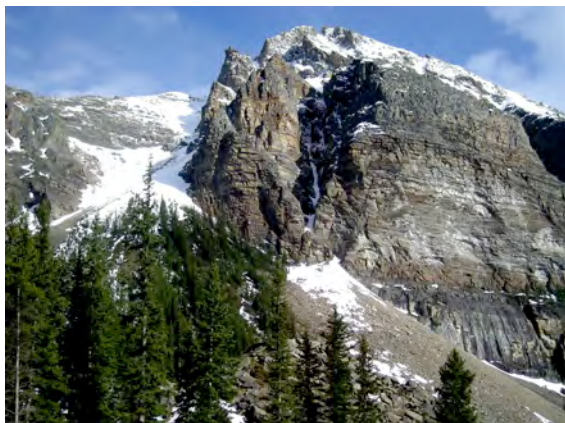


Canadian Rockies: (Tour 2) Calgary-Vancouver

Sat 19th June-Sat 3rd July 2010



*Photos (clockwise from top left): There's no mistaking the striking male **Western Tanager** • **Grey Jays** can be remarkably tame in some of Canada's National Parks! • Our visit to Reifel Refuge produced this fine pair of **Sandhill Cranes** with fluffy chick • The dark surround to the eye helps identify this summer adult **Western Grebe** • Stunning scenery in **Banff National Park** • **Flammulated Owl** peers down at our group! © all photos Chris Charlesworth/Limosa, June/July 2010.*

**report compiled by tour leader:
Chris Charlesworth**

Trip Diary

Tour Leader: Chris Charlesworth

Canada is a vast country, spanning thousands of kilometres from end to end. The country encompasses twelve provinces and three territories. On this tour, we focus on the two westernmost provinces, Alberta and British Columbia.

Starting in the eclectic coastal city of Vancouver, we explored the forests, mudflats and oceans of the area, finding a vast array of birds. Mountain scenery meets ocean scenery in Vancouver, where the vistas are impressive. Birding is also top-notch here and at local forest parks in West Vancouver we enjoyed views of Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Band-tailed Pigeon, Swainson's Thrush, Steller's Jay and Hutton's Vireo. The view from Lighthouse Park is appealing with a rocky, rugged coast, towering trees and an historic lighthouse. We also had Pelagic Cormorant and Pigeon Guillemot from here. Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver provided us with a nice afternoon stroll, even though the walk didn't offer many birds. At the Tsawwassen Ferry Jetty, American Black Oystercatchers breed and a few Harbour Seals bobbed up and down in the waters. Our half day at the Reifel Refuge in Ladner was fantastic, the highlight being two adult Sandhill Cranes with a fluffy chick. It was nice to see both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs for comparison at Reifel, too. And a morning visit to Iona Beach was worth the visit to see Purple Martins cruising low over our heads.

A couple of stops in magnificent Manning Park broke up the six-hour drive for us. We visited a small Beaver pond where a pair of Red-breasted Sapsuckers were nesting. They showed off nicely for us. At the visitor's centre we were entertained by Clark's Nutcrackers, Brown-headed Cowbirds and Columbian Ground-Squirrels that were not shy. A walk along the Strawberry Flats trail was a joy - but frustrating in that we never saw any of the singing Varied Thrushes in the area! We did however encounter Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes, Grey Jays and Chestnut-backed Chickadees.

The habitat changed markedly as we entered the Okanagan Valley at Osoyoos. The area is generally dry, almost desert-like, but with lush ravines and valleys. Vineyards creep up valley sides while apple, peach, pear and cherry orchards cloak the valley floor. Our birding began in Richter Pass along Nighthawk Road - where we had great views of a Common Nighthawk! A Grasshopper Sparrow showed off nicely here as well; this is not an easy species to find these days. Along Road 22, we admired several Osprey nests, picked out Bobolinks from the grassy fields and searched for Least Flycatchers and Yellow-breasted Chats, both of which were heard in the woods here. We then took a drive up McKinney Road where a little searching paid off as we found Canada's rarest flycatcher, the Grey Flycatcher. We took an evening drive up to Kilpoola Lake and enjoyed excellent views of a Barred Owl hooting wildly. A gorgeous male Williamson's Sapsucker appeared briefly in old growth forests east of OK Falls. At the cliffs at Vaseux Lake, we heard Canyon Wrens but couldn't see them. A group of introduced Chukar were seen clambering about on the rocks, while big White-throated Swifts screeched overhead. Lewis's Woodpeckers were nesting in a dead pine tree here too and offered good views. We then made our way to Mac's Lake in Penticton where we clambered up a little hill of our own and were rewarded with a Flammulated Owl peering out of its nest cavity! A Western Tanager and Townsend's Solitaire showed well in the pine and fir woods.

