imm.	83
	ad.	79
Northern Harrier		33
Sharp-shinned Hawk		90
Cooper's Hawk		6
Accipiter sp.		3
Red-tailed Hawk		93
Rough-legged Hawk		17
Golden Eagle	imm.	16
	ad.	17
	unaged	2
American Kestrel		3
Merlin		11
raptor sp.		14

and 25 days in Apr to monitoring from this point. Of particular note was the number of Cooper's Hawks, a species that has been seen with increasing frequency the past decade in the c. interior (see Table 1).

Northern Harriers exhibited a strong migration, with a total of 488 counted on the Whse. migration watch 6 Apr–24 May (JJ, AR). A pair of Swainson's Hawks exhibited breeding behavior near Rolla in the Peace R. area 19 May (JF); the nest was found in open farmland 20 May (JF, MP). This constitutes the first breeding record for this part of the province and likely occurred as a result of the prairie drought. R.P.B.S. at the s. tip of Vancouver I. hosted 2 Swainson's Hawks (their 6th local record) 27 May (DA). East of Winfield, on Beaver L. Road, an ad. light-morph **Ferruginous Hawk** was observed along with good numbers of raptors before it caught a strong tailwind and headed n. 25 Mar (CC, GC). The northward migration of Rough-legged Hawks through the Dawson Cr. area is an annual event. This year, their migration was both more pronounced and more prolonged. The first sign of this northward movement came on 3 Apr (MP) and by 12 Apr, there were hundreds of birds present, as evidenced by the scarcity of vacant power poles and fence posts. The end of this peak came 19 Apr, and by 22 Apr the birds were scarce (MP). Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine how many were involved in this migration. Casual in the lower mainland, a Broad-winged Hawk was seen rising on thermals from Mt. Seymour 6

May (*vide* CG). Closer to known areas of occurrence was a single bird in the Del Rio area ne. of Chetwynd 24 May (JF, MP). Evidence continues to suggest that not only is this small *Buteo* taking a shine to cen. and n. British Columbia, but spring arrival dates are becoming earlier. The first sighting in the P.G. area was of an ad. at U.N.B.C. 4 May (KO), where they were seen periodically, and in adjacent F.F.T.W. through the month. Mating was observed mid-month, and nesting somewhere on the U.N.B.C. site is strongly suspected. When this species was first detected in the area over a decade ago, arrival dates were near the end of May. An individual of the rare dark morph was seen flying n. over Kalamo Park on Kelowna's Westside 6 May (CC). An Osprey was record early in Tofino 14 Apr (AD). The Whse. migration watch turned up an impressive 237 Golden Eagles through Mar (JJ, AR). Not to be outdone by mere raptors, a single Sharp-tailed Grouse overflew the Stoner Raptor Watch Station 27 Mar (LL). There are precious few records of this species e. of the Fraser R. and w. of the Rockies. A lingering Snowy Owl was on the Vancouver International Airport foreshore 5 Apr (*vide* CG). Following their unprecedented winter invasion, some Northern Hawk Owls remained late, with some of them as suspected breeders. One such individual was seen at Upper Hat Cr. 2 May (PM). At least one pair remained to breed in an Aspen copse on Becher's Prairie near Riske Cr., where 6 young were reported (not more than 25 m from an

active Northern Saw-whet Owl nest). Frequent sightings this spring suggest a second pair is breeding in the Springhouse area in similar habitat (*vide* PR). A single bird at Meadow Cr. in the w. Kootenays remained until 4 Mar (GSD). Near mid-Mar, the arrival of a warm front heralded a change to milder weather. This seemed to be the signal for most remaining Northern Hawk Owls to depart. The famous P.G. "jailbird" was last seen 15 Mar (JB), the 2 that had been on territory on the Salmon Valley Road 25 km n. of P.G. were last seen 13 Mar (VB), and the last reported individual was near Quesnel airport 23 Mar (RRa). Great Gray Owls were also rather plentiful in the n. and cen. areas of the province this past winter. In the Peace R. area, some were thought to have stayed to breed, as they were seen sporadically through the spring season in a variety of locations (m. ob.). Many remained along British Columbian sections of the Alaska Highway, with 21 tallied between 95 km s. of Fort Nelson and the Yukon border 3–5 Mar; one was also seen in the Yukon w. of Little Rancheria Cr. 5 Mar (HG). A Northern Saw-whet Owl took up residence in a nest box n. of Dawson Cr.; when it was examined 27 May, it held 7 well-feathered owlets (MP et al.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PIGEONS

