



THE HONKER



Newsletter of the South Okanagan Naturalists' Club

January 2009



WISA training – Lisa Scott



Wildlife Tree Walk – Lisa Scott



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South Okanagan Naturalists' Club

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20017, Penticton, B.C., V2A 8K3

Website: <http://www.members.tripod.com/~sonc/>

Mission Statement:

"To provide a dynamic local focus for experiencing the natural world of B.C. and for promoting its conservation"

Membership: \$30 Individual \$40 Family (yearly – September to August)

- **Indoor meetings** are held on the 4th Thursday of the month, September to May (except for December) at 7:30 pm in the basement of the Penticton United Church, 696 Main Street (blue church on the corner of Main & Eckhardt). Please bring your own coffee mug = New members always welcome,
- **Executive meetings** are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Please contact any Executive member if you wish to add an item to the agenda.
- Our **birding, wildflower, geology, social group** meets every Thursday in the north parking lot of Cherry Lane Mall (north of Warren Ave. and east of Atkinson St.) at 9:00 AM. Be prepared to car pool and offer a donation to the driver (\$3 for local trips and more for longer trips). Trips range from 'car birding' to easy strolls to moderate hikes. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Everyone welcome! For more info, please contact Joyce Høglund 250.492.0512 or hoglundj@telus.net
- **Field Trips** are generally made in the spring and fall. A list of forthcoming trips will be placed in the Honker. Notify the trip leader of your intention to participate and inquire about trip duration, degree of difficulty and other requirements. Dress for the prevailing weather conditions, wear appropriate footwear, bring lunch and drinking water". Pets are NOT appropriate.
- BC Nature (formerly Federation of BC Naturalists) is our parent society. SONC is affiliated with Nature Canada & Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA)

Executive Officers:

President: Bob Handfield, 250.497.8702
bobnmarg@telus.net

Vice-President: Vacant

Past President: Vacant

Treasurer: Frank Focken, 250.496.4210
ffocken@shaw.ca

Secretary: Marlene Hikichi, 250.494.8731
mhikichi@vip.net

Directors:

Jim Bryan, 250.492.0312 jebryan@vip.net

Donna Finnestad, 250.497.8121 donfin1@telus.net

Lou Poncelet, 250.494.9454 poncehl@telus.net

Dennis St. John, 250.498.6651
dsjohn@hotmail.com

Jim Turnbull, 250.496.4195 jim.turnbull@telus.net

Newsletter Submission Dates:

The 15th of: January March June
September and November

We welcome any nature-related articles (<1 page in length), artwork (both cover art & smaller pieces), poems or cartoons. **Thanks** for your submissions!

Please recycle - pass the newsletter on to a friend

Coordinators / Representatives:

Archivist: Jim Ginns, 250.492.9610
ginnsj@shaw.ca

Conservation Committee:

Gordon Howat, 250.493.1232 howbet@vip.net Jim
Bryan (for contact see Directors)

Dennis St. John (for contact see Directors)

Jim Turnbull (for contact see Directors)

BC Nature: Dennis St. John (for contact see
Directors)

Field Trips: Lou Poncelet (for contact see
Directors)

Honker Editor: Glenda Ross, 250.493.7500
lendaross@shaw.ca

Indoor Speakers: Doreen Olson, 250.497.6889
threegates@telus.net

Membership Secretary:

Donna Finnestad, 250.497.8121 donfin1@telus.net
Evalyn Wood (mailout)

Publicity: Joyce Høglund, 250.492.0512
hoglundj@telus.net

Refreshments: Elsie Sanderud, 250.493.7425 &
Cora Anonuevo, 250.492.6841

South Okanagan Habitat Garden

See March Issue for weeding schedule

Thursday Birding: Joyce Høglund, 250.492.0512
hoglundj@telus.net

Front Cover: **Highlights of the Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program (WiTS) in 2008** - Lisa Scott
WiTS volunteers participate in a Williamson sapsucker training session with Les Gyug in June 2008.
Grade 3 students from Uplands Elementary School learned all about wildlife trees and the animals that depend on them, during a November field session at SunOka Park lead by WiTS Coordinator, Lisa Scott

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year to all – I hope that 2009 will be a good year for all Club members.

The Club New Year actually starts with February so this issue of the Honker is a good time to review the past year.

I think the Club has made some great accomplishments this past year – we were able to increase the Ruth St John Memorial Bursary to \$500; we completed the Waterfront Bird Interpretative Sign and had it installed at Marina Way Park; we hosted a very successful BC Nature AGM; we raised all of the funds necessary (\$11,500) to produce the Okanagan Valley Birding Trail Map; we intervened on a number of important conservation issues in the Okanagan Valley and more widely in BC and our members were active in a number of important initiatives including the WiTS-Okanagan program, the various Valley Christmas Bird Counts and promoting the proposed National Park. And we initiated the monthly newspaper column Nature Wise (see the Penticton Western News). We also added a digital projector to our Club inventory.