We arrived in Kelowna, the Okanagan's largest city - and my home! Using the city as a base for two nights we explored the local mountains for high country birds. From Kelowna, we headed southeast towards the Big White Ski Mountain, accompanied by my good birding friend, Mike Force. We saw two American Dippers along the shores of Mission Creek. Near Big White we found Hermit and Varied Thrushes, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet and a fine pair of nesting American Three-toed Woodpeckers. As we made our way back down to Kelowna we stopped along McCulloch Road for excellent views of Dusky Flycatcher, Calliope Hummingbird and Cassin's Finches. Robert Lake produced our first American Avocets of the tour, while Beaver Lake added gorgeous Lazuli Buntings and Western Bluebirds to the list, and a walk through a tree farm in Vernon produced two lovely Great Horned Owls.

Our two night stay in Kamloops was well worth it! We visited Tranquille, along the shores of Kamloops Lake. The area is the site of an old tuberculosis sanatorium. Birds here included Wood Duck, Lazuli Bunting, Eastern Kingbird, Bullock's Oriole and a Rock Wren. Two Double-crested Cormorants were a local rarity. The road to

Paul Lake was outstanding, with a few small lakes and ponds for us to study. Good numbers of duck were present, including Bufflehead, Barrow's Goldeneye, American Wigeon, Greater Scaup and Gadwall. We strolled around the Paul Lake Campground for a while finding Cassin's Vireo, Red-naped Sapsucker and Dark-eyed Junco to name but a few. American Red Squirrel was also quite prevalent here.

En route to Salmon Arm, we popped into the Sandy Point Campground and quickly found a stunning male American Redstart. At the Salmon Arm Pier we scanned through large numbers of Western Grebes, finally finding the 'look-alike' Clark's Grebe amongst them. On our way to Christmas Island we picked up Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Willow Flycatcher and plenty of other goodies. We then attempted to visit Coyote Park in Salmon Arm, but were chased out by hungry mosquitoes!

Making our way to Banff, we paused at the Skunk Cabbage Trail. American Redstart, MacGillivray's Warbler, Rufous Hummingbird, Veery, Gray Catbird and Vaux's Swift were among a wealth of species on offer, and in the Beaver Valley of Glacier National Park we had Magnolia Warblers. Banff is an enchanting town, nestled beneath some of the most impressive mountains in the Rockies! We enjoyed watching American Elk and Mule Deer prancing about right around town but, try as we might, we could not find a bear this time. Nearby parks such as Cave and Basin, and Vermilion Lakes rewarded us with some excellent bird and animal watching. Great Northern Divers were a sight to behold in their immaculate breeding plumage, as were Bald Eagles perched atop the giant evergreens. Stunning scenery was taken in at Moraine Lake and in Johnston Canyon, where we even found a Black Swift nest! The Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels have taken to begging for food along trail and we watched their crafty antics. The trail to Johnston Canyon is particularly enjoyable.

From Banff to Calgary we travelled, making a few detours along the way. Alder Flycatchers were found ... as were Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Tennessee Warbler! Boreal Chickadee was finally added to the list at Bear Hill. We visited Frank Lake, south of Calgary, for most of a day. Here we had stacks of birds to look at including Forster's and Black Terns, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Dowitcher, Marsh Wren, Sora and a great number of ducks. Thousands of Franklin's Gulls swirled in the air and followed tractors tilling fields, a true prairie sight. Ferruginous Hawks were seen near a traditional nesting site and in the town of High River we saw our only Common Grackles for the tour. As we made our way finally to Calgary airport, we watched White-tailed Jackrabbits in an industrial area, and Swainson's Hawks were perched on light stands. The trip had been another great success, with a great group - and recording no fewer than 205 species of birds, over 20 species of butterfly, 22 species of mammal and many interesting plants and flowers, including a variety of Canadian orchids. Roll on Limosa's 2011 Canadian Rockies tours!

Chris Charlesworth

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED

(Total 205 species recorded by the group)

Californian Quail *Callipepla californica*

Common in the Okanagan Valley where seen daily in rural and suburban areas.

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

Introduced from Europe. Group of 8 seen on rocky cliffs on the E. side of Vaseux Lake.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Introduced from Eurasia. One flushed along trail to Christmas Island in Salmon Arm.

Sooty Grouse *Dendrapagus fuliginosus*

One heard well by all tour participants along Strawberry Flats Trail in Manning Park.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Abundant throughout.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Introduced from Europe. One seen from bridge to Westham Is. near Reifel Refuge in Ladner.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Ten at least at Reifel Refuge in Ladner. A couple also seen at Tranquille near Kamloops and at Salmon Arm.

