



The Honker

Newsletter of the South Okanagan Naturalists' Club

March 2016



Iceland Gull in Penticton

Photo by Paul Graham

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South Okanagan Naturalists' Club
PO Box 23050, Penticton BC V2A 8L7
Website: <http://southokanagannature.com>



Mission Statement:

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

Membership: Individual: \$30; Family: \$40 (membership year is Sept 1 to Aug 31)

Monthly meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month from September through May (except December) at 7PM in the basement hall of the Penticton United Church, 696 Main St. (corner of Main and Eckhardt). Please bring your own coffee mug. New members always welcome.

Board meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Please contact any Executive or director 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 (northeast corner of Warren & Atkinson) at 9AM (except in the summer at 8AM). Be prepared to car pool. Trips range from 'car birding' to easy strolls to occasional more moderate hikes. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Everyone welcome. For more info contact Charmaine Foster or Joyce Hoglund or check out the birding page on the website.

Field Trips are generally held in the spring and fall and may be all day or occasionally overnight. Check the website for details. Please notify of the trip leader if you intend to participate. Dress for the prevailing weather conditions, wear appropriate footwear, bring a lunch and drinking water. Pets are not appropriate for field trips or Thursday outings.

SONC is a federated club of BC Nature and is affiliated with Nature Canada and the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance.

Executive Officers:

President: Bob Handfield, 250 497 8702; soncbob@shaw.ca

Vice-president: Lisa Scott, 250 404 0115; ecomatters@shaw.ca

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Newsletter Submission Dates:

Please submit material for publication by the 15th of January, March, June, September and November. Any item relevant to the Club is welcome as are photos taken by club members.

Coordinators/Representatives:

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Jim Turnbull (for contacts see Directors)

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Jim Shaver Jim_Shaver@shaw.ca

S Okanagan Habitat Garden: Joyce Hoglund (see above)

Thursday Birding: Charmaine Foster (see above)

Cover photo: The Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucooides*, is a rare visitor to the Penticton area, being seen about once every year or two and generally in the winter. These birds breed on cliffs in Greenland and the northeastern Canadian Arctic. In winter they are found along the Atlantic coast and on the Great lakes and occasionally as far south as North Carolina. Infrequent visitors to western Canada. This bird visited the Penticton Okanagan Lake waterfront for several days in February of this year. It was a lifer for Paul Graham and also for the editor. Two subspecies are recognized and it is thought that this bird is *L. glaucooides kumlieni*.

President's Message

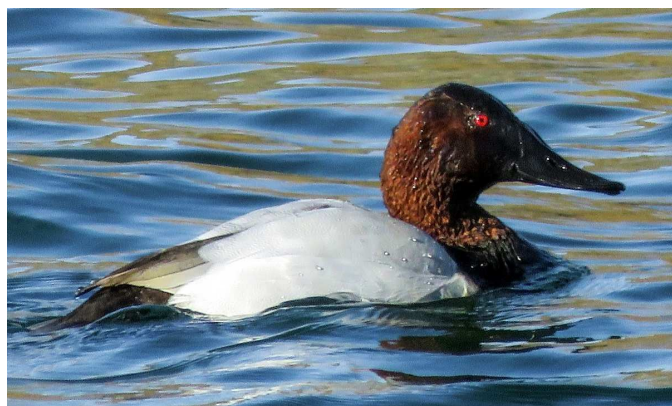
This will be the last Honker before we take our summer break so there are a couple of important matters to bring to your attention but before I get onto those things I want to first welcome all the new members who have joined in the past few months (see page 4 for a complete list). And I want to once again urge all members to make the new members feel welcome. Some are new to the valley while others have been here quite some time, but whatever the circumstances, they have joined SONC because they feel an attachment to our wonderful environment. So we all have that in common.