In addition to all of that we had a great series of monthly speakers, some very interesting field trips and the Thursday birders continued to have a good time and see birds as well.

And after all of this the Club finances are in good shape – our Treasurer Frank will give a full report at our AGM next month.

I want to thank everyone who has participated in the various Club activities and especially those who have volunteered their precious time to help things run smoothly. Without our dedicated volunteers the Club would really cease to exist. Having said that I need to point out that we would like to have at least one more member join the Board so please give some thought to joining the executive – this is even more exclusive than the Prime Minister's new Financial Advisory Commission who will be paid \$1 per year. Our Board gets paid even less than that!

Remember that February is our AGM and pot-luck dinner. Maggie and I will be away but I know the food is always good so come out, renew old friendships and make some new friends. Make it your new year's resolution to meet and talk to one Club member each month that you don't already know well.

Maggie and I will look forward to seeing you again at the May meeting.

☞ Bob Handfield – President ☞

MINUTES SONC GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 27, 2008

CHAired BY PRESIDENT BOB HANDFIELD

1. New members Barb Thorburn and Glen Jones welcomed
2. Sightings Reported.
3. Bob presented to John Taylor and Jim Ginns certificates of recognition for their contribution to SONC. Jim Shaver was not present to receive his certificate, which will happen at the next meeting.
4. Announcement--- Doreen spoke to the group about the White Lake Observatory and the meeting on Monday at 4:30 p.m. to promote "Friends of the Observatory." This group to promote awareness and to be informed about threatened development. Following the meeting the group can observe the planetary convergence ---Jupiter, Venus and the Crescent Moon.
5. Speaker - Doreen introduced our speaker Maureen Grainger, Environmental Scientist with Fortis B.C. She addressed how Fortis is dealing with the environment around power plants and lines.
6. 50/50 draw Bob Handfield .Donated books-Marlene Hikichi, Bayley's \$20 certificate Gordon Howat, 2 Seed Bells from the Telliers --Glen Jones and Richard Kwong.
7. June Picnic - 3 sites suggested --Handfields home, Mariposa Park, Research Station Gardens. Members to inform Marlene with their choice.
8. Birding Map: Bob informed members funding is now complete. The Burrowing Owl has donated the last amount needed.
9. Conservation Report: Jim's report is in the Honker. Addendum to his report is: Willow Beach development - his letter to Eco Justice Inst. concerning the legality of the by-law took so long to receive a response that the time lapse does not allow a protest. Max Lake has been for sale and has now been sold. A letter has been written opposing the Regal Ridge Development on Anarchist Mountain. The RDOS "Regional Growth Strategy" has a comment sheet on Google. Bob is composing an e-mail form letter re the Growth Strategy to be forwarded to the membership. Members asked to respond with yes or no. Dec.5 deadline or to be present at the public hearing Jan.27, 2009. Jim also asks members to protest the Coal Bed Methane Development in the Nass and Stikine. To protest call Premier Campbell 250.387.1715 or President of Shell Brian Straub 403.691.3111
10. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting Jan. 22/09

☞ Secretary –Marlene Hikichi ☞

SONC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & POTLUCK

Our February meeting will, as usual, also constitute our Annual General Meeting. This will include election of the executive Board, reporting by the outgoing Board on past and on-going activities and a chance for all Club members to express their views on Club projects and what they would like to see happen over the coming months.

Nominations for office will be solicited at this AGM and nominations from the floor are encouraged. We need at least one more director and would like a Vice President. All members are encouraged to put their name forward for one or more positions. If you don't want to stand for election, please consider volunteering for a job. Please discuss with an executive at a meeting or phone between meetings.

In addition to doing the Club business, this is a fun night - with a potluck supper and an informal slide show. We will have both digital and standard slide projectors so bring some of your favourite slides and supper dishes and share them with your fellow naturalists.

Doors open at 5:30 PM and dinner will start at 6 Thursday, Feb 26 2009 at our usual meeting place in the United Church.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT – JANUARY 2009

Letters were sent out on two subjects since our last reporting. One of them expressed objection to a proposed Perimeter Road built on Burns Bog. This threatens the integrity of the bog and many of the plants and animals living there, including Sandhill Cranes. As many of you know the bog is very important as a carbon sink which helps reduce greenhouse gas in our atmosphere. Those of you attending our meeting are invited to sign a petition supporting preservation of the bog and opposing this proposed perimeter road. Further information about Burns Bog is available at the following website: www.burnsbog.org

The other letter was written to RDOS in opposition to several bylaws allowing zoning changes to Regal Ridge subdivision on Anarchist Mountain. As a matter of interest, we received only one day's notice about these bylaws before the deadline for objecting. Consequently, Donna Heard kindly took time out from preparing for a trip the next day in order to attend the public meeting in Osoyoos and deliver our letter of objection. These bylaws are waiting on third reading as I write this so we don't yet know whether our efforts have been rewarded.

