

to ruffle their feathers and preen. Bathing activity by a small number of birds attracted others, which resulted in groups of 40 or more circling the lagoon, most in a counterclockwise direction. As this behavior took place over an extended period each day (19:00–20:50), it is likely that newly arriving martins joined in the bathing activity as others left. My observations show the following sequence of events for each “water contact”: (1) the martin flies just above the water surface; (2) brakes slightly by spreading and dropping the tail; while (3) raising the wings to about a 45-degree angle; (4) the forward motion carries the bird onto the breast which “bounces” on the surface showering water onto the back and wings; (5) the bird immediately regains flight speed and flies upward until; (6) reaching a safe height (about 2–4 m) to shake off excess water. Step 6 may not be performed until the bird is wet enough to have water streaming from the plumage; thus, a number of water contacts may occur before shaking takes place.

A bathing episode, timed from first to last contact with the water’s surface, is a series of “contacts.” The shortest episode was 10 sec with one contact and the longest was 1 min 31 sec with eight contacts (\bar{x} = 46 sec, SD = ± 27 , N = 13), although one martin had 10 contacts in 1 min 22 sec. The most common number of contacts was three (\bar{x} = 4.2, SD = ± 6.5 , N = 13), representing 61.5% of the observations. The contact rate for the combined observations was one contact for every 10 sec.

I observed a male martin scratching its neck while gliding overhead. This activity proceeded as described by Goodwin (Auk 76:521–523, 1959) for the Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*), “While gliding, the head was lowered and turned to the side while the foot was brought forward beneath the wing.” This behavior has not been previously described for this species, but has also been observed by C. R. Brown (pers. comm.) for *P. subis* at his study sites in Texas.

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First breeding record of the Snow Bunting for British Columbia.—The breeding range of the Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) in North America encompasses arctic habitats from northern Ellesmere Island south to southwestern Alaska and extreme northwestern British Columbia (Am. Ornithol. Union, Check-list of North American Birds, 6th ed., Washington, D.C., 1983). No verification of breeding in British Columbia, however, has previously been published. We reviewed 16 summer records including the first known breeding of this species in British Columbia. All records are from two mountainous areas, extreme northwestern British Columbia, generally referred to as the Haines Triangle, and the vicinity of Mount Edziza/Spatsizi Plateau, about 540 km to the southeast of the first area.

Haines Triangle.—This area is about 150 km northwest of Haines, Alaska, and includes the southern St. Elias Mountains. Snow Buntings were first noted in summer in the province near Mile 60 on the Haines Road by C. J. Guiguet (B.C. Prov. Mus., pers. comm.) on 8 July 1956. On 8 July 1958, R. B. Weeden (Can. Field-Nat. 74:119–129, 1960) collected an adult female in breeding condition in the same area and indicated Snow Buntings were probably breeding nearby. Then in the summer of 1980, a party from the British Columbia Provincial Museum (BCPM) obtained a series of adults and immatures (BCPM 16680–15594) near 1525 m in mountains near Mile 91, along the Haines Road. Two fledglings, obtained on 2 July, 1980, with traces of natal down (BCPM Photo No. 877—see Campbell

and Stirling, *Syesis* 4:217–222, 1971), represent the first breeding record for the province. The same summer on 10 July, above 1800 m in the Datlasaka Range west of Mile 73, a brood of four recently fledged young with two parents was found foraging among boulders in a bare scree area; also on 10 July a bulky nest of grass, lichen, and moss, containing five large, feathered young was found in a vertical rock crevice below an overhanging patch of snow. No adults were at the nest, but a male, presumably a parent, was nearby. Five adults, without young, were also seen foraging at the edges of melting snow fields nearby.

We are aware of five other summer records of adults in the Haines Triangle. Immediately west of the Datlasaka Range, near Shini Lake, J. M. Cooper and M. McNall (B.C. Prov. Mus., pers. comm.) watched two adult males fighting on 16 June 1983 and 17 km to the south the senior author observed an adult male feeding with Rosy Finches (*Leucosticte arctoa*) near Samuel Glacier Mountain on 28 June 1983. Farther west, on an unnamed mountain north of Tats Lake (59°37'N, 137°44'W), D. W. Nagorsen (pers. comm.) noted flocks of up to 12 adults from 9 to 15 July 1983 above 1490 m. No immatures were noticed and one adult male (BCPM 17860) was collected (testes 9 × 5 mm [left] and 7 × 5 mm [right]). The other two records were both east of Haines Road. On 6 June 1978, a pair was seen at Tina Creek (Blood and Chutter, 1978 Raptor Nesting Survey for Shakwak Highway Improvement Project, Thurber Consultants Ltd., Victoria, British Columbia, 1978) and on 12 July 1975, Claire Kooistra (pers. comm.) counted 10 adult Snow Buntings with a flock of Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*) feeding in Chilkoot Pass.

Mt. Edziza/Spatsizi Plateau.—On 21 July 1982, E. Edie, D. Humphries, A. Harestad, and B. Van Drimmelin (pers. comm.) observed four adult Snow Buntings in moraine deposits above tundra on the south and west sides of Mt. Edziza. The three summer records from the Spatsizi Plateau were in mountainous areas from 1800 to 1000 m in elevation. On 7 June 1976, six adults were recorded south of Hyland Post, and single adults were seen at Stalk Lake on 10 July 1976 and Klahowya Lake on 17 July 1976 (Osmond-Jones et al., Spatsizi and Tatlatui Wilderness Parks, British Columbia Provincial Parks Branch, Victoria, British Columbia, 1977).

The Snow Bunting probably breeds regularly in appropriate habitat in alpine areas above 1500 m in the Haines Triangle area. It is a common breeder along the coasts of Alaska (Kessel and Gibson, Status and Distribution of Alaska Birds, Stud. Avian Biology No. 1, 1978) and is considered an “uncommon breeder or probable breeder” in the mountains around Alaska, 110 km south of the British Columbia breeding locations. Farther inland, in the vicinity of Mt. Edziza/Spatsizi Plateau the Snow Bunting is probably a rare summer resident although breeding is yet to be confirmed.

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