It is a SONC tradition to hold a summer picnic each year. Last year we had a burger bar-b-q instead of the traditional pot-luck picnic and it was a great success with a bigger turn-out than we've had in many years. Naturally that raises the question of whether we should once again have a bar-b-q rather than a pot-luck but before making a final decision we are going to poll the membership so watch for an email (or phone call if you don't have email) and be sure to let us know which you prefer. If we do the bar-b-q then we need to have a picnic committee to ensure that the organization and shopping doesn't fall on just two or three people.

The Club's finances are in good shape but that is in part because we've been pretty careful about how we spend our money. Our largest recurrent discretionary expense is the hall rental for our meetings and that has just gone up again as the United Church has raised rents again this year. As a result, the Board has investigated alternatives and has concluded we should move our meetings to a new location. There are at least two viable alternatives in town but some additional investigation is being undertaken before we make a recommendation to the membership. Rest assured that no final decision will be taken without a vote of the membership.

Christine McKay has donated a large number of Bob's birding books to the Club so that we might raise some money for our ongoing activities. You will see some of these displayed for sale at coming meetings. Many thanks to Chris.

Bob Handfield



A Canvasback duck . Photo by Paul Graham

Coming Events

April 1, Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society AGM

In addition to the business meeting there will be a special presentation on Preservation and Habitat—a focus on Wolves with Craig Pettitt from the Valhalla Society and Sadie Parr, executive director of Wolf Awareness. 7PM at Centre Stage Theatre, Main St., Summerland.

SONC meeting: Thursday, April 28. The Western Painted Turtle in the Fraser Valley: The Trials, Tribulations, and Recovery of BC's Only Freshwater Turtle.

Discover the genetic diversity of Painted Turtle populations, their life history and unique traits as well as the risks to their habitats and survival in the context of the South Coast populations. Biologist Andrea Gielens, who is based in Aldergrove, will tell us about invasive species threatening these turtles' habitats, and what is being done to limit their impact.

May 1 SORCO Open House

Join the South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls (SORCO) - Raptor Rehab Centre for their 28th annual Open House. Typically closed to the public, this is a rare chance to tour the facility, take part in interactive education centres and the Kiddies Corner, support the organization through a Silent Auction and help celebrate Houdini's 17th birthday. Also taking part is the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society who shares the site with SORCO. The Open House runs from 10 am to 3 pm and admission is by donation.

May 19-23—The 19th Annual Meadowlark Festival.

By the time you read this the website should be updated with all the newest information. Ticket sales begin on April 9th at 10AM in person and at 2PM on line. To volunteer email to meadowlarkfestival@osca.org

SONC meeting: Thursday, May 26. The Ants of British Columbia: Ecological Giants Shadowed by Invasives

Ants are one of the most successful groups of animals on the planet. While only about 15,000 species have been described, making them a species diversity lightweight within the insects, they contribute more biomass to most ecosystems than any other animal group. The social behaviour of ants is truly fascinating, ranging from weakly social species that feed on the blood of their own young to highly organized slave takers, farmers and ranchers. Entomologist Dr. Rob Higgins will look at some of this diversity in BC and also take a look at new arrivals that are raising concerns, the fire ants.

Annual SONC Picnic, July 24. Last year we had a bar-b-q instead of a pot-luck and it was the best attended event in recent Club history which leads the Board to think maybe we should have another bar-b-q. We will be emailing out a poll to get every one's opinion and we will need to form a picnic committee as some work is involved, especially if only 2 or 3 people end up doing the work. Stay tuned!

Conservation Committee Report

Since our last report we sent a reply letter about the SOS National Park to Minister Shirley Bond. She wrote us about the Park on behalf of Premier Clark, and we wanted her and others in the government to know that we are glad to have been told we will be consulted about developments regarding the Park. We also sent a letter to the new federal Minister of Parks Canada, Catherine McKenna, letting her know of our wish for the SOS National Park. At the time of this writing we have yet to receive any information about results of BC Environment Minister Polak's Intentions Paper from August 2015.