Alarmed by designation of Twin Lakes and St Andrews as secondary growth areas, and by the

Klumper development proposal, some members of SONC spearheaded by Doreen decided to form a citizen's group. We were concerned that development in and around the White Lake Basin had the potential to compromise the ability of the observatory (DRAO) to continue its work because of the increase in electromagnetic interference which would inevitably accompany an increasing population in the area. A substantially increased population would also impact the rural character of this area, and should the observatory be forced to close or move, the significant wildlife values currently protected by the presence of the Observatory lands would also be threatened. The first signup sheet for a group with these concerns was circulated at an Advisory Planning Committee (APC) meeting chaired by Area D director Bill Schwartz. Other people were contacted by informal social networking and the founding meeting of the group was held at the Observatory on December 1 with about 35 people in attendance. Drs Tom Landecker and Chris Purton explained the work of the observatory and the threats it faces and gave a tour of the facility. As of January 16, we have a membership of 100. A second meeting is planned in the near future and the director of the Observatory Dr. Sean Dougherty will update the membership on developments in this ongoing struggle to protect the Observatory and preserve the natural heritage of this unique area.

An agency of the United States government has authorized a small power company in Washington State to study the feasibility of constructing a new dam at Shanker's Bend of the Similkameen River. The proposed dam would create a reservoir which would flood some 9000 acres of land here in BC according to Ken Farquarson (Letter to the Editor, Penticton Herald, Dec 29, 2008). This would mean that private farm land would be flooded as would Reserve Lands of the Lower Similkameen Band. Marshes would be eliminated and consequently many birds, amphibians, and reptiles as well. According to Mr. Farquarson, the governments of Canada, BC, and RDOS were all notified about the proposal and invited to intervene but chose not to. Our committee has scheduled a meeting for the afternoon of January 22 when we will be discussing what steps we should take about this proposal on behalf of SONC.

Jim B and some other SONC members attended the AGM for South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, which will be described in a subsequent issue of the Honker. A public meeting about the RDOS Regional Growth Strategy was scheduled for January 27, but this

meeting has been postponed to an unspecified future date. Some of the local governments requested the postponement to allow more time for reviewing the plan. The AGM for Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society will take place Friday March 6 at Centre Stage Theatre in Summerland. Kelly Cook of Princeton will speak about rails to trails along the KVR.

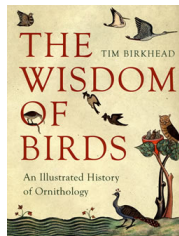
A big thank you goes out to all of you who telephoned our premier and the president of Shell Canada to express disapproval of drilling for coalbed methane in the wilderness around the headwaters of the Nass, Stikine, and Skeena rivers. Jim B found them to be very easy phone calls to make with friendly voices on the other end, and they received many calls which will hopefully be enough to halt the project.

Your Conservation Committee is always open to new members and new ideas. So let us know if you learn of anything we should investigate or act upon.

J. E. Bryan & Dennis St. John – SONC Conservation

BOOK REVIEWS

The Wisdom of Birds An Illustrated History of Ornithology - by Tim Birkhead



Greystone Books, Vancouver
Even if you consider yourself “just a casual lister” this book will forever change how you look at birds. And it will make you marvel at how comparatively recent much of our knowledge of birds really is.

Tim Birkhead is an ornithologist and Professor at the University of Sheffield and while much of this book deals with European birds and the scientists who studied them, that makes it no less attractive to North American readers.

Each of the ten chapters covers a different aspect of birds and their study – From Egg to Chick; The Emergence of Migration, The Discovery of Territory – just a few of the topics covered. What I found so fascinating was not just the facts I absorbed about birds but rather what was behind the discovery of those facts. Most of the stories of discovery are too complex to summarize here but will fascinate the reader as the truth is revealed. After reading the Chapter entitled Instinct and Intelligence you will not be so quick to use “bird-brain” as an insult.

This book is aimed both at non-scientists and serious ornithologists. For the former it gives an excellent lesson (without any preaching) in how science really works. Erroneous ideas can persist for ages (e.g. swallows weren’t thought to migrate

but rather to hibernate in mud until the mid 1700’s) even though migration of other birds was generally accepted well before that. Birkhead shows how the same evidence can be used to argue both pro and con sides of a dispute. Often only gradually and through evidence from totally unrelated fields does the truth prevail. Fascinating stuff!