- Gadwall** *Anas strepera*
Seen regularly on lakes and ponds. Noted in numbers at Frank Lake, Salmon Arm and Reifel Refuge.
- American Wigeon** *Anas americana*
A few seen on wetlands throughout tour. Noted at Salmon Arm and the Reifel Refuge.
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
Abundant throughout.
- Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*
Fairly common at wetlands throughout. Noted at Frank Lake, the Vermilion Lakes and Iona Sewage Ponds in Richmond.
- Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera*
A few seen at Frank Lake and at the Iona Sewage Ponds.
- Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*
Fairly numerous at Frank Lake, S. of Calgary. Lesser numbers noted at the Iona Sewage Ponds and on Louie Lake near Kamloops.
- Pintail** *Anas acuta*
A few seen at Reifel Refuge in Ladner.
- Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*
Small numbers seen at Reifel Refuge, Salmon Arm and at Robert Lake in Kelowna.
- Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria*
Small numbers seen at Frank Lake S. of Calgary, with one single male at Salmon Arm.
- Redhead** *Aythya americana*
Flock of Redhead seen at Salmon Arm and a few more noted at Frank Lake.
- Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*
Ten counted on pools along Sibbald Ck Trail E. of Banff.
- Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila*
Small numbers at Frank Lake, Louie Lake near Kamloops and at Salmon Arm.
- Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*
Small numbers at Frank Lake. Half a dozen or so seen at Louis Lake near Kamloops.
- Harlequin Duck** *Histrionicus histrionicus*
Two males seen at Tsawwassen Ferry Jetty S. of Vancouver.
- Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata*
Small numbers seen at Tsawwassen Ferry Jetty.
- White-winged Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*
Small group seen at Tsawwassen Ferry Jetty S. of Vancouver.
- Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola*
This tiny black and white duck was seen at Frank Lake, Louie Lake near Kamloops and in ponds along Sibbald Ck Trail, E. of Banff.
- (Common) Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*
One female type seen at Salmon Arm.
- Barrow's Goldeneye** *Bucephala islandica*
Small numbers noted on ponds and lakes. A couple seen at Moraine Lake in Banff as well as Louie Lake near Kamloops.
- Goosander** *Mergus merganser*
Male and female seen at Maplewood Flats in N. Vancouver.
- Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*
Fairly numerous at Frank Lake, S. of Calgary. Also seen at Salmon Arm and at Robert Lk near Kelowna.
- Pacific Diver** *Gavia pacifica*
One seen from Tsawwassen Ferry Jetty S. of Vancouver.
- Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*
Up to 5 seen on Vermilion Lakes in Banff. A few also noted on Okanagan Lake between Penticton and Kelowna. Beautiful in breeding plumage.
- Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*
Pair seen in Salmon Arm and another at Frank Lake.
- Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*
One seen on Louis Lake near Kamloops and at least 2 pairs noted at Salmon Arm.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Pair seen on Louis Lake near Kamloops.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Numerous breeder at Frank Lake, S. of Calgary. One seen at Robert Lk in Kelowna. This species use to breed at Robert Lake but is now a rare visitor due to lack of water and ongoing drought.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*

Excellent views had of this colonial breeding grebe at Salmon Arm and at Frank Lake.

Clark's Grebe *Aechmophorus clarkii*

Two Clark's Grebes were picked out of many Western Grebes at Salmon Arm.

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*

Up to 20 seen at Frank Lake S. of Calgary.

American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus*

One in flight over ponds at Reifel Refuge in Ladner.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Two seen at Frank Lake.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*

Common at wetlands throughout.

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

A couple seen at Frank Lake.

Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Pair seen at Tranquille near Kamloops. Surprisingly none seen along coast.

Pelagic Cormorant *Leucocarbo pelagicus*

Numbers seen along coast at Lighthouse Park in West Vancouver and at Tsawwassen Ferry Jetty, S. of Vancouver.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*

Common through the Kamloops / Okanagan Valley regions where good numbers seen daily. Bird patrols skies over motorways looking for roadkill so we often saw them from the vehicle.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Common through Kamloops / Okanagan region. Favors open country.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Two seen hunting along Salmon Arm shores.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

A couple seen at Vermilion Lakes in Banff National Park. Common in Salmon Arm where several nests were observed. Also common in the Okanagan Valley, especially Road 22 area N. of Osoyoos.

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Fairly common raptor. Seen at Vermilion Lakes near Banff, Salmon Arm and Kamloops areas, as well as along coast near Vancouver.