Members Jim and Deirdre Turnbull recently made two observations which underscore the urgency of establishing the SOS National Park. While birding in the lower Similkameen near Chopaka they observed that sagebrush habitat had been bulldozed and replaced by a new high-density apple orchard. Had the Park been established, this area would have been a very suitable addition to the Park. They also noticed that on the US side of the Nighthawk Border Crossing two wind turbines had been installed. They were smaller than most such turbines so were presumably to provide power to the US border station.

The BC Government invited input on proposed management for the area around Oliver Mountain which has a number of rare and endangered plants and animals. The area is being disturbed by ATV users and the government proposed to separate an area for continued ATV use from the rest of the area which would be designated for protecting these species. Even though the area designated for ATVs does have some antelope brush habitat it is more disturbed than the rest of Oliver Mountain so we endorsed the proposed separation in a letter to the land manager. We recommended that the agency monitor and prepare reports on the status of the rare and endangered plants and animals in the area.

The letters written or received by the Conservation Committee are posted at one or more of our regular meetings and are available on request to any member. We welcome new member Brian Horejsi to the Conservation Committee (Brian Horejsi, Merle Kindred, Jim Turnbull, and Jim Bryan).

Jim Bryan, Chair Conservation Committee

Club Field Trips (Outings)

Tentative One-Day "rambles"

Salmon Arm birds and Avalanche Lilies -----late April or very early May---Mits
Quilchena, Douglas Lake-----late May (possible white faced Ibis)--Mits
Westside Road, Fintry, O'Keefe, Swan Lake-----June 11
---Chris Anderson, Ali Unruh
Kilpoola birds and Lyall's lilies----- June 26
-----Mits
Manning Park-----July 23--
----- Margot
Oliver "Golden Mile" -----October-
-----Charmaine

Tentative Multi-day Outings.

Nakusp, Halcyon Hot Springs----- mid Sep

The date for trips in April and May are dependent upon the onset of spring. Notification on exact dates and details will be sent out at the appropriate times.

Contact Mits Hikichi for more information.



Organ Pipe Cactus in Organ Pipe National Monument, AZ.

Photo by B. Handfield

Welcome to Our New Members

Wilf Alarie Penticton
Jason Bieber & Matthias Bieber Summerland
Alex Bodden Penticton
Anne Cossentine Penticton
Brian Horejsi Penticton
Roxanne Livingstone Penticton
Peter Maser Penticton
Lia Mckinnon Penticton
Chris Skilton & Carol Wilkinson and Kathleen Skilton Penticton
Wendy Stewart Penticton



A Desert Bighorn Sheep seen in Anzo-Borrego State Park in Southern California. Photo by Lawrie Belliveau

The Heavens

The April skies will feature Jupiter, very bright, very prominent in the south as darkness settles in. Arrayed above him will be the stars of Leo, the constellation that heralds spring, now firmly established in the early evening sky. A large backwards question-mark on the right outlines the head and mane of the lion, with a right-angled triangle on the left marking the hind-quarters. Far to the right of all that, way over in the west, Orion still hangs on — the quintessential winter constellation finally making a reluctant exit.

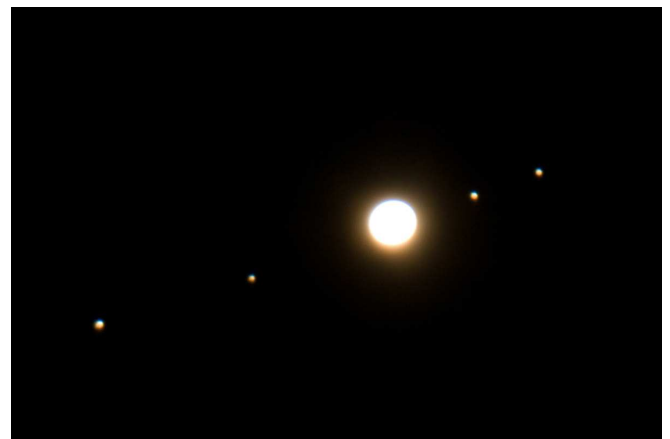
As the season matures Jupiter will remain the most prominent feature (not counting the Moon) of the evening sky, shifting to the west as summer approaches. Jupiter is the most rewarding planet to check out with binoculars, and the next couple of months provide an excellent opportunity to do just that. What makes Jupiter a particularly interesting binocular object is its moons — the four Galilean satellites, as they are called, appearing as pinpoints of light on either side of the disc of the planet. Each of the four follows its own independent orbit around Jupiter, each on its own time, so the configuration changes from night to night with perhaps two appearing on the left and two on the right (as seen in the photograph), or all four bunched up on one side, or maybe only two or three visible while the unseen one(s) hide behind the planet. The main trick is to hold the binoculars steady, which you can do by leaning your hand against the side of a building, or by invoking the help of a conveniently located palm tree in the same way (being wary, as always, of falling coconuts), or by propping your elbows on the hood of a car . . . and so on. Using a tripod certainly helps, and of course a spotting 'scope is better yet.

