

High-pressure systems dominated the Region, resulting in dry weather over much of the interior. Weak cold fronts occurred in early September and late October. The latter produced the coldest weather, with temperatures dipping below -12° Celsius in the south. A Pacific storm track broke through during November, producing the only really wet and stormy period. Temperatures remained above normal throughout the Region, and snowfall was limited. The mild weather was certainly responsible for the many records of late departures. Winter finches were notably scarce.

Abbreviations: Q.C.I. (Queen Charlotte Islands), R.P.B.O (Rocky Point Banding Observatory, Metchosin, s. Vancouver I.), Whse. (Whitehorse, Yukon).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Six Red-throated Loons were reported from the interior. Most notable were singles 13-27 Oct (WW) on Nicola L. and 9 Nov at Head of the Lake, Vernon (DGC). Yellow-billed Loons also appeared in the s. interior on Nicola L. on 10 Sep (*vide* RJC), while an ad. was on Okanagan L., near Kelowna 31 Oct—1 Nov (BC, DW) and another on Marsh L. near Judas Cr. 7 Nov (BD, CE). A Clark's Grebe was a rare sight on Swan L., Vernon 14 Oct (CC et al.). American White Pelicans are very rare in the Peace R. area; 8 flew over Dawson Cr. 26 Aug (*vide* MP). Brown Pelicans occasionally stray n.; one was found dead on Long Beach 14 Nov (*vide* AD).

Casual along Johnston Strait, an ad. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was seen from the Tsawwassen Terminal 7 Sep (MTo et al.). An ad. Leach's Storm-Petrel was picked up alive in Vancouver Harbour 8 Oct (ph. TP) and later released. There were several records of Double-crested Cormorants from the Kootenays, with a high of 9 at Castlegar 7 Oct (MM). Single Great Blue Herons were at Swan L. 18 Aug (MP) and Dawson Cr. 22 Aug (MP), where rare. Cattle Egrets were scarce, with one at R.P.B.O. 6 Sep (DA) and 2 near Nelson 3 Oct (RW). A record-breaking Sockeye Salmon run probably helped concentrate 40-50 Turkey Vultures near Clearwater 3 Sep (*vide* RH), and a single wandered w. to Tofino 24 Sep (AD). There were five reports of Greater White-fronted Goose from the interior, most notable being 11 at Vernon's Head of the Lake 7 Sep (CS). From the n. came many late waterfowl records: one ad. and one imm. Tundra Swan at Eaglet L., P.G. 11 Nov (SK, LL); a female Gadwall at Stellako R. 24 Nov (JF et al.); a female Blue-winged Teal 17 Oct at Vanderhoof S.T.P. (JF et al.); and 2 Northern Pintails at Stellako R. 24 Nov (JF et al.). Noteworthy waterfowl observations at the Whse. S.T.P. included: 120 Gadwall 17 Sep (CE); a male Eurasian Wigeon 4 Sep (CE); 2000 Northern Shovelers 20-22 Aug (HG); a female-type Harlequin Duck 12 Aug (HG); a male Black Scoter 6 Aug (DC, HG); 600 Buffleheads 19 Sep (HG); and 51 Ruddy Ducks 16 Sep (CE). Surf Scoters were numerous in the Kootenays, with a high count of 37 on 9 Oct at Kokanee Creek P.P. (JA).

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Black Scoters also appeared near Robson in the s. interior, where very rare, with 3 on 28 Oct (EB) and 2 on 6 Nov (MCM). A female King Eider was n. of Skidegate, Q.C.I. 21 Nov (PH).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

An unusual concentration of Bald Eagles—17 imms. and one ad.—occurred at Burton 16 Nov (GSD). Migrant Broad-winged Hawks were seen at various hawkwatch sites, with the most notable being a record-late ad. over downtown Victoria 22 Oct (DA) and Vancouver's 4th, an ad., at Watershed Park 1 Oct (RTo). A dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was very late at Ft. St. James 24 Oct (RR). Despite the overall late and lackluster arrival of Rough-legged Hawks this fall, an early individual was over Black Mt., Kelowna 6 Oct (DGC). During a raptor migra-

Donald G. Cecile

7995 Wilson-Jackson Road

Vernon, British Columbia V1B 3N5

(dcecile@sd22.bc.ca)

tion watch in Pine Pass, a total of 296 Golden Eagles was tallied 3-8 Oct (LL, SK).

The Whse. S.T.P. produced a record count of 102 American Coots 12 & 21 Sep (CE). Sandhill Cranes' migration route transects Vancouver I. just s. of Barkley Sound. They are casual to the n., yet to the s. they are much more numerous; Carmannah Light produced 154 on

SA As has often been noted in this column: "Broad-winged Hawks are rapidly expanding their range in the province." This fall season strengthened that assertion further. The first confirmed nesting for the cen. interior came from Tabor Mt. near P.G., where a pair was accompanied by a single fledged young 20 Aug (LL, 1SK). The nest was located in a White Spruce tree rather than the more usual choice of a deciduous tree. Another potential nest site was discovered near Golden, where ads. were repeatedly seen and calls of young were reportedly heard (†EZ).