Northern (Hen) Harrier *Circus (cyaneus) hudsonius*

Enjoyed watching these graceful hawks hunting over grassy fields at Reifel Refuge in Ladner, Road 22 near Osoyoos and along the Salmon Arm shore.

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*

One single Cooper's Hawk seen on tour at Boundary Bay near Vancouver.

Swainson's Hawk *Buteo swainsoni*

Common in Calgary area. Seen also near Kamloops and along Commonage Road in Vernon.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

Most common raptor on tour. Numbers seen in open country almost every day.

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*

Pair seen in open fields N. of Frank Lake in Alberta. Known nest nearby.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

One seen soaring over Hwy 1, W. of Calgary.

Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola*

Two Virginia Rails watched in marsh at Salmon Arm.

Sora *Porzana carolina*

Several Soras heard on the tour, but seen only at Frank Lake in Alberta.

American Coot *Fulica americana*

Numerous at Frank Lake in Alberta and at Salmon Arm. In Vancouver area we saw coots at Iona Sewage Ponds and at Reifel Refuge.

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*

Two adults and one chick seen at Reifel Refuge in Ladner.

American Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus bachmani*

Seen at Tsawwassen Ferry Jetty S. of Vancouver.

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*

Small numbers present at Frank Lake in Alberta.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*

Good numbers seen in Kelowna at Robert Lake and also at Frank Lake in Alberta.

Killdeer *Chadrius vociferus*

Common wader in open country and along shorelines. Numerous around Frank Lake in Alberta and at Iona Sewage Ponds in Richmond.

Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata*

One found at Vermilion Lakes in Banff. Six seen at 'Snipe Alley' N. of Cochrane, Alberta.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*

One seen at Frank Lake in Alberta.

Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*

Two seen in grassy fields along Road 22 near Osoyoos.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

Up to Reifel Refuge in Vancouver. Singles also seen at Robert Lk in Kelowna and at Salmon Arm.

Good numbers present at Frank Lk.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

A few present at Frank Lk in Alberta. Nice comparison with nearby Greater Yellowlegs.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

One seen at Reifel Refuge in Vancouver where species is quite rare. Also fairly numerous at Frank Lake.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

Fairly common along edge of ponds and streams throughout. Seen at Frank Lake, Vermilion Lake, Louis Lake, Salmon Arm, Iona Sewage Ponds and the Reifel Refuge.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*

Two seen on fenceposts in open area near Ovan's Marsh, N. of Cochrane.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

One single bird seen at Robert Lk in Kelowna. Half a dozen seen on small ponds along Sibbald Ck Trail E. of Banff and quite a few seen at Frank Lk.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

Half a dozen seen on mudflats of Iona Beach in Richmond.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

Hundreds seen at Frank Lake where there is a large breeding colony.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

Fairly common throughout, especially at Salmon Arm where there is a breeding colony.

California Gull *Larus californicus*

A few seen in the Vancouver and Salmon Arm areas, and lots seen at Frank Lake.

Glaucous-winged Gull *Larus glaucescens*

Large numbers seen in the Vancouver area.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*

Up to 4 seen in Salmon Arm.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

A couple of Caspian Terns were seen at Tsawwassen Ferry Jetty in Vancouver. A couple more were at Tranquille near Kamloops.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri*

Ten or more observed at Frank Lake in Alberta, where some individuals were quite territorial.

Pigeon Guillemot *Cepphus columba*

Two seen distantly from Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver.

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Common in rural and urban settings throughout.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*

Up to a dozen seen in W. Vancouver area, including at Lighthouse Park.

(Eurasian) Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Quickly colonizing Western Canada now! One seen in Ladner near Reifel Refuge. Also single birds seen in Oliver and at Tranquille near Kamloops.

American Mourning Dove *Zenaidura macroura*

Common in the Kamloops and Okanagan areas.

Flammulated Owl *Otus flammeolus*

Female seen in nestbox at Max Lake near Penticton.

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*

Two found roosting in tree farm near Vernon.

Barred Owl *Strix varia*

One seen very well along Kilpoola Lake Road near Osoyoos.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*

Up to six seen very well at Nighthawk border crossing W. of Osoyoos, including one perched on fence post. Also seen along McCulloch Rd near Kelowna.

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger*

Up to 5 seen at Reifel Refuge in Ladner. Our largest swift!

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*

A few seen in Vancouver area, including Reifel Refuge. Also at least two seen in Revelstoke National Park.

White-throated Swift *Aeronautes saxatilis*

Large numbers present in South Okanagan Valley wherever large rocky cliffs are found. Numerous at Vaseux Lake Cliffs. A few also seen near Tranquille in Kamloops.