Those four moons are the largest, by far, of the 67 that Jupiter has, each being roughly the size of our own Moon. The first human being to see them was Galileo, some 405 years ago, using a telescope he'd made himself — a miracle of the time, but not as good as a modern pair of binoculars. Collectively they are named after Galileo, but each has its own individual name. Going outward from Jupiter, starting with the one that orbits the planet most closely, they are Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. If you want to know which is which when you see them, consult the chart at in-the-sky.org/jupiter.php on the web, and if you need help interpreting the chart give me a shout at cpurton@vip.net.

As the satellites orbit around Jupiter, each one of them, following its own individual schedule, will disappear behind Jupiter for a while, or be eclipsed while it passes through the planet's shadow. You can witness these various disappearances and reappearances yourself, as well as watch a satellite go across the face of the planet, if you know when to look. The local astronomy club is having a special meeting on Friday April 22 at which novice observers will be introduced to Jupiter's satellites, including how to witness these phenomena first-hand — a bring-your-own-binoculars-or-telescope evening with (weather permitting) a chance to go outside and watch the transit of Europa across Jupiter's disc. If you are interested you'd be most welcome to come and join in: 7:15 pm in R. C02, Okanagan College (Penticton), or contact me for details.

Jupiter is certainly the main feature, but not the only planet to grace the evening sky in the coming season. Late in May and into the month of June both Mars and Saturn will make their appearance, rising in the south-east — a bit late at first, but progressively earlier each evening, with Scorpius just below them. All this will be more obvious in the summer.

Chris Purton



Jupiter and its four Galilean moons. Credit: pics-about-space.com

Burrowing Owl Adventure

How These Intriguing Miniature Owls are being Re-introduced to our Valley

Last November I joined the fall clean-up crew at the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC Oliver area breeding facility. This is one of three breeding centres in the province. It didn't take much to imagine what 'clean up' might involve. Gumboots and work gloves seemed essential.

As I entered the Burrowing Owl enclosure I discovered that the owls, five breeding pairs and twenty offspring, are remarkably tiny birds but owl-like in every respect. They are equipped with serious talons, powerful hooked beaks and large, forward-facing all-seeing eyes under ruffled brows. Their buff, sandy colour and small size is part of their uniqueness, but they are also the only owl that lives on the ground, or more accurately *in* the ground, re-using existing burrows for their nesting sites. Though small at 120 – 200 grams, Burrowing Owls are members of the raptor family that includes owls, hawks, osprey and eagles. Like their larger cousins, they prey on small mammals, other birds and insects (also reptiles and amphibians too).

The owls are flying all around us, an adventure in itself! They're beautiful, fully engaged and delightful. But other than avoiding the most intense cleaning activity, they seem relatively un-flappable. "They're quite sociable birds," Lauren Meads, the Oliver breeding facility's manager tells me.

Along with many other species in the Okanagan Valley, the Burrowing Owls are hard pressed to survive as development and agriculture reduce their grassland habitat. The decline of other burrowing animals has also diminished the availability of suitable burrows. In their wild habitat, the life of a Burrowing Owl is fraught with hazards both human and natural.