An American Golden Plover was very early 29–30 Apr (MP, JF) at McQueen's Slough, Dawson Cr., where ice still covered much of the pond. Also there were 3 Hudsonian Godwits (MP). A total of 12 Pacific Golden-Plovers was tallied near Tofino, on the w. coast Vancouver I. 29 Apr–2 June, with the first bird being record early by eight days. This local northward migration was discovered only five years ago. Whse. birders enjoyed a fallout of Pacific Golden-Plovers in May, which was particularly noteworthy, as this species was only first documented in the Yukon in spring 2000. A total of 24 individuals was observed, with one at Tagish 5–6 May (AR, CE, HG, YBC) and 16 at Shallow Bay 10 May (JJ, AR), one at M'Clintock Bay 8 May (CE), 2 at Tagish 11 May (JJ, AR), and 4 at Tagish 13 May (CE, Psi).

Hudsonian Godwits were well reported in the Yukon: 2 were in Whse. 4 May (JJ, AR), 22 at the Whse. sewage lagoons (CE) and 2 on M'Clintock Bay 5 May (CE, Psi), 24 at Tagish 6 May (CE, HG, YBC) and 20 there 8 May (JJ, AR), 5 near Haines Jct. 6–7 May (CD, LD, DH, SH), one at Judas Cr. 17 May (CE), and one at Swan L. near Whse. 26 May (BD, HG). The first report of returning American Avocets to the Okanagan was a single bird in Pentiction 18 Apr (AB). By 25 Apr (LG), 29 American Avocets, most of which were already paired,

were frequenting both Alki L. and Robert L., Kelowna. This was an early start for this species especially considering the numbers involved. The habitat at Alki L. was more extensive than usual, which later proved to be beneficial to migrating **Black-necked Stilts**. The number of avocets increased to 51 by 30 Apr (*vide* DB), making it the largest avocet colony in the Region, with a few smaller colonies in the Cariboo and a potential colony at Beaver Ranch Flats near Kamloops. This latter location hosted 11 avocets 10 May, 9 on 11 May and only 6 by 13 May, when courtship behavior and copulation were observed (BS, PS). The Kootenays were also host to numerous avocets; a flock of 28 at Nakusp 5 May (GSD), 3 at Duck L. 6 May, increasing to 6 on 10 May, with 3 remaining 16 May (MAB), and 2 at Castelgar 24 May (RW).

Solitary Sandpipers, rare on the outer coast, were present at the Long Beach Golf Course as singles 29 Apr and 4 May (AD). A pair of Long-billed Curlews 1–2 May (GSD) was at Nakusp, where this grassland species rarely visits. A single curlew was found at the Tofino mudflats on 26 Apr (AD), where rare. Good numbers of Least Sandpipers were reported in the Okanagan, with a high count of 13 at

SA Probably as a result of the drought conditions in the prairies, **Black-necked Stilts** invaded southern British Columbia. They were recorded in unprecedented numbers and found from as far e. as Creston and as far w. as Vancouver I. The first arriving stilts were at Beaver Cr. Park, e. of Trail with 4 on 18 Apr (GN). Alki L., near Kelowna, hosted 5 on 21 Apr (RyT, JF), which later grew to 12 on 25 Apr (LG) and at least one was still present 20 May (m. ob.). The largest flock ever recorded in the Region came from Elizabeth L. at Cranbrook, where 19 were observed 26 Apr (TW et al.) A pair was at the mouth of the Englishman R., Parksville, furnishing the 5th record for Vancouver I. 26–29 Apr (GM). Another pair was in a flooded field in Surrey 30 Apr (GT), where a single bird returned 8 May (*vide* LC). A flock of 4 was found in Albert McGowan Park, Kamloops 26 Apr (*vide* RH), where 2 were present 1 May (MW et al.) and back to 3 by 5 May (WW et al.). A flooded field in n. Langley held 6 stilts for a brief stay 9 May (DB). And finally a pair was at the Beaver Ranch Flats 10 May (BS, PS).

Rose's Pond, Vernon 28 Apr (DGC). A Western Sandpiper, a rare spring transient in the interior, was at Alki L. 29 Apr (*vide* DB). If not a wintering bird, then very early at Maplewood Conservation Area was a Spotted Sandpiper 4 Apr (*vide* CG).