The book is beautifully illustrated with more than 100 “rare and beautiful full colour illustrations”, most from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Professor Birkhead is one of those rare scientists who writes in such a way that it lures the non-specialist into his world of ornithology and imbues the reader with a phenomenal amount of science cleverly packaged in an enthralling and thoroughly enjoyable book.

Bob Handfield

LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS - (saving our children from Nature Deficit Disorder) by Richard LOUV- available from Okanagan Regional System.

All adults should read this thought provoking book and help get children out into nature. Parents need education & encouragement to take kids outdoor to seal a bond between kids and nature. The healing qualities of exposure to nature help everyone relax, calm down and have fun in the sunshine. To capture nature, encourage play as we had it, in empty lots, fields, parks and help them construct a small simple garden of a few vegetables and flowers. Take tours of farms and gardens to learn where fresh food comes from. Take walks to introduce them to all of nature, such as plants, birds and local animals. Join with them local park dept. trips, join Cubs and Brownie clubs and even join local naturalist clubs who also offer walks and field trips - but get the kids out in nature and away from television and computers. A typical 4th grader is quoted as saying I like to pay indoors better that outdoors because this is where all the electrical outlets are!

Donna Finnestad



Penticton -1-877-487-2283

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR SHIRLEY KWONG:

Shirley had requested that Richard put up a bench in her name where friends and family can sit and take a moment to reminisce. It’s now installed near the basketball courts beside the skateboard park/Riverside Drive where Shirley enjoyed watching her grandson skateboard so many times. It will be a pleasant place to sit and remember Shirley, a good friend who is sorely missed.

nature calls



THANK YOU to Berry Wijdeven

THE PLANETS

This season it's all about Venus, the dazzlingly bright "evening star" in the western sky as darkness falls. A gorgeous sight! No wonder that Venus features in so many mythologies (although under different names), and that it became part of at least one calendar (the Aztec's).

We can expect Venus to remain very prominent through February. During March it will sink, remarkably quickly after being so dominant for so long. Sink in the sense that it will appear closer to the Sun, hence lower in the western sky each evening when the Sun sets, until it disappears from sight altogether.

What's happening is that Venus is coming around to pass between us and the Sun, and as for its brilliancy, there are four things going on - first: it comes closer to us than any other planet, making it appear bright.

second: what we are seeing is sunlight reflected from the clouds of Venus, and as the clouds are particularly good reflectors, the planet appears particularly bright.

third: as it comes around in its orbit to pass between us and the Sun it gets steadily closer to us, so you might expect it to get brighter. BUT -

fourth: as it comes around in its orbit to pass between us and the Sun the side we see is increasingly dominated by night-time, so you might expect it to get fainter.

The third and fourth effects work against each other, the net effect being a steady increase in brightness until February 18, when Venus will be at its maximum brilliancy, and a steady decrease after that. But (in fact) because there are two effects working against each other, the resultant changes are rather subtle.

With a small telescope you should be able to see the phases of Venus. It stands to reason that Venus has phases, like the Moon does, as we are

seeing different portions of the planet's sunlit and night-time sides. On January 14 it appeared as a half-disc, and after that will be a slimming crescent, and a very thin crescent as March progresses. Galileo was able to see the phases of Venus with his tiny telescope, and used that observation to support his argument that the planets went around the Sun.

How often are we treated to the spectacle of Venus in the evening sky? The short answer is every year and a half. However, Venus in the western sky in the evening is much more spectacular when it happens in the spring than in the fall. To get the same sort of drama that we are enjoying this season, we will have to wait three years.

The other planet in the evening sky is Saturn, not nearly as brilliant as Venus, but still appearing as one of the brightest stars. It rises in the east later in the evening, and a little earlier each night. By the end of March it will be visible as soon as the sky is dark. Saturn is in the far-left part of the constellation Leo.

The rings of Saturn should be visible with a small telescope, but this year we are seeing them almost edge-on. Interesting, but not as dramatic as usual.


★ Dr. Chris Purton ★

CHARLES, WALTER DOUGLAS – JUNE 29, 1913 – DECEMBER 28, 2008:

Walter was born in Castor, Alberta, and moved to Summerland with his family in 1927. He is predeceased by his parents Hazel Walter in 1966 and Vern Charles in 1982; his grandson Iain Turner in 1988; his wife, Mary in 2004; his sister Alice in 2006 and brother Lawrence in 2008. He is survived by his son Douglas (Elizabeth Thunstrom), daughters Lorna Klohn (Earle) and Ruth (Rick Gray); ten grandchildren: David Charles (Lara), Sandra Hatfield; Holly Williams (Todd); Eric Thunstrom; Kim Klohn (Diane); Doug Klohn (Al Lloyd); Jori Mitchell (Mike); Michael Klohn; Graeme and Michelle Turner; twelve great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews. He graduated from UBC in 1937 with a BSc in Agriculture. He married Mary Munn in 1938, and during war was a member of the army medical corps. After the war he worked at various jobs: the Copper Mountain mine near Princeton, Summerland Box Factory, and in the family business, Walter's Ltd Packing House. In 1958 he changed careers and moved his family to Vancouver where he worked for the Federal Government Department of Health and Welfare as a food and drug inspector. During his career he was posted to several different cities in Canada: Vancouver 1958-1963; Belleville, Ontario 1963-1965 Toronto 1965 and Edmonton 1966 where he and Mary remained until his retirement in 1978. They retired to Summerland and lived in the family home in Peach Orchard. In 2005 he