On this day, cleaning the nesting boxes is the important job. Mimicking the natural underground homes of the owls, plywood boxes about 18 inches square and 12 inches deep are buried in the smaller pens for the breeding pairs, and out in the main part of the enclosure for the younger ones. These boxes are connected to the surface via a 6-inch drainpipe. At the burrow entrance, the owl caretakers have created a naturalistic setting of stones, vegetation and scratch-able wood mulch. The boxes themselves protrude above ground between 4 and 6 inches with an access hole for checking on the owls, and cleaning of course. Kneepads I notice, are essential. As debris is removed from the boxes, others gather it up for disposal outside the pens. Some goes into a large garbage can for a gardener who knows good compost when she sees it. Although I'm busy looking around, everyone else is fully occupied with the tasks of the day. One rather amusing feature is the "bums in the air" posture required for cleaning the underground nesting boxes. Despite awkward postures, the 'many hands make light work' axiom is true. In just under two and half hours everything looks refreshed, renewed and inviting.

A volunteer or staff member visits the breeding facility daily to feed and tidy up. A diet of small rodents and chicks are placed on choice feeding sites within the owl enclosure.

Lauren explains that the feeding protocol is to deliver food in abundance. "In fact, they are overfed to assure that they get enough to build good health in preparation for their release."

Biological Field Technician and volunteer, Lia McKinnon tells me more about what happens when the owls are ultimately released to the wild. "Almost all the owls are released in pairs in soft release cages that look like a small soccer net. These cages are 3'x3'x3' in size made out of pvc pipe and netting. Each cage is placed over one of the burrows that we've created out in the field. (See diagram). The owls spend about 10 to 14 days in these enclosures where they get to know one another and often start a nest. This helps them feel at home in this strange new place and assures that more of the owls successfully breed." How do the owls learn to find food on their own I ask? Lia clarifies, "While they're in the soft release cages we continue to feed and that provides an opportunity to check on their progress as well. Keeping an eye on when the young hatch, helps us plan when to return to band the young." Once the cages come down, the owls are free to hunt, and the amount of food given is smaller. They do learn quickly and receive some supplemental food until the end of September when it's time to migrate.

Final highlight of the day, we're introduced to Pluto. Pluto is the latest Burrowing-Owl-in-training for the Conservation Society's education program. Pluto is showing good promise, but his biggest challenge will be getting used to loud and unpredictable noises such as excited children. And, as we discovered, untrained volunteers like myself, who promptly forget the instruction. I screech in alarm when Pluto takes an unscheduled, though tethered flight from his teaching perch.

I'm pleased that other volunteers are well trained. They feel very privileged to work with the Burrowing Owls. For one volunteer, Doreen Olson, it's a pleasant way to help the environment. "It's good healthy work that takes me outdoors, and a nice change from other conservation work at my home office. Being able to work around the owls gives me a sense of interaction and intimacy with the wild, a precious gift in our work-a-day world." Doreen also appreciates that her part in the breeding program contributes to important, and visible, short and long-term positive outcomes. "I can look into a nest and see one egg, later three eggs. Later still there are new chicks to feed and nurture. After they've been released to the wild, it's a joy to see the owls return from migration. That's true success and very heartening."

To learn more about Burrowing Owls, visit the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC, <http://burrowingowlbc.org>.

Dianne Bersea

Photos to accompany this story are on the following page; all by Dianne Bersea except as noted.



Breeding facility showing small rearing pens within larger enclosure.



Aren't we smart looking?



I even have my own leg jewelry!



A burrow inside the rearing pen.



Cleaning out the nesting box.



An owl at his den in the south Okanagan grasslands .

Photo by Lauren Meads

The Great Salamander Rescue

Last spring our neighbor's swimming pool needed a new liner so when winter was over the pool cover came off waiting for the job to be done. Meanwhile the owner went abroad and wasn't scheduled to return until mid-July. The "pool man" took advantage of this, working elsewhere until almost the last minute.

