2013 BC Important Bird Area Annual Reports
Compiled by BC Nature

New IBA sign for Boundary Bay (Dawn Hanna)

Checleset Bay IBA sign (David Pinel)

Cormorants on Chain Islands & Islets (Marilyn Lambert)

Hooder Merganser and Harlequin Duck in Laskeek Bay IBA (Jake Pattison & Vivian Pattison)

Squamish IBA sign and poster (John Buchanan & Chris Dale)
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1 Active Pass IBA

1.1 Active Pass 2013 Annual Report

Introduction

For 2013, 6 stewards provided their observations of bird and marine mammal activities within the IBA. Compared to the first year of steward observations the number of reports were down and coming on a less regular basis. Michael Dunn and Mike Hoebel, as caretakers, also have done regular observations throughout the year a marine survey of Active Pass was not possible this year. In all, 43 species were observed using the waters and marine shorelines of the Active Pass IBA for 2013. The cumulative total of all species’ daily highs per month equaled 19,080 birds.

Qualifying Species

The seasonal distribution of the IBA qualifying species remains evident in the observations compiled for 2013. Bonaparte’s Gull had peak daily and yearly numbers in the April-May period (3000 and 2500 respectively) and the usual, but lesser, fall high in October-November (300 for each) this year. Pacific Loon numbers for 2013 were consistent with previous years with good numbers tied to the late fall and winter months (February/March and November/December). Brandt’s Cormorant continues to show low daily high numbers through the fall and winter months with the peak this year in December (106 birds). Again this year, the numbers reported for two of the qualifying species – Pacific Loon and Brandt’s Cormorant continue to be below historical observations. As was the case last year, Brandt’s Cormorants appeared elsewhere in the region with a count of ~ 1,000 observed in October 2013 in the Sidney Channel IBA.

Conservation Threats

No new conservation threats were observed over 2013, though erosion continues along areas of soft shorelines. A derelict piece of dock has grounded in Miners Bay affecting the eelgrass bed in the area.

Habitat Quality

The marine feeding areas used by the vast majority of birds (tidal upwelling, fronts and rapids) continue to be used heavily and appear to provide optimum feeding opportunities for these species. No discernible changes in habitat quality were detected over 2013.

Other Conservation Opportunities

The Mayne Island Conservancy continues to monitor eelgrass and forage fish spawning within the IBA to measure changes and occurrences over time. The Mayne Island Conservancy and Mayne Island Recycling Society again hosted a community beach cleanup for Earth Day April 22, 2013. The Mayne School children cleaned the main beach at Miners Bay while members of the community cleaned other beaches of the IBA. In total there were 25 students plus 6 staff and parents who participated. For the Miners Bay portion of the IBA 16 kg of marine debris was collected, metals made up the bulk of this material. This amount was well down from the previous year.

Outreach Activities
In addition to the work being done for the Stewardship Program noted above, updates on IBA activities have gone in to Mayne Island’s local newspaper. Presentations on the IBA and the stewardship program have been made at the Mayne Island Conservancy’s AGM. Information about bird activity in the Active Pass IBA has been provided in regular bird articles in Galiano’s monthly newsmagazine. The Mayne Island Conservancy’s annual Community Oceans Day was held within the IBA in July 2013. The Miners Bay dock was used for displays and activities that included beach walks, a beach seine and divers. Over 100 people attended the day’s celebration. A boat tour of the Active Pass IBA was also provided later in the day.

On Galiano, bird walks to observe birds in the IBA have been offered to the public.

Volunteer Time

It is estimated that volunteers contributed over 200 hours of time toward the Active Pass IBA and its ecosystems. This includes the work of the caretakers, the stewards, the Mayne Island Conservancy, and the park commission and the Mayne School children. This represents 45 volunteers over the 2013 year.

Additional Comments

Part of the stewardship program was to record observations of marine mammal activity and any stranding’s of birds or marine mammals. The field monitoring form designed for the IBA include fields to record marine mammal movements and unexpected events. This year again, we were excited by the observations of a Humpback Whale in Active Pass as well as Pacific White-sided Dolphins. One steward provided the orca use numbers and no other marine mammal sightings were reported.

2 Barkley Sound IBA & Amphitrite Banks/Swifesture Banks IBA

2.1 Barkley Sound 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Barkley Sound, Offshore Banks (Swiftsure and Amphitrite)   Caretaker Name: Anne Stewart   Date: January 8, 2014

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiple dates</td>
<td>Casual</td>
<td>1-20</td>
<td>Mostly in Barkley Sound, some offshore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>monthly</td>
<td>Coastal waterbird survey</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>Bamfield Inlet, Deer Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☒ N ☐

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☐ N ☒

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? Y ☒ N ☐
Parks Canada research is being done by Shanti Davis on the use of banks by Sabine’s Gulls as part of MSc at Memorial University.