moved into Angus Place. Walter was a man who had many friends, activities, and interests. He was a Cubmaster in Summerland and Edmonton; he enjoyed hunting deer and pheasant; fishing; vegetable gardening; woodworking; photography; and family holidays were generally camping trips. After retirement he took up the study of spiders, and became a keen collector, and even discovered a previously unknown species, which was named after him. He was a bit of a local celebrity, giving various talks on the subject, and known to many by the title "Spider Man". He and Mary travelled extensively in their RV, and went on several cruises. He took part in the greeting programme at Summerland Secondary School; he joined the Ham Radio Club, which involved considerable study, including learning to send and receive Morse code. He enjoyed monitoring communications during forest fires, making himself available as a communication resource. In his 80s he learned to operate a computer and kept in touch with many friends by e-mail. He will be sorely missed. He died peacefully in his home at Angus Place on Sunday, December 28, 2008, after a gradual decline of health for about three months. A memorial service was held at Summerland United Church January 10, 2009. Donations to the Land Conservancy of BC (www.conservancy.bc.ca or 250.492.0173) or your favourite charity in his name would be gratefully received. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Providence Funeral Homes. Condolences may be directed to the family: summerlandfuneralhomev.net.

REMINDER to all that our meeting night is the 4th Thursday of the month as there are several instances when there are 5 Thursdays in the month. So meeting dates are:
February 27 March 26 April 23 and May 28



We are pleased to support the following initiatives of interest to SONC members.

BC Nature Annual Meeting
Okanagan Birding Map
 British Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas
 Christmas Bird Count
 Meadowlark Festival

www.vortexoptics.com

Contact me for a demo of our binoculars and spotting scopes!

Drew Mitchell
 250-487-8021
drewm@shaw.ca
 Penticton

SITES OF INTEREST

<http://www.summerlandornamentalgardens.org/xeriscape/> Xeriscape gardening
http://www.canadianliving.com/life/green_living/ecotourism_how_to_make_your_vacations_greene

r.php While it is important to have meaningful, worldly experiences through travel, it is equally important to preserve the earth as-is so that future generations can enjoy it as well. Learn how to make your vacations more eco-friendly through ecotourism.

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL
 MEMBERSHIP NEWS!**

Membership year runs from Oct 1st to Sept. 30th. Memberships entitle you to all Club functions, the Honker and the quarterly magazine, B.C.Nature

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Phone Donna at 250.497.8121 or write to SONC, Box 20017, Penticton V2A 8K3. Want to receive your copy of the HONKER on line? email glendaross@shaw.ca.

*** Let's try double our membership – bring a friend to the next meeting! ☞ Donna Finnestad ☞

SONC SPEAKER LIST

Meet at: Penticton United Church, 696 Main St
 Speaker at 7:30pm.

January 22 2009: Fire Zone Mgr. Ministry of Forests Protection Branch. Jim Mottishaw will speak on controlled burns and wildfire. Jim was scheduled to speak in October but was called to Victoria to be given a service award. We are really fortunate to have someone with the years of experience that Jim has to work in our area. As part of his presentation Jim has a video of just how quickly a fire can get out of control.

February 26: SONC AGM - Members Night. Bring a story or pictures to share.

March 26: Dr. George Scotter speaking on "Wildflowers of the Okanagan and Rockies". Dr. Scotter.....just in time to brush up on identifying the spring wildflowers. Join Dr. George Scotter, an ecologist with a deep appreciation and understanding of wildflowers, will present this popular lecture at the South Okanagan Naturalist Club meeting. Learn the names of some of our more common wildflowers and the best places to find them. The lecture will cover more than 50 wildflower photos from his new book "Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountains" which was nominated as one of the best mountain books at the Banff Film and Book Festival in 2007.

April 22 – Earth Day

April 23: wind power. Check out the website http://www.ipppbc.com/EN/about_ipppbc/ipppbc_organization/

April 30 - May 3, 2009 - Conference & AGM, Hosted by Cowichan Valley Naturalists, Duncan

June 19 - 21, 2009 - Manning Park Bird Blitz

Penticton Christmas Bird Count: 14 December 2008

Weather: -10 to -14C, wind NNW 15-28 kph; snow 10-15 cm.