We keep an eye on the property and noticed that, unlike the previous spring when the pool turned pea green with algae and was full of mosquito larvae, this time the water was rather clean, mosquito less but growing a crop of long-toed salamanders.

Obviously adult salamanders had spawned in the pool earlier in the spring. Females produce up to 400 eggs which hatch in 2-3 weeks depending on the water temperature. The feathery gilled larvae generally overwinter before transforming into terrestrial salamanders living under rocks or rotting logs up to 1 km away from their breeding place.

It was nearly mid-July when "pool man" arrived and started pumping out the water (though a 3/4" garden hose, no less). This gave us time to prepare to rescue the salamander larvae. I kept watch, gradually moving the hose to deeper water, until I could stand in the shallow end and reach into the remaining puddle armed with a net and pail. Jim was summoned and we netted nearly 100 beasts, the last few caught by probing in slimy guck. Then we slogged uphill to an irrigation and cattle watering pond for the big release.

Checking the next day no larvae "dead or alive" were seen. Jim managed to keep the water level in the pond sufficient though the summer drought so we hope at least some of the salamanders survived. If so they may live 6-10 years.

This year I hope to persuade our neighbor to install a "frog log" in the pool as part of the Frog Watch program. This device allows creatures which accidentally fall into the pool a chance to escape before being trapped in the pool filter and drowned. We have collected dozens of dead mice, a bat, a pack rat, a bunny, tree frogs, blue tailed skinks, and lots of big spiders, grasshoppers and crickets. Some of these creatures were still kicking. Pools do take a toll and it's nicer to swim without "bodies" on the bottom.

Anne Ginns

A big Thank You to Christine McKay

You will recall that birder and bird photographer extraordinaire and SONC member Bob McKay passed away in October of 2014. His widow Chris has donated a number of Bob's birding books to SONC in the hopes that we can use them to raise some funds to help with the Club's activities. You will hear more about these at the meetings and in future Honkers. In the meantime, thank you Chris.



Deirdre Turnbull sent in this photo with the comment: "Often last spring & summer, while in the kitchen, I would hear quite a loud grating noise outside the window. Turned out it was a red squirrel, sitting on the stoop and chewing at a discarded deer antler. Maybe it was a source of calcium or some other mineral."



INVASIVE SPECIES AMONG US:

On the Land and in the Water - What's Here and What's Coming

A public forum

Okanagan College Lecture Theatre

583 Duncan Ave West, Penticton

Tuesday April 26

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Come celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS). Learn about the successes of the past two decades, how things have changed, and what the future holds. There will be presentations on biological control, cross-border collaboration, zebra and quagga mussels, invasive fish, escaped ornamental plants, new technologies and the anticipated impacts of climate change.

This event is free of charge.

For more information, go to: www.oasiss.ca

Annual Interior Swan Count

January 17, 2016 marked the 43rd annual Interior Swan count. A total of 81 members and friends of 10 naturalist clubs affiliated with the Federation of BC Naturalists tallied traditional areas in the drainages of the Thompson, Shuswap, Okanagan, Nicola, Crooked, Nechako and Stuart Rivers as well as newer areas near Likely and Quesnel Lake in the Cariboo area. Areas not counted this year were Adams Lake, the North Thompson drainage, Princeton to Allison Lake, the Columbia, Kootenay and Slocan Rivers and parts of Quesnel Lake. Eight hardy souls from SONC participated.

A total of 1041 swans of all species in all areas were found. Of these, only 25 were Tundra Swans and they were concentrated on Okanagan Lake. This is one of the highest counts ever recorded, with Trumpeter Swans comprising an ever-increasing percentage of the total (97.6%).