Black-chinned Hummingbird *Archilochus alexandri*

One nice male seen along Sumac Rd W. of Osoyoos.

Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus*

Male seen nicely at Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver, otherwise very fleeting glimpses of this species.

Calliope Hummingbird *Stellula calliope*

Common in the Kamloops / Okanagan regions. In Kelowna, seen easily along lower reaches of McCulloch Road.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*

One seen at Vermilion Lakes in Banff.

Lewis's Woodpecker *Melanerpes lewis*

Good numbers seen along McKinney Road near Oliver and at the Vaseux Lake Cliffs.

Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*

One male seen well along Shuttleworth Rd E. of Okanagan Falls.

Red-naped Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*

Common woodpecker in wooded areas of the Kamloops and Okanagan regions.

Red-breasted Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus ruber*

Pair seen tending to nest at Beaver Pond in Manning Provincial Park.

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*

One seen at Maplewood Flats in N. Vancouver. Also seen at Sutherland Hills Park in Kelowna and along Paul Lk Rd near Kamloops.

Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus*

Larger counterpart of Downy Woodpecker. One seen along McKinney Rd near Oliver. Another seen along Shuttleworth Rd, E. of Okanagan Falls and one seen at Johnston Canyon in Banff Nat. Park.

American Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides dorsalis*

Adult and young found along McKinney Road E. of Oliver. Two more seen near Big White S. of Kelowna.

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*

Most common woodpecker in region. Seen almost daily in a variety of habitats. All those seen were of the western 'Red-shafted' race.

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus*

One seen briefly along Beaver Lake Road N. of Kelowna. Our largest woodpecker!

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*

One seen at Road 22 near Osoyoos and a couple found along lower reaches of Shuttleworth Rd near Okanagan Falls.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*

One heard at Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver and one seen in Manning Park.

Western Wood-Pewee *Contopus sordidulus*

Fairly common flycatcher of open forest areas. Seen well along McKinney Rd near Oliver and at Sutherland Hills Park in Kelowna.

Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii*

Fairly common in riparian areas. One seen at Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver. Another seen at Reifel Refuge in Ladner. Seen regularly in the Kamloops and Okanagan areas. Also seen at Salmon Arm and at Vermilion Lake in Banff.

Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum*

Pair found along Sibbald Creek Trail E. of Banff.

Hammond's Flycatcher *Empidonax hammondi*

Fairly common in coniferous forests. One found along McKinney Road near Oliver. Also seen along Big White Rd near Kelowna and along Paul Lk Rd near Kamloops.

Dusky Flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri*

Two seen in powerline cut along McCulloch Rd near Kelowna.

Grey Flycatcher *Empidonax wrightii*

Very rare and local. Two seen along McKinney Road E. of Oliver.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis*

Pair found at K.L.O Creek crossing on McCulloch Road near Kelowna. Also two more seen at Johnston Canyon in Banff.

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*

Common in open country of Kamloops and Okanagan regions. Most often seen along telephone wires.

Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus*

Common in open country at low elevations in the Okanagan, Kamloops and Salmon Arm areas. One also seen along Horse Ck Rd near Cochrane, AB.

Cassin's Vireo *Vireo cassinii*

Uncommon in pine / fir forests throughout. Seen on McCulloch Rd and Beaver Lake Rd, both near Kelowna. Also seen along McKinney Rd near Oliver.

Hutton's Vireo *Vireo huttoni*

One seen well in old-growth forest of Lighthouse Park in West Vancouver.

Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus*

Fairly common in forests. Near Banff, seen at Vermilion Lakes and at the Cave and Basin Trail. A couple were seen at Skunk Cabbage Trail in Revelstoke National Park. Quite numerous in the Kamloops and Okanagan areas as well.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

Seen in riparian forest at Maplewood Flats in N. Vancouver. Seen also along Paul Lk Rd near Kamloops and along trail to Christmas Is. in Salmon Arm. Showed well at Skunk Cabbage Trail in Revelstoke Park too.

Grey Jay *Perisoreus canadensis*

Up to six seen in Manning Park, with another 2 seen along the Big White Rd near Kelowna.

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*

Seen near Big White S. of Kelowna and at Beaver Valley in Glacier National Park. British Columbia's provincial bird!

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonica*

Common throughout in variety of rural and urban settings.

Clark's Nutcracker *Nucifraga columbiana*

Very 'friendly' resident of forests throughout. Seen exceptionally well at Manning Park in BC and at Moraine Lake in AB.

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Common throughout, except near Vancouver where replaced by Northwestern Crow.