48 observers in 22 to 24 parties; 156 party-hours.

Gr. White-fronted Goose	1	Northern Goshawk	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	16
Snow Goose	1	<i>Accipiter sp.</i>	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	11
Canada Goose	2630	Red-tailed Hawk	39	Pygmy Nuthatch	147
Cackling Goose	12	Harlan's Hawk	1	Brown Creeper	4
Tundra Swan	7	Rough-legged Hawk	3	Canyon Wren	1
Wood Duck	1	Golden Eagle: adult	6	Winter Wren	3
Gadwall	25	Golden Eagle: immature	1	American Dipper	5
American Wigeon	289	American Kestrel	7	Golden-crowned Kinglet	10
Eurasian Wigeon	1	Merlin	10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Mallard	1645	American Coot	1049	Western Bluebird	59
Northern Pintail	5	Mew Gull	cw	Townsend's Solitaire	7
Green-winged Teal	2	Ring-billed Gull	104	American Robin	53
Canvasback	10	California Gull	204	Varied Thrush	1
Redhead	175	Herring Gull	122	European Starling	3799
Ring-necked Duck	9	Thayer's Gull	1	Bohemian Waxwing	257
Greater Scaup	237	Glaucous-winged Gull	24	Cedar Waxwing	134
Lesser Scaup	24	gull, sp.	205	Yellow-rumped Warbler	10
Common Goldeneye	40	Rock Pigeon	741	Spotted Towhee	9
Barrow's Goldeneye	16	Mourning Dove	21	Am. Tree Sparrow	1
Bufflehead	100	Western Screech-Owl	1	Fox Sparrow	1
Hooded Merganser	40	Great Horned Owl	4	Song Sparrow	314
Common Merganser	44	Northern Pygmy-Owl	2	White-crowned Sparrow	108
Red-breasted Merganser	1	Barred Owl	cw	Dark-eyed (Slate-c.) Junco	6
Ruddy Duck	12	Belted Kingfisher	2	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	1519
Ring-necked Pheasant	13	Lewis's Woodpecker	1	Red-winged Blackbird	29
Ruffed Grouse	2	Downy Woodpecker	10	Pine Grosbeak	10
California Quail	2538	Hairy Woodpecker	4	Cassin's Finch 1	5
Pacific Loon	1	Red-shafted Flicker	418	House Finch	1477
Common Loon	1	Pileated Woodpecker	2	Red Crossbill	1
Pied-billed Grebe	6	Northern Shrike	1	Common Redpoll	46
Horned Grebe	16	Gray Jay	2	Pine Siskin	27
Red-necked Grebe	5	Steller's Jay	65	American Goldfinch	323
Great Blue Heron	19	Clark's Nutcracker	52	House Sparrow	839
Bald Eagle: adult	20	Black-billed Magpie	301		
Bald Eagle: immature	10	American Crow	86	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	21099
Northern Harrier	7	Common Raven	122	TOTAL SPECIES	101
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12	Black-capped Chickadee	204		
Cooper's Hawk	9	Mountain Chickadee	49		

Bridesville Christmas Bird Count, December 22/08

8 observers in 5-6 parties, 36 party-hours (21 by foot, 15 by car), 301 party-kms (39 by foot, 262 by car) plus **2.5** party-hours and **33.2** party kms owling. Weather: -8 to -14C, wind NW 5-10 kph, light-heavy snowfall. Water mostly frozen, snow depth 15 to 60 cm.

Canada Goose	37	Hairy Woodpecker	17	Brown Creeper	1
Common Goldeneye	4	Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	3	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	Black-backed Woodpecker	2	Townsend's Solitaire	1
Wild Turkey	12	Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	6	European Starling	1
Ruffed Grouse	1	Pileated Woodpecker	1	Song Sparrow	1
California Quail	26	Northern Shrike	1	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	2
Bald Eagle-adult	4	Gray Jay	17	Pine Grosbeak	6
Northern Goshawk	6	Steller's Jay	11	Red Crossbill	7
Rough-legged Hawk	3	Clark's Nutcracker	9	House Finch	7
Golden Eagle-adult	3	Black-billed Magpie	26	Common Redpoll	13
Rock Pigeon	3	Common Raven	76	American Goldfinch	20
Mourning Dove	27	Black-capped Chickadee	48	Evening Grosbeak	37
Great Horned Owl	1	Mountain Chickadee	213	House Sparrow	8
Northern Pygmy-Owl	11	Red-breasted Nuthatch	26	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	698
Northern Hawk-owl	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	6	TOTAL SPECIES	45
Downy Woodpecker	10	Pygmy Nuthatch	16		

Oliver-Osoyoos Christmas Bird Count, 28 December,2008

30 observers in 11-14 parties, 4 at feeders, 82 party-hours (45.5 on foot, 36.5 by car), plus 5.5 party-hours owling, 540.3 party-kms (79.8 on foot, 460.5 by car), plus 40 party-kms owling . Weather: 1 to -5C, wind SE 0-9 kph, no precipitation. Osoyoos Lake mostly frozen, still water frozen, Okanagan River partly frozen, snow depth 10 to 45cm.

