

British Columbia



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June started unsettled and cool, but this changed by the third week of the month, as high pressure built in over the Region. There were occasional showers and thunderstorms during the period, but precipitation deficits occurred over large areas, and temperatures were above normal everywhere. It was frequently breezy in many areas, including the coast. These winds were likely the trigger for a significant algal bloom off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Lesser Nighthawk was recorded in the province for the first time ever—with two photographic records during the period.

SWANS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Accidental in summer in the s. interior, a Trumpeter Swan was on Vaseux L. 26 Jul (RuC). The only Yellow-billed Loon reported involved a single on Tameka L. 13 Jun (CD).

Two Clark's Grebes were off Haynes Pt. in Osoyoos 24 Jun (RuC); this species is known to breed farther n., in Salmon Arm. Brown Pelicans continued their northward flight that began in spring, with many more birds from the outer coast: 32 birds at Cleland I. 2 Jun (RP); 35 at Long Beach 7 Jun (AD); 50 at Plover Reef 7 Jun (MM); and 30 at Vargas I. 17 Jun (GA). The northward movement of pelicans ended in Jul, with only two reports: 18 off Carmanah Pt. 14 Jul (JE); and one at Cleland 29 Jul (RP). Most of these pelican records were gratefully received from the Strawberry Island Research Foundation, based in Tofino. A Double-crested Cormorant was seen 14 Jun in Salmon Arm (AB, DM), where casual. Talk about a wonderful addition to a yard list: an ad. male Magnificent Frigatebird was soaring over Sooke with Turkey Vultures 27 Jun (†RTo)—likely a first confirmed record for the Victoria area and only the 9th provincial record.

Swainson's Hawks were well n. of usual areas, with 3 e. of Dease L. in mid-Jun (GLM). Accidental in Jun, especially in the s. interior, a Rough-legged Hawk was near Anarchist Summit, Osoyoos 6 Jun (ph. Bob McKay). A late push for Semipalmated Plovers furnished Jun records for Chesterman Beach, where 11 were present 5-6 Jun (AD), plus 2 in the Highland Valley near Kamloops 3 Jun (RH, CC). A pair of Black-necked Stilts was seen mating just n. of Osoyoos in a flooded field 21 Jun (RuC); these birds were later thought to be incubating. There was one prior failed nesting attempt in the Okanagan in 2001 at Alki L., Kelowna. Whimbrels are often found lingering along the outer coast in early Jun, but this season, they remained longer and in larger numbers, almost to the point of over-

lapping with southbound birds, with 12 present as late as 21 Jun (AD). An ad. Little Stint in worn alternate plumage was discovered at Iona S.T.P. 19-21 Jul (†TP, †MT, m.ob.); it furnished a 13th provincial record. Rare in the province away from the Peace R. area, an ad. White-rumped Sandpiper was at Boundary Bay 2 Jul (IP et al.).

JAEGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Three Long-tailed Jaegers inland on Atlin L. 4 Jul (MC) were most unusual. Franklin's Gulls occasionally wander as far as the coast, usually in autumn; 2 were early at White Rock Beach 1 Jul (IP). Sabine's Gulls, although regular in the fall in the interior, are rare spring vagrants; an ad. in Salmon Arm 14 Jun (AB, DM) was most unexpected there. Horned Puffins are very rarely encountered away from the few suspected nesting sites on the outer coast, and a single at Cleland I. 4-6 Jul (RCh, MM) was well s. of usual areas. Single Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to appear along the coast: in Gibson's 1 Jun (GP, LP), and at Iona 11 Jul (MT)—a bird that landed on the mud among the shorebirds! Casual in the province, a White-winged Dove visited a Castlegar feeder 23-25 Jun (ph. VJ), a 10th provincial record. Also casual in the province, a Black-billed Cuckoo was at the Corn Creek Marsh, Creston 20 Jun (MAB et al.).

A Barn Owl feather was retrieved from a swallow nestbox on Anarchist Mt., indicating the Barn Owl may well have been at the high elevation of 1200 m (RJC). Snowy Owls lingered very late, with 2 in the Knutsford area s. of Kamloops in early Jun (*vide* RH). Evidence of Northern Hawk Owls breeding in Kootenay N.P. came with the observation of 2 ads. and 4 young together 29 Jun (†DN, VH).

Alder Flycatchers are thought to be very rare along the coast, but one was audio-taped near Surrey L. 14-15 Jun (v.r., RF, CG). Furnishing a first for the Okanagan, a Black Phoebe was in Osoyoos 4 Jul (DB), while an Eastern Phoebe, rare away from the Peace R., was at Surrey L. 15-19 Jun (ph. CG, IP et al.). Rare in the Lower Mainland, a Rock Wren was at Pit L. 4 Jun (MT). The only report of Northern Mockingbird was of one in Surrey 2 Jun (CG). Sage Thrashers returned to the s. Okanagan, with 3 at White L. 20 Jun (CC et al.) and a vocal male at Chopaka 21 Jun (RuC). A singing male Northern Parula was at Royal Roads University, Victoria 13 Jun (DA), providing the 8th provincial record. This species has been annual in the province since 2002. Another "eastern" warbler, a male Chestnut-sided Warbler, singing and in full breeding plumage, was at the s. end of Long Beach and observed in pursuit of a Yel-

SA During a pelagic trip off the west coast of Vancouver I., a photographer was taking shots of pelagic birds when a strange brown bird came bobbing along. The bird was photographed and thought to be a Common Nighthawk. Upon posting photographs to the Internet, observers began to wonder if indeed this was the correct identification. After some scrutiny, the bird was identified as a first-summer male **Lesser Nighthawk**, a provincial first! This individual was 80 km offshore 5 Jun (ph MY). Then oddly enough, birders discovered a freshly dead nighthawk, photographed it, and—*voilà!*—another **Lesser Nighthawk**! This latter individual was found dead at Iona S.T.P. 30 Jun (IP, ph. PC) and was subsequently donated to the Cowan Vertebrate Museum at the University of British Columbia. One can only wonder how many birds were involved in this northward push. There is a previous Canadian record, of a female from Point Pelee N.P., 29 Apr 1974 (*vide* Alan Wormington).