Northwestern Crow *Corvus caurinus*

Common around Vancouver.

(Common) Raven *Corvus corax*

Common throughout.

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*

Common at low to mid elevations throughout tour.

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapilla*

Common in forests throughout.

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*

Common in coniferous forests. Many seen in forests of Manning Park, Okanagan Valley, Kamloops area and a few seen around Banff.

Chestnut-backed Chickadee *Poecile rufescens*

Uncommon in coniferous forests. Seen at Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver and in Manning Park.

Boreal Chickadee *Poecile hudsonica*

Uncommon in high elevation forests. Two seen at Bear Hill E. of Banff.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

At least half a dozen seen at colony on McCulloch Rd near Kelowna.

Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor*

Common in open rural areas throughout.

Violet-green Swallow *Tachycineta thalassina*

Common throughout in variety of habitats.

Purple Martin *Progne subis*

Three seen flying with other hirundines at Iona Beach in Vancouver.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*

A few seen at Salmon Arm and along Paul Lake Road near Kamloops. Fairly numerous where water present in the Okanagan Valley. Some seen at colony along McCulloch Rd in Kelowna.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common in open country throughout.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Good numbers seen at Frank Lake near Calgary and at Salmon Arm as well as a number of Okanagan Valley locations.

Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa*

Uncommon in coniferous forests. A few seen at Lighthouse Park, W. Vancouver, as well as in Manning Park. Seen well along McCulloch Rd near Kelowna and in Banff area.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula*

Small numbers seen in woodlands. Found at Venner Meadows E. of OK Falls. Also seen along Beaver Lake Rd, N. of Kelowna.

Rock Wren *Salpinctes obsoletus*

One singing on rocky bluff at Tranquille near Kamloops.

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*

Uncommon in marshes. Found at Reifel Refuge in Vancouver, as well as at Iona Beach in Richmond. Seen at Frank Lake in Alberta too.

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*

Maplewood Flats and Reifel Refuge offered views of elusive Bewick's Wrens.

Pacific Wren *Troglodytes pacificus*

Recently split from Wren (Northern/Winter Wren) *Troglodytes troglodytes*, this inhabitant of wet western forests was seen at Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver and in Johnston Canyon, Banff area.

Northern House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Seen very well along Beaver Lake Road, N. of Kelowna.

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*

At least two performed for us amongst the Ponderosa Pines in Sutherland Hills Park, Kelowna.

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*

Fairly common in coniferous forests throughout.

Brown Creeper *Certhia americana*

Uncommon in coniferous forests. One seen at Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver, and another seen at Coyote Park in Salmon Arm.

Grey Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis*

Fairly common in riparian areas throughout the Okanagan region, where seen at a number of areas. Most numerous at Road 22, Osoyoos.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Introduced from Europe. Common throughout.

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*

Uncommon in upper elevation coniferous forests. Heard several times but frustratingly hard to see. Briefly seen along Big White Rd, near Kelowna. Also glimpsed at Johnston Canyon in Banff, and in Glacier National Park at Beaver Valley.

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*

Uncommon in open country of Okanagan Valley. Several seen at White Lake, near OK Falls and a pair seen on Beaver Lake Rd near Kelowna.

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*

Uncommon in open country. A few seen at White Lake near OK Falls and two seen along Shuttleworth Ck Rd, also near OK Falls.

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*

Uncommon in coniferous forests. Seen at Max Lake near Penticton and at Johnston Canyon in Banff National Park.

Veery *Catharus fuscescens*

Uncommon in deciduous forest at low elevation. We saw them at K.L.O Ck along McCulloch Rd near Kelowna and along the Skunk Cabbage Trail in Revelstoke National Park.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*

Fairly common breeding bird in mixed forests throughout. We had them at several locations including Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver, Shuttleworth Rd near OK Falls, Paul Lk Rd near Kamloops and Bear Hill E. of Banff.

Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus*

Uncommon in high elevation forests. We had Hermit Thrushes in Manning Park and near Big White, Kelowna.

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

Common throughout tour.

American Dipper *Cinclus mexicanus*

Two seen bobbing along Mission Ck near bridge along 3 Forks Rd where they nest.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Introduced from Europe. Common in rural and urban areas throughout.

Pine Siskin *Carduelis pinus*

Common in coniferous forests throughout.

American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis*

Common at low elevations throughout.

Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii*

Uncommon in coniferous forests. Half a dozen seen along McKinney Rd E. of Oliver.

House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*

Common at low elevations throughout.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*

Two found along Big White Road near Kelowna.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Erratic distribution due to irruptive nature of species. Found in coniferous forests. This year numbers were low. We had brief looks in Lighthouse Park, W. Vancouver. They showed well along McKinney Rd E. of Oliver.