Water Conditions and Weather

Water was completely open along the South Thompson River and viewing conditions were excellent with no snow or fog. Temperatures climbed to 30 C during the day. Conditions in the Nicola Valley were generally overcast with temperatures up to 20C. Nicola Lake was frozen at both ends but over 85% was ice-free. Douglas Lake was completely frozen except for a small area at the outlet. Shuswap Lake was mostly open with high cloud during the morning but snow began in the afternoon although viewing was not obscured. The north Okanagan reported generally poor viewing conditions with low cloud and fog and intermittent rain and snow. Temperatures ranged from 0-20C. Okanagan Lake was ice free with conditions in the south deteriorating to heavy snow and wind which reduced visibility to zero and forced the count to be abbreviated. Conditions in the extreme South Okanagan were breezy with light showers all day and temperatures ranging from -1 to 30C. The weather in the Crooked River area was clear in the morning with snow flurries in the afternoon and temperatures averaging about -40C. A snowstorm on January 17 in the Fort St. James area forced postponement of the count until January 18.

Southern Interior Count

64 observers took part in the southern interior counts. The total number of all swan species in this area was 746 birds. This is below the highest count which exceeded 1000 in 1994 but there were over 300 Tundra Swans still wintering in the area then.

The tally of 25 tundra swans was nowhere near historic high counts that have exceeded 600 birds prior to the increase in Trumpeter Swans in the South Thompson Valley. They continue to winter in the Okanagan Valley but have been all but forced out of the South Thompson drainage presumably due to competition from Trumpeter Swans. Ten juveniles were found, resulting in an abnormally high 40% of the total. The average for juveniles during the period 1974 -2003 was about 29%. With the small number of Tundra Swans now wintering in the survey area, the ratio of juveniles may be an

unreliable index of the breeding success for the summering population.

Confirmed trumpeter swans totaled 721 birds. Juveniles comprised 20% of the population which is slightly below the average of 21% that we have seen in past years. The percentage of juveniles in the various wintering zones differs with the South Thompson and Nicola Lake and north Okanagan areas representing the average at about 20%. The Shuswap Lake population had fewer juveniles at 9% while the Kelowna area was slightly higher at 22%. The south Okanagan showed the highest proportion of juveniles at 28% of the local total. During the early growth phase of the wintering Trumpeter population, the South Thompson River was the area with highest numbers for any areas in the count geography. This year, 280 birds were seen along that river which is below the estimated carrying capacity of nearly 400 birds. 444 birds were found in other regions with larger concentrations in areas such as Shuswap Lake, Nicola lake the north Okanagan and the extreme south Okanagan. It is not clear whether we are seeing a long term shift in the wintering population away from the South Thompson valley but it is evident that when icing conditions are not a factor in moving birds out of the interior, bird numbers remain variable in any particular area. Continued monitoring is warranted to note trends between different areas over the years to determine if there is a permanent shift occurring between the wintering areas. Populations on Shuswap Lake, Shuswap River and Okanagan Lake appear to be increasing in recent years and with open water, Nicola Lake is capable of wintering a reasonable number of Trumpeters. Our survey frequency is not adequate to determine if birds are building up in certain areas and then moving to other sites within the southern interior in response to localized icing conditions or whether they are continuing their migration route to the southwest into the Fraser Delta area.

Article adapted from material supplied by Rick Howie, Kamloops Naturalist Club.



A Tundra Swan on the Okanagan River Channel, Penticton.

Photo by Paul Graham

www.southokanagan nature.com

If you haven't checked out our Club's website recently, you should do so. Glenda and Bob work hard to try and keep it up to date (we do fall behind some times) and keep you informed as to what is going on. This is the spot to go for the latest information on monthly meetings, etc. Glenda has been working on changing the photographs, both on the home page and in the photography section. She is always looking for new photos so why not send her a few of your Okanagan Valley nature photos and let other Club members have a look at your work.



A flotilla of Horned Grebes captured by Paul Graham

Membership Application / Renewal Form

Mail form to SONC, PO Box 23050, Penticton BC V2A 8L7

Individual.....\$30 per year

Family\$40 per year

Date:.....

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Do you wish to receive The Honker by email? _____

The membership year is Sept. to August; if joining after February 1st please contact the membership secretary first.