Canada Goose	1544	Sharp-shinned Hawk	21	Red-breasted Nuthatch	26
Cackling Goose	7	Cooper's Hawk	22	White-breasted Nuthatch	10
Tundra Swan	14	Northern Goshawk	2	Pygmy Nuthatch	29
Wood Duck	1	Red-tailed Hawk	49	Brown Creeper	1
Gadwall	6	Rough-legged Hawk	9	Rock Wren	1
American Wigeon	215	Golden Eagle-adult	2	Canyon Wren	12
Eurasian Wigeon	1	American Kestrel	11	Marsh Wren	2
Mallard	3688	Merlin	8	American Dipper	10
Northern Shoveler	1	Virginia Rail	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	4
Green-winged Teal	22	American Coot	450	Western Bluebird	46
Redhead	155	Ring-billed Gull	4	Townsend's Solitaire	15
Ring-necked Duck	26	California Gull	1	American Robin	238
Greater Scaup	25	Herring Gull	6	European Starling	7280
Lesser Scaup	155	Rock Pigeon	1040	Bohemian Waxwing	2139
scaup, sp.	1	Eurasian Collared-dove	23	Cedar Waxwing	111
Bufflehead	165	Mourning Dove	31	Spotted Towhee	1
Common Goldeneye	69	Great Horned Owl	5	American Tree Sparrow	25
Barrow's Goldeneye	8	Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	Song Sparrow	224
Hooded Merganser	12	Barred Owl	2	White-crowned Sparrow	265
Common Merganser	113	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Dk-eyed (Oregon)Junco	1308
Red-breasted Merganser	8	Downy Woodpecker	22	Dk-eyed (Slate-colored))Junco	3
Chukar	131	Hairy Woodpecker	8	Red-winged Blackbird	462
Gray Partridge	8	Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	1	Western Meadowlark	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	59	Northern Flicker	303	Brewer's Blackbird	98
Dusky Grouse	1	Pileated Woodpecker	5	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	1
Ruffed Grouse	3	Say's Phoebe	2	Pine Grosbeak	2
California Quail	2243	Northern Shrike	15	Cassin's Finch	6
Common Loon	8	Gray Jay	1	House Finch	2082
Pied-billed Grebe	10	Stellar's Jay	71	Common Redpoll	485
Horned Grebe	26	Clark's Nutcracker	14	Pine Siskin	25
Red-necked Grebe	6	Black-billed Magpie	263	American Goldfinch	348
Western Grebe	9	American Crow	21	Evening Grosbeak	15
Great Blue Heron	8	Common Raven	341	House Sparrow 1114	
Bald Eagle-adult	38	Black-capped Chickadee	217	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	28,228
-immature	13	Mountain Chickadee	50	TOTAL SPECIES	102
Northern Harrier	16	Bushtit	1		

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*Swans sp	3	American Three-toed		American Dipper	15
Mallard	73	Woodpecker	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
*Green-winged Teal	4	Northern Flicker	12	Townsend's Solitaire	4
Common Goldeneye	16	Pileated woodpecker	2	American Robin	1
Barrows Goldeneye	6	Northern Shrike	1	European Starling	37
Bald Eagle	4 adults	Gray Jay	21	Song Sparrow	16
Northern Harrier	1	Stellar's Jay	41	Dark-eyed Junco – (Oregon)	50;
Cooper's Hawk	1	Clark's Nutcracker	8	(slate-coloured)	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Black-billed Magpie	77	Pine Grosbeak	9
Rough-legged Hawk	1	American Crow	1	House Finch	102
Golden Eagle	1 adult	Common Raven	26	Common Redpoll	347
Chukar	39	Black-capped Chickadee	40	*Hoary Redpoll	1
Dusky Grouse	7	Mountain Chickadee	83	Pine Siskin	5
Spruce Grouse	1	Boreal Chickadee	14	American Goldfinch	25
Ruffed Grouse	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	16	Crossbill sp.	1
California Quail	221	Pygmy Nuthatch	3	*Snow Bunting	1
Northern Pygmy-Owl	6	Brown Creeper	4	House Sparrow	97
Downy Woodpecker	8	Canyon Wren	2		
Hairy Woodpecker	15	Winter Wren	1	TOTAL SPECIES – 53	

Vaseux Lake Christmas Bird Count: 21 December 2008

Cloudy, light snow, increasing to heavy in afternoon, calm, -15 to -11°C, snow 23 to 45 cm; Vaseux Lake and long stretches of Okanagan River frozen. 17 observers in 9 to 11 parties, 57.5 party-hours.