This spring provided an unprecedented high of 173 Marbled Godwits on the w. coast of Vancouver I. 18 Apr–1 Jun (AD). During Tofino's Shorebird Festival on 5 May, two visiting biologists found two radio-tagged birds, one a dowitcher that had been recorded 3 days previous in San Francisco, California, and a Dunlin, noted 2 days earlier at Gray's Harbor, Washington. (*vide* AD). A **Bar-tailed Godwit**, very rare on the sw. coast, was in alternate plumage among 100 Whimbrel in Tofino, furnishing a 2nd local record 16–19 May (ph AD). A high count of 19 Red Knots was made on the Tofino mudflats 9 May (AD). On the early side was a Wilson's Phalarope at Alki L. 28 Apr (DGC). Guichon Flats near Kamloops hosted a remarkable 105 Wilson's Phalaropes along with 15 Red-necked Phalaropes 18 May (WW). An ad. Franklin's Gull was catching insects on the wing at Alki L., then at Robert L. 15 May (CC). Two of British Columbia's Ring-billed Gull colonies were censused this spring 512 nests were recorded from Grant I., an increase of six nests over last year, with egg-laying commencing its earliest ever by 26 Apr (DGC); and a new colony located at the Osoyoos sewage ponds contained approximately 300 nests (DoB, DGC). A third-year California Gull in Whse. 3–4 May (CE) provided a rare spring record for the Yukon California Gulls nesting on Grant I. had increased by 64 nests to a total of 271 (DGC) Herring Gull migration was in full swing with counts of 2000 on 23 Apr and about 4000 on 7 May at the Whse. landfill (CE). A small but growing population nests on Grant I., with 11 nests occupied this year (DGC). In the Chilliwack area, a first-summer Iceland Gull was at the Bailey Landfill 10–11 Apr (*vide* CG), a third-year bird was also there 17 Apr (DK, RT). Glaucous-winged Gulls continue to increase in the interior. In the s., they are found year-round with a few pairs nesting on Grant I at Carr's Landing (†DGC). An individual at Williams L. 19 May (KW, PR) was locally significant. Glaucous-winged Gulls put on a reasonable showing in the Yukon, with about six different individuals seen in Whse. 22 Apr through May (CE, JJ). Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted more frequently than usual along the e. coast of Vancouver I. Three birds seen flying by R.P.B.S. established their 4th record 27 May (DA) and indicated the source for birds seen farther n. On the early side, a

Caspian Tern was on the South Jetty at Iona, Richmond 11 Apr (*fide* CG), while another was record early for the outer coast, seen in Tofino 17 Apr (AD). A flock of 4 on 23 May (m. ob.) was at Williams L., where considered casual. Singles were on Duck L. near Creston 6 & 9 May and 3 there on 16 May (MAB). In the n.-cen. interior, this species has moved from the unexpected to the expected list, they have been annual for quite a few years now. This spring, one bird frequented Stuart L. near Fort St. James for the last three weeks of May (RRa, JV), one or 2 were at the Bird Sanctuary in Vanderhoof the last two weeks of May (m. ob.), and a couple were on the big sandbar at the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers 20 May (CA, SH, JB). A pair of Band-tailed Pigeons visited a feeder in Castlegar, where rare, 28–29 Mar (EB).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS

At the n. edge of their range, a pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers was at Alkali L. 24 May (PR). A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** was an exceptional rarity at Haines Junction 12 Apr (RJ). An out-of-province birder found one of British Columbia's prize rarities: a **White-headed Woodpecker** was briefly seen on Anarchist Mtn., Osoyoos 11 Apr (TH). As he returned to his vehicle to retrieve an item he had forgotten, the woodpecker flew over! A Pileated Woodpecker, rare in the Yukon, was noted on numerous occasions at its traditional location along the Albert Cr. Rd. at Upper Liard 5 May+ (TM-K). An early returning Hammond's Flycatcher was found at Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver 17 Apr (*fide* CG). Two Least Flycatchers, rare in the lower mainland, were reported at Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park e. of Chilliwack 24 May (*fide* LC) near where nesting had occurred last summer. Dusky Flycatchers are casual along the lower mainland; one was seen and heard at Queen Elizabeth Park 27 Apr (JK), 4 were present at Cecil Green, U.B.C., Vancouver 28 Apr (RT, KR), with 2 more on this date at Queen Elizabeth Park (RTo). A Say's Phoebe turned up in Fort St. James, where casual, 14 May (RRa). A Steller's Jay, very rare in the Yukon, was seen briefly at Silver City near Klwane L. 20 May (DR). A hybrid Blue Jay x Steller's Jay visited a Courtenay feeder in early Mar (ph. BW) providing the first documented record for the Region of this hybrid. Considering the slow but steady westward expansion of the Blue Jay, one might expect to find additional such hybrids from the contact zone along the foothills of the Rockies and the Peace R. area. The two Blue Jays that wintered in the Glenrosa, West Bank area s. of Kelowna