Evening Grosbeak *Hesperiphona vespertina*

Also an irruptive species. A few seen this year along McKinney Rd E. of Oliver and along Big White Rd near Kelowna.

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*

Uncommon in the Rocky Mountains. Seen at Cave and Basin Trail in Banff and at Bear Hill W. of Calgary.

Orange-crowned Warbler *Vermivora celata*

Uncommon in low deciduous vegetation. Seen at Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver. Also seen along Big White Rd near Kelowna, Paul Lk Rd near Kamloops and Glacier National Park at Beaver Valley.

Nashville Warbler *Vermivora ruficapilla*

Uncommon in interior of BC. We had this brightly colored little warbler along McKinney Rd near Oliver, McCulloch Rd near Kelowna and Paul Lk Rd near Kamloops.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*

Common in deciduous areas throughout.

Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia*

One seen quite well along Skunk Cabbage Trail in Revelstoke National Park.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*

Most common warbler. Two races seen: *Audubon's* race common W. of the Rocky Mountains and *Myrtle* race seen in eastern Rocky Mountain foothills.

Black-throated Gray Warbler *Dendroica nigrescens*

Two seen well in old-growth forest at Lighthouse Park in West Vancouver.

Townsend's Warbler *Dendroica townsendi*

Uncommon in high elevation forests. We had this stunning black-and-yellow warbler along Shuttleworth Rd near Ok Falls and along Paul Lk Rd near Kamloops.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*

Male seen in riparian woods along E. side of lake in Salmon Arm near Sandy Pt. Campground. Others seen very well at Skunk Cabbage Trail in Revelstoke National Park.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*

Uncommon at boggy areas in high elevation forests. One lone bird seen at Skunk Cabbage Trail in Revelstoke National Park.

MacGillivray's Warbler *Oporornis tolmiei*

Heard several times in brushy areas, where they like to hide. After quite an effort we finally did see one along Paul Lk Rd, near Kamloops.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*

Common in marshy areas. We had this 'masked' little bird at Reifel Refuge in Ladner, Salmon Arm and along Skunk Cabbage Trail.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*

Uncommon in high elevation forests. Seen in Manning Park, along the Big White Rd near Kelowna, and at Cave and Basin Trail in Banff National Park.

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*

Fairly common at low elevations in the Okanagan. Numerous at locations around Osoyoos especially.

Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater*

Common throughout. Especially good views at Manning Park Lodge where they surround you as you eat lunch. Brood parasite!

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Common throughout, especially near marshes. Apparently most numerous land-bird in North America!

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

Common throughout Kamloops, Okanagan and Salmon Arm areas. Also seen in open farm country around Frank Lake.

Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula*

A few seen around town of High River near Frank Lake in Alberta.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*

Fairly common in open country of Kamloops and Okanagan regions. Seen at White Lake near OK Falls and at Tranquille near Kamloops.

Yellow-headed Blackbird *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

Fairly common in marshy areas. We had this colonial blackbird at Road 22 near Osoyoos, Salmon Arm, and at Frank Lk where abundant.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

Four seen in hayfields along Road 22 near Osoyoos.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow *Ammodramus nelsoni*

Seen very well in marshy area called Ovan's Marsh, near Cochrane, AB.

Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca*

Two 'Slate-colored' Fox Sparrows found along side road off Big White Rd near Kelowna.

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*

Common in swampy areas throughout.

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*

Uncommon at high elevation marshes. One seen quite well at Vermilion Lakes in Banff National Park.

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

Uncommon in open forest areas throughout. We saw them at Lighthouse Park in West Vancouver, along Big White Rd near Kelowna, and at Vermilion Lk in Banff National Park.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

One seen well at Bear Hill, E. of Banff in the foothills.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*

Common in forest areas throughout. Local subspecies in this area known as 'Oregon Junco'.

Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis*

Common in open grassy areas. We had Savannah Sparrows along Road 22 near Osoyoos, Iona Beach in Vancouver, Ovan's Marsh near Cochrane and Frank Lk, S. of Calgary.

Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*

One seen very well along Nighthawk Rd in Richter Pass, W. of Osoyoos.

Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina*

Common in forest areas throughout.

Clay-coloured Sparrow *Spizella pallida*

One seen exceptionally well in sage brush alongside Brewer's Sparrows at Chopaka Border Crossing W. of Osoyoos.

Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*

Uncommon in sagebrush areas in the Okanagan where we saw them at White Lk near OK Falls and Chopaka, W of Osoyoos.