18 Sep and 96 on 21 Sep (all JE), both good counts. Highlights of the shorebird migration from the Whse. S.T.P. included: 28 Wilson's Phalaropes 5 Aug (HG); a single Black Turnstone 11-13 Aug (HG); 18 Stilt Sandpipers 14 Aug (HG); 2 Red Phalaropes 22 Aug and a single 31 Aug (HG); single ad. Sanderlings 22 & 27 Aug (HG, CE); 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 9 Sep (HG) and a single 12 Sep (CE); and a juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 19 Sep (HG). The s. interior at Salmon Arm had a good show of plovers with a juv. Black-bellied Plover 6-18 Oct, a juv. American Golden-Plover 8-14 Sep, plus 2 juvs. 6-14 Oct, joined by a 3rd on the 14th (all DGC). Exceptionally late was an American Golden-Plover at Union Bay, e. Vancouver I. 27-30 Nov (†GLM), while Vancouver's latest record was smashed by nearly a month with one 16 Nov at Boundary Bay (RTo, MM). An albino Semipalmated Plover was at Tofino 21-26 Aug (AD). Killdeer totalled 940 at Salmon Arm 14 Sep (DGC), the highest tally ever recorded in the interior.

American Avocets lingered in the s. interior: a juv. at Robert L. 2 Sep (LR) furnished the latest record for the Okanagan, while a single at Burton 22 Sep (GSD) and one at Cranbrook 24 Oct (RH) provided the first fall records for the Kootenays. A Greater Yellowlegs was late at Williams L. 15 Nov (PR). A record count of Lesser Yellowlegs for the s. interior was of 232 at Salmon Arm 1 Sep (DGC). A very late Lesser Yellowlegs was near Vanderhoof 17 Oct (JF et al.). A Whimbrel furnished Salmon Arm's first record 1 Sep (DGC). An ad. Bar-tailed Godwit was at Columbia Beach on the e. coast of Vancouver I. 5-6 Aug (GLM et al.), an ad. male showing characteristics of the *lapponica* race was at Boundary Bay 2 Sep (MT, PC, m. ob.), and a juv. was there 16 Sep (RTo). A Marbled Godwit was very late 14-16 Oct near Tofino (AD). A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was a first for the P.G. area 1-3 Oct (†TH et al.). Fifteen Stilt Sandpipers at Shelley S.T.P. near P.G. 19 Aug (CA) was a good count. Dunlin also had a good showing, the latest being 2 near Fraser L. 24 Nov (CA et al.). Very rare in the s. interior, a molting juv. Red Phalarope was in Salmon Arm 14 Oct (DGC et al.); other juvs. were at Reifel 12-14 Sep (TP et al.) and Boundary Bay 27-29 Sep. Following weeks of severe weather, a wreck of Red Phalaropes developed along the outer coast of Vancouver I., where several birds were seen from shore or found washed up on beaches 10-19 Nov (AD).

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS

Jaegers are seen almost annually over the larger lakes of the interior. A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger

was at Nulki L. in the cen. interior 7 Sep (NK, CA); and a subad. intermediate-morph Parasitic Jaeger along the Kelowna waterfront 10-19 Oct (CC, m. ob.). A juv. Little Gull was seen from R.P.B.O. 28 Sep (RTo). Twelve ad. Bonaparte's Gulls were very late at Creston 24 Nov (LVD). Franklin's Gulls appeared in above-average numbers in the interior: one imm. was on Nicola L. 7 Sep—4 Nov (WW); Salmon Arm had 5 on 1-2 Sep and 2 remaining to 18 Oct (DGC); a juv. was early at Williams L. 3 Aug (PR et al.); an imm. was in Kelowna 8-16 Aug (BL et al.); and the last to leave the Dawson Cr. area was 18 Sep (MP). A few Franklin's Gulls wandered to the coast, with singles at R.P.B.O. 8 Sep (DA) and 12 Oct (JJ). A Slaty-backed Gull was in Chilliwack 3 Nov (RTo). A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake was on Eaglet L., P.G. 13 Oct (CA) and confirmed 15 Oct (ph., †LL), for a first local record. Sabine's Gulls appeared in the s. interior, with singles at Burton 2 Sep (GSD), Douglas L. 7 Sep (WW), and Salmon Arm 8 Sep (CC et al.). Four ads. were with a flock of 60 Common Terns on Douglas L. 8 Sep (WW).