Just weeks after a live Lesser Nighthawk was found 80 km off the British Columbia coast, a second one for the province was discovered dead at Iona Sewage Treatment Plant 30 June 2006 (here). There is one previous record for Canada of the species, from Point Pelee in 1974. Photograph by Peter Candido.



A species found annually in recent years in the lower mainland of British Columbia, this molting adult Little Stint was at Iona Sewage Treatment Plant 19 (here) through 22 July 2006. Photograph by T. C. Wong.

low Warbler 7 Jun (AD); this constitutes the 2nd record for the w. coast region. Another male Chestnut-sided Warbler was a surprise

in Kelowna 17 Jul (CC et al.). Sparsely scattered across the n. spruce forests, a Cape May Warbler was a treat at Chilkat Pass 4 Jul (RF). A bird study conducted in the Bell-Irving R. area produced 700 Wilson's Warblers during a four-hour survey in early Jun (GLM). Casual in the province, a Black-throated Sparrow was at Colony Farm 10-13 Jun (II, DJ). Very rare on the coast, a Lark Sparrow was at Long Beach 2 Jun (GB). Casual in the province, a male Lark Bunting was at Miracle Beach, just n. of Courtenay, 2 Jun (TB, †BB). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder in Sayward at a very suspicious time of year, 15 Jul (PR); there are no known coastal breeding records.

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Oregon & Washington



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The Region baked again this summer, with temperatures among the top ten percent since records were first kept, beginning 112 years ago. June provided normal precipitation, but July was somewhat drier than average. Offshore, this summer's consistent northwesterly winds constituted a return to normal, generally producing upwellings and cool ocean temperatures.

As for birds, large-scale trends were few. Perhaps most noticeable was an increase in eastside passerines, from kingbirds to buntings, on the westside. Records of rarer seabirds were unusually numerous, including

some seen from land and, indeed, some from the "wrong" side of the mountains.

Abbreviations: Ankeny (Ankeny N.W.R., Marion, OR); F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane, OR); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor, WA); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, Snohomish, WA); P.T. (Puget Trough, WA); S.R.M. (Sandy R. mouth, Multnomah, OR); W.V. (Willamette Valley); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA). "Eastside" and "westside" indicate locations e. and w. of the Cascade crest, respectively.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A Ross's Goose that arrived at Keyport, Kitsap with Snow Geese in late Sep 1997 survived the season (BSW, G. Gerdts); Washington has no other summer records. Three Cackling Geese of subspecies *taverneri* lingered at F.R.R. through 25 Jun (DI), and another Cackling Goose of unknown subspecies fre-

quented Ankeny 13 Jun-11 Jul (WDR); there appear to be no previously published summer records of Cackling Goose from the Region, though one (subspecies *minima*) summered in Everett in 1997 (SM, DD). Brant numbers were quite low, with 4 at O.S. 7 Jul (P&RS) and 9 at Seal Rock, Lincoln 24-27 Jun (K Brigham) furnishing the only sightings.

Gadwall continues to increase on the westside. Still a rather uncommon breeder in w. Oregon, five broods were at N.S.C.B. (TR), two broods graced Tualitin N.W.R., Washington (HN), and multiple pairs bred at Ankeny (WDR). In w. Washington, a summer-record 430 ads. inhabited Stanwood, Snohomish 17 Jun (SM). A well-described American Black Duck at Ankeny 11-13 Jul is of questionable provenance (†WDR, RM); Oregon has just two accepted records. Green-winged Teal, a rare westside breeder, produced young at Seaside, Clatsop (S. Warner) and near Swantown, Island (SM). A Canvasback, very rare on the westside during summer, was at Fernhill Wet-

SA During a summer unremarkable for lingering waterfowl, swans popped up all across Washington. A Trumpeter Swan lingering from spring until mid-Jul at P.S.B. was joined briefly by another 12-15 Jun (K. Morgan, SM). Singles were also on San Juan I. 12 Jun (B. Jensen) and Chehalis W.M.A., Grays Harbor 8 Jun+ (T. O'Brien). Single Tundra Swans graced S. Prairie, Pierce 1 Jun (CW) and Sheep L., Whitman 8 Jul+ (MW, GS, JA), and an unprecedented 11 adorned Ridgefield 10 Jun (JE). Finally, an unidentified Trumpeter/Tundra Swan flew past Wilson Cr., Grant 19 Jun (J. Stephens). Washington had but four prior summer records of Trumpeter Swan and not many more of Tundra. One must wonder why, among the spectrum of waterfowl, these two species with different breeding ranges and habitats would appear in unprecedented numbers during the same summer.