Vesper Sparrow *Poocetes gramineus*

Fairly common in grassy areas of Okanagan and Kamloops. We had some at Chopaka Border Crossing W. of Osoyoos, White Lk near OK Falls, and along Paul Lk Rd near Kamloops.

Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*

Uncommon in Okanagan Valley. We had good looks at this uniquely patterned sparrow along McKinney Rd E. of Oliver.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*

Common in low elevation areas with shrubby habitat throughout the Okanagan, Kamloops and Vancouver areas.

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*

Fairly common in coniferous forests at mid-elevation. We had several Western Tanager sightings at places such as Max Lake near Penticton, McCulloch Rd near Kelowna, and Paul Lk Rd, Kamloops.

Black-headed Grosbeak *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

Uncommon in riparian areas. We had them at Reifel Refuge in Ladner, Maplewood Flats in N. Vancouver, and heard several in the Okanagan.

Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*

Stunning bird of open country. We enjoyed views of this bird along McCulloch Rd near Kelowna and along Paul Lk Rd near Kamloops.

MAMMALS

Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*

Seen at Reifel Refuge near Vancouver and at Frank Lk.

Little Brown Myotis *Myotis lucifragus*

Seen in flight over hotel in Osoyoos at dusk.

Meadow Vole *Microtus pennsylvanicus*

One seen along Beaver Lake Road, near Kelowna.

Southern Red-backed Vole *Clethrionomys gapperi*

One seen along Johnston Canyon Trail in Banff Park.

Water Vole *Microtus richardsoni*

Seen swimming through flooded grass at Salmon Arm.

White-tailed Jackrabbit *Lepus townsendii*

One seen in industrial area near Calgary Airport.

American Pika *Ochonta princeps*

A few seen on rocks at Moraine Lake in Banff Nat. Park.

Eastern Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

One seen in Vancouver, where they are introduced.

American Red Squirrel *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*

Seen at several locations in Banff Nat. Park.

Douglas's Squirrel *Tamiasciurus douglasii*

Coastal BC's counterpart to the Red Squirrel. One seen at Lighthouse Park in West Vancouver.

Yellow-pine Chipmunk *Tamias amoenus*

A few seen at a scattering of locations in the interior of B.C.

Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus lateralis*

Tame in Banff Nat. Park at Johnston Canyon and Moraine Lake.

Richardson's Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus richardsonii*

Common at Frank Lake, S. of Calgary.

Columbian Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus columbianus*

Tame and common at Manning Park Lodge. Also seen at several other mountain locations.

Yellow-bellied Marmot *Marmota flaviventris*

Common in the Kamloops and Okanagan valley regions.

Short-tailed Weasel (Stoat) *Mustela erminea*

One seen briefly at Maplewood Flats in N. Vancouver.

Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*

Seen at Lighthouse Park in W. Vancouver.

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Fairly common in forested areas throughout.

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*

Big eared cousin of White-tailed Deer. Very common in forested areas, often venturing into towns to nibble on flowers.

American Elk *Cervus elaphus canadensis*

Fairly common around Banff. Numerous Elk seen at Vermilion Lakes and at Cave and Basin Trail in Banff National Park.

Moose *Alces alces*

One seen briefly in marsh along Hwy W. of Banff.

Bighorn Sheep *Ovis canadensis*

A few seen on cliffs along E. side of Vaseux Lake in the Okanagan.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Spotted Frog *Rana pretiosa*

Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta*

BUTTERFLIES

Western Tiger Swallowtail *Papilio rutulus*

Pale Swallowtail *Papilio eurymedon*

Cabbage White *Pieris rapae*

Large Marble *Euchloe ausonides*

Sara's Orangetip *Anthocharis sara*

Clouded Sulphur *Colias philodice*

Purplish Copper *Lycaena helloides*

Silvery Blue *Glaucopsyche lygdamus*

Spring Azure *Celastrina ladon*

Northern Crescent *Phyciodes selenis*

Field Crescent *Phyciodes campestris*

Northern Checkerspot *Chlosyne palla*

Hoary Comma *Polygonia gracilis*

Lorquin's Admiral *Limenitis lorquini*

Great Basin Wood-Nymph *Cercyonis sthenele*

Arctic Skipper *Carterocephalus palaemon*

Common Roadside Skipper *Amblyscirtes vialis*

ORCHIDS

White Bog-Orchid *Platanthera dilatata*

Green-flowered Bog-Orchid *Habenaria hyperborea*

Fairy Slipper *Calypso bulbosa*

Yellow Lady's-Slipper *Cypripedium parviflorum*

Broad-lipped Twayblade *Listera cordata*