There are few modern records of Yellow-billed Cuckoo, but one imm. managed to survive the cold at Waldie I., Castlegar 18 Oct—1 Nov (ph., †JA, m. ob.). A new banding project at R.P.B.O. to assess Northern Saw-whet Owl migration netted a staggering 210 mid-Sep—late Oct (*vide* DA). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds can only reliably be seen in the Peace R. area, where they have become scarce; a female was at Dawson Cr. 16 Aug (MP). A female-type Rufous Hummingbird, rare in the Yukon, was reported from Whse.—Valleyview 9 Aug (SB). A nearly completely white male Downy Woodpecker frequented a Haines Junction feeder through the fall (SR, WR). Following last fall's White-headed Woodpecker bonanza, a female was present along Camp McKinney Rd., Oliver 28 Aug (GN).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Willow Flycatcher that was recaptured at Vaseux L. 10 Aug (GD), originally banded as an ad. 3 Aug 1995, is now the oldest Willow Flycatcher on record at about 8 years and 2 months old! A Tropical Kingbird was in Ucluelet 7-15 Oct (BSI), where it was often seen hawking insects from a child's swingset. A late Horned Lark was seen at km 298 on the Alaska Hwy, 150 km s. of Fort Nelson 24 Nov (HG). Three Bank Swallows on L. Laberge 4 Oct (CE) set a record late date for the territory. The Region's 4th record of Western Scrub-Jay was a single bird in Agassiz 5 Oct (*vide* JO, ph.). Cedar Waxwings are rare in the Yukon, but an apparent family-group of 6 (1 ad., 5 juvs.) in

Whse. 8-10 Oct combined with a 1 Jul sighting (CE) suggests local breeding.

A Tennessee Warbler, casual along the coast, was at Long Beach, Tofino 6 Sep (†AD); another was found in the s. interior at Salmon Arm 8 Sep (CC et al.), a first local record. The Region's 2nd and 3rd records of Prothonotary Warbler were both males: at Tofino 9-10 Oct (AA, ph. AD et al.) and at Reifel 5-7 Oct (MM, RTo, ph. StO). The Region's 3rd record of Northern Parula was an ad. female netted at R.P.B.O. 23 Aug (ph. DW, MPo, DA). A Palm Warbler was at Shelley S.T.P. 1 Oct (JF) for the 3rd P.G. record, another at R.P.B.O. 28 Sep (DA). A Blackpoll Warbler netted at Vaseux L. furnished the 3rd Okanagan record 27 Aug (GD). A late Wilson's Warbler was at Williams L. 2 Nov (KA). An ad. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher banded 6 Aug at R.P.B.O. (DW et al., ph. LS) furnished a 6th record for the province. It was again relocated nearby 16-18 Aug (AN, DG, DA). A Green-tailed Towhee at Reifel 9-13 Sep (BSu, m. ob.) furnished the 7th record for the province.

A female Bobolink, accidental along the coast, was at Carmannah Light House 1 Oct (ph. JE). Kelowna's Great-tailed Grackle present since May 2000, returned to Kelowna 22 Nov to end of period (RyT et al.). It was limping last winter and now it has lost all of the toes on its right foot yet manages to remain healthy. A first-year male Baltimore Oriole, well away from its summer haunts in the Peace R. area, visited a feeder in Port Alberni 27 Nov & 7 Dec (SA; vt., †GLM). Winter finches were noted to be absent or in very low numbers by all reporting regions.

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): Arti Ahier, David Allinson, Sally Anderson, Kris Andrews, Cathy Antoniazzi, Janice Arndt, Susan Barth, Ed Beynon, Jack Bowling (Prince George, weather summary), Peter Candido, Richard J. Cannings (S. Okanagan), Dannie Carsen, Chris Charlesworth (Kelowna), Bill Cutfield, Gabe David, Gary S. Davidson (Kootenays), Boris Dobrowolsky, Adrian Dorst (Tofino-Ucluelet), Cameron Eckert (Yukon), Jerry Etzkorn, Jamie Fenneman, Helmut Grünberg (Yukon), Denise Gubersky, Peter Hamel (Q.C.I.), Todd Heakes, Randy Hopkins, Rick Howie, John Ireland, Jukka Jantunen, Sandra Kinsey, Nancy Krueger, Barry Lancaster, Laird Law, Derrick Marven, Mike McMann, Guy L. Monty (cen. Vancouver I.), Gwen Nicols, Ann Nightingale, Mark Phinney (Peace River), Jason Osterhold, Tom Plath, Michael Porter, Andy Raniseth Phil Ranson (Cariboo), Randy Rawluk, Sharyn & Wolf Riedl, Lesley Robertson, Laurie Savard, Chris Siddle, Brian Slater, Gail Spitzer, Bob Sundstrom, Mike Tabak, Mike Toochin, Rick Toochin (Vancouver), Sharon Toochin, Linda Van Damme, Wayne Weber, Rita Wege, Don Wilson, David Woodward, Ellen Zimmerman. ☺