Cackling Goose	1	Red-tailed Hawk	9	American Dipper	40
Canada Goose	777	Rough-legged Hawk	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Trumpeter Swan	14	Golden Eagle	4	Western Bluebird	14
Tundra Swan	2	Merlin	4	Townsend's Solitaire	9
Gadwall	5	American Kestrel	3	American Robin	13
Mallard	473	American Coot	6	Varied Thrush	3
Green-winged Teal	2	Rock Pigeon	238	European Starling	3014
Ring-necked Duck	30	Mourning Dove	5	Bohemian Waxwing	5
Greater Scaup	1	Great Horned Owl	4	Spotted Towhee	1
Common Goldeneye	53	Northern Pygmy-Owl	3	Song Sparrow	100
Barrow's Goldeneye	75	N. Saw-whet Owl	1	White-crowned Sparrow	11
Bufflehead	101	Downy Woodpecker	15	Dark-eyed (Ore) Junco	357
Hooded Merganser	9	Hairy Woodpecker	13	Dark-eyed (S-c) Junco	2
Common Merganser	23	Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	1	Red-winged Blackbird	82
Red-breasted Merganser	6	Northern (R.-s.) Flicker	89	Rusty Blackbird	1
Chukar	30	Northern Shrike	6	Pine Grosbeak	31
Gray Partridge	9	Gray Jay	7	Cassin's Finch	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	Steller's Jay	49	House Finch	513
Wild Turkey	1	Clark's Nutcracker	11	Red Crossbill	4
Ruffed Grouse	1	Black-billed Magpie	91	Common Redpoll	313
California Quail	805	American Crow	9	Pine Siskin	60
Pied-billed Grebe	4	Common Raven	72	American Goldfinch	166
Horned Grebe	1	Black-capped Chickadee	124	Evening Grosbeak	2
Red-necked Grebe	5	Mountain Chickadee	61	House Sparrow	521
Great Blue Heron	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	8666
Bald Eagle	23	White-breasted Nuthatch	6	TOTAL SPECIES	81
Northern Harrier	1	Pygmy Nuthatch	85		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	Brown Creeper	3		
Cooper's Hawk	7	Canyon Wren	8		

Cawston Christmas Bird Count, December 27, 2008

9 observers in 6-7 parties, 44.5 party-hours (26 by foot, 18.5 by car), 277 party-kms (55 by foot, 222 by car). Weather: -2 to -7°C, wind S 6 to 15 kph, no precipitation. Still water frozen, flowing water partly open, snow 3-45 cm.

Trumpeter Swan	11	Eurasian Collared-dove	64	Winter Wren	1
Canada Goose	16	<i>hybrid Collared-dove</i>	3	Marsh Wren	1
Mallard	364	Mourning Dove	68	American Dipper	16
Green-winged Teal	2	Great Horned Owl	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Bufflehead	6	Northern Pygmy-Owl	4	Townsend's Solitaire	9
Common Goldeneye	13	Barred Owl	1	American Robin	11
Common Merganser	3	Belted Kingfisher	3	European Starling	547
Chukar	74	Downy Woodpecker	9	Bohemian Waxwing	195
Gray Partridge	6	Hairy Woodpecker	3	Spotted Towhee	7
Ring-necked Pheasant	59	Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	1	American Tree Sparrow	2
Ruffed Grouse	6	Northern Flicker	93	Song Sparrow	129
Dusky Grouse	2	Pileated Woodpecker	7	White-crowned Sparrow	124
Spruce Grouse	1	Northern Shrike	6	Golden-crowned Sparrow	1
California Quail	1137	Gray Jay	15	Dk-eyed (Oregon)Junco	1339
Great Blue Heron	4	Steller's Jay	70	Dk-eyed (Slate-colored)Junco	1
Bald Eagle-adult	12	Clark's Nutcracker	17	Red-winged Blackbird	9
-immature	2	Black-billed Magpie	202	Cassin's Finch	1
Northern Harrier	4	American Crow	2	House Finch	638
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Common Raven	49	Common Redpoll	41
Cooper's Hawk	3	Black-capped Chickadee	191	Pine Siskin	8
Red-tailed Hawk	6	Mountain Chickadee	58	American Goldfinch	79
Rough-legged Hawk	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	Evening Grosbeak	12
Golden Eagle-adult	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	2	House Sparrow	391
-immature	1	Pygmy Nuthatch	15	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	6362
American Kestrel	4	Brown Creeper	1	TOTAL SPECIES	71
Rock Pigeon	153	Canyon Wren	3		