remained until at least 23 Mar (*fide* CC). Other spring sightings included 2 at Robson 28 Mar (EB) and a single at a feeder in Johnson's Landing 10 May (GS).

The White-breasted Nuthatch that wintered in Nakusp remained until early Apr (GSD). The two overwintering birds in the Prince George area disappeared early in the period; the male at C.I.P. was last seen 2 Mar (JF), and the male last visited a Quesnel feeder 20 Mar (AL, DL). A very early Cliff Swallow had reached Oliver in the S. Okanagan 23 Mar (*fide* CC), and eight days later, as the first reached the lower mainland at Iona S.T.P. 31 Mar (*fide* CG), one had already arrived in P.G. 31 Mar (JF). This was extremely early for a Cliff; in fact, the P.G. checklist does not have any records until mid-Apr. The Whse. Shipyard's American Crow returned to its favorite place 19 Apr for at least the 5th year in a row (CE). The first overwintering Gray Catbird for the Region disappeared 19 Mar and was later picked up dead 21 Mar (DM), bearing signs of a battle with a cat. Single Northern Mockingbirds were in Port Moody 25–30 Apr (HM), Surrey 3 May (IK), s. Langley 30 May (IK), and R.P.B.S. 13 May (DA). On the Sunshine Coast, a Sage Thrasher was at Port Stalashen, between Gibsons and Sechelt, furnishing the 5th record for the British Columbia coast 21 Apr (*fide* CG). On the early side was an ad. female Lapland Longspur, at the Iona South Jetty 11 Apr (*fide* CG). A Tennessee Warbler was in Nakusp 5 May (GSD), where very rare. A singing Tennessee Warbler was heard and seen near Cecil Green Park 27 May (*fide* LC). On 29 Apr, 98 Orange-crowned and 6 Townsend's Warblers were counted moving along the treed shores of the Tofino mudflats, indicating a fallout; numbers like this have never been recorded here previously (AD). A Nashville Warbler, rare but regular along the sw. coast, was seen in Stanley Park, Vancouver 23 Apr (JD) and another at Iona Island 24 Apr (RTo). Rare anywhere in the Region, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Grant Narrows Regional Park, Pitt Meadows 29 May (DB). The **Black-throated Blue Warbler** that wintered at Balfour was still visiting the feeder until at least 21 Apr (GDM). Townsend's Warblers were early, with 4 at Harrison Hot Springs 5 Apr (*fide* CG). Rare in spring migration in the Peace R. area, a flock of 8 was found in a mixed-species flock 14 May at Dawson Cr. (JF, MP). A male **Hermit Warbler**, the Region's 4th, was seen with Townsend's Warblers along the Houston Trail at Derby Beach Regional Park (RT). A Palm Warbler continued to be seen in the Southlands area of Vancouver 1–16

Apr (m. ob.). A Black-and-white Warbler at Powers Cr. Park in Westbank, near Kelowna, provided one of a small handful of Okanagan records 11 Apr (MF). This park was the site of a warbler fallout that contained eight species, of note were one Tennessee, 30 Yellow-rumped, one MacGillivray's (remarkably early), and 50 Wilson's Warblers (CC, RyT). Another Black-and-white Warbler was found at Cecil Green Park 28 Apr (*fide* CG). MacGillivray's Warbler was early at Sargent Bay Provincial Park 6 km n. of Sechelt, on the Sunshine Coast 13 Apr (RR); the first arrival in Vancouver was 10 days later. Yellow-breasted Chat researchers located at least 21 individuals this spring in the s. Okanagan (*fide* DC). In Victoria, where very rare, a Yellow-breasted Chat was found and videotaped 21 May (*fide* DM).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Very rare was a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak that visited a feeder in Kaslo 29 May (EZ), and a pair was at a McBride feeder 20–22 May (CL). A male Lazuli Bunting was seen and

SAThis was another "Tanager Spring," much like that of 1996. Their spectacular gathering in the downtown core of P.G. during the period 5–25 May was so concentrated as to be mind-boggling. For example 50–60 Western Tanagers on four suet balls in one yard in the South Fort George subdivision 20 May (CA, SH, JB) were scrambling for food as a result of the late, cold spring conditions. The main driving force for their presence appeared to be a storm track at P.G. latitudes that stopped northbound birds in their tracks. Mackenzie did not have any tanagers above normal numbers, whereas Quesnel also reported significant concentrations. Williams L. did not notice a buildup until the 3rd week of May that coincided with the slumping southward of the storm track into the Cariboo. This fallout proved to be a great opportunity to teach the public about the most northerly member of this tropical family; the local media featured several stories on the visitors, and other curious members of the public kept birders' phones ringing off the hook. The Peace R. area had a very noticeable Western Tanager migration in mid-May (MP) to the extent that many were lining up at suet feeders. A female at Judas Cr. 26 May (CE, Psi) provided the 2nd record for the Whse. area.

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heard singing along Headquarters Rd. in Courtenay 13 May (NH), this being the 2nd local record (the other being of 2 ad. males on territory in Comox, May 1997). Males of a few finch species seem to be indicating expansion of range into the cen. interior, possibly as a result of global warming; Lazuli Buntings made appearances at a feeder in Vanderhoof 27 May (*vide* BMC) and at a Ft. St. James feeder 29 May (*vide* JV). Following a similar trend were American Goldfinches in the latter half of May: a male at Marguerite Ferry 15 May (AP), a female in Quesnel 16 May (MR), a male at a College Heights feeder, P.G. in late May (TMy), and another male in downtown P.G. 28 May (LW, CK). A male Indigo Bunting, new for the P.G. checklist area, was at a feeder in the College Heights area of sw. P.G. most of the day 19 May (ph. BH). A Lazuli Bunting, rare on Vancouver I., was on Mt. Tolmie, Victoria 21 May (*vide* DM). A Chipping Sparrow furnished a rare outer coast record at the Long Beach Golf Course near Tofino 3 May (AD). A Brewer's Sparrow, possibly of the *taverneri* race, was singing from the top of a tree near Robson 17 Apr (EB). White-throated Sparrows were in Maple Ridge 23 Apr (JT), Iona I. 24 Apr (RTo), Maple Ridge 25 Apr (CM), and Abbotsford 25 Apr (MC). The overwintering bird in Nakusp remained until late Mar (GSD). A couple of Harris's Sparrows provided rare spring records for the W. Kootenays at Nakusp 2 May (GSD) and Johnson's Landing 5 May (GS). Likely the heaviest passage ever of White-crowned Sparrows occurred in the cen. interior. Just about everyone in the area had their yards swamped during the 22 Apr–25 May period, with the heaviest buildups during the last week of Apr and the first week of May. Many complained of the flocks denuding their yards of precious vegetation. A banding operation at Mugaha Marsh near Mackenzie was banding 60–100 per day with no daily recaptures, suggesting that they were all passage migrants. A few Golden-crowned Sparrows made their way to the flatlands of the ne., with one at Peace I. Park 12 May (JF) and another at McQueen's Slough 20 May (JF, MP). Record early was a Golden-crowned Sparrow in Tofino 16 Apr (AD). The Lapland Longspur migration was atypically lackluster and reportedly the worst migration on record for the Peace R. region. A rather late Snow Bunting was at Beaver Valley, Kootenays 17 Apr (GN). Two male Bobolink arrived early at 150 Mile House 12 May (PR) but soon became difficult to find.

Kelowna's **Great-tailed Grackle**, British Columbia's 3rd and first confirmed 2 Jun 2000, was present through the end of the period (m. ob.). A Common Grackle was a rare sight at Johnson's Landing 7 May (GS). The **Hooded Oriole** found in Richmond in early Jan was seen regularly until 29 Mar (KL, m. ob.). The **Brambling** that wintered in N. Vancouver continued to be seen to 12 Apr (QB). A feeder in Johnson's Landing was treated to a rare sight; 140 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches 31 Mar (GS), 200 on 1 Apr, with some remaining until early May. A fresh juv. Common Redpoll in Whse.-Porter Cr. 18 May (CE) provided further evidence of lowland breeding in the Whse. area. Very unusual was an Evening Grosbeak seen in Whse. 30 Apr (JJ), one of very few spring records for the area.

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