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report?  Y ☑ N ☒

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report?  Y ☐ N ☒

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened?  Y ☑ N ☐

   b. Have any conservation threats lessoned?  Y ☒ N ☐

   Reduced gillnetting activity.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated?  Y ☒ N ☐

   Successful seabirds and plastics lab developed and delivered to hundreds of students visiting Bamfield Marine Sciences Center while I was coordinator there. Seabird observations, identification and counts made with students.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

   Western Grebes – Summer habitat?

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?

   Approximately 30-50 hours total

10. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

3 Big Bay South to Delusion Bay & Kitkatla Channel & Lucy Islands IBAs
4 Boundary Bay- Roberts Bank - Sturgeon Banks (Fraser River Estuary)

4.1 Boundary Bay-Roberts Bank-Sturgeon Banks 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Boundary Bay – Roberts Bank – Sturgeon Banks
Caretaker Name: Margaret Cuthbert & Anne Murray
Date: January 16 2014

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FoSBS volunteers continue to participate with BSC waterbird and beached bird surveys entering their monthly data to BSC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Semiahmoo Bay, area from Pt Kwomais to 24th Ave Steps; area from Beecher Place north and east to Railway trestle at Crescent beach/Blackie Spit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly survey conducted for species presence at Blackie Spit</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Xmas bird counts</td>
<td></td>
<td>FoSBS volunteers participated in the Ladner and White Rock counts including Blaine, Wash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Numerous surveys and water quality sampling</td>
<td></td>
<td>Conducted by A Rocha Canada and City of Surrey SHaRP team on the Little Campbell River</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Jan 1 2013  Casual (walked)          <1  Beach Grove
Sept 1 2013 Casual (biked)           <1  17A Ave – 112 St, Dyke Trail
Sept 3 2013 Casual (biked)           <1  104 St – 112 St – 96 St – 104 St, Dyke Trail
Oct 5 2013  Casual (walked)          <1  104 St – 112 St, Dyke Trail

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc?

Margaret - Y    N ✗
Anne - Y  ✗ N  

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? If yes, please summarize.

Margaret - Y ✗ N  A Blacked-necked Stilt was observed in Semiahmoo Bay shoreline in the fall accompanied by a Willet.

Anne - Y  ✗ N  All trigger species were observed as well as dates shown above (entered into eBird), I took regular trips to Boundary Bay and Roberts Bank – Westham Island within the IBA. Western Grebe numbers remain low.
3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? If yes, please list: Y ☒ N ☐
   - Coastal Waterbird Surveys and Bird Studies Canada databases
   - Informal (causal) birding trips by Delta Naturalists Society members with sightings recorded by Tom Bearss on www.dncb.wordpress.com and photos linked to Picasa site.

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? If yes, please describe.

   **Margaret** - Y ☒ N ☐
   - Currently participating in a stakeholder group focused on an ecological compensation for 67 acres to become 100 acres in the Fergus Creek Watershed.

   **Anne** - Y ☒ N ☐
   - Further loss of several 100 acres on Tsawwassen First Nations farmland to urban development
   - Loss of farmland to South Fraser Perimeter Road (100 acres)
   - Several 100 acres of farmland had options renewed for 2014 (for port industry)

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? If yes, please describe.

   **Margaret** - Y ☒ N ☐

   **Anne** - Y ☒ N ☐
   - See above, farmland is no longer agricultural
   - A “habitat improvement” program of Port Metro Vancouver cleaned logs from Boundary Bay foreshore (654 – 112St) and Roberts Bank near causeway. The Boundary Bay clearance reduced habitat for passerines and owls, made public access easier.

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   **Margaret** - Y ☒ N ☐
   - City of White Rock and the Harbour Board dredged the pier and jetty and Semiahmoo Bay removing *Zostera marina* and invertebrate populations.
   - City of White Rock promoted thousands of people to their Spirit of the Sea festival to sandcastle in August destroying millions of invertebrates in the intertidal zone.
   - EPCOR property (Oxford St and Goggs Ave) above the eelgrass meadows in Semiahmoo bay is being subdivided and sold, the existing forest with large older Douglas-fir is under threat. This forest has a rare pink-flowered thimbleberry shrub.
   - The City of Surrey is determined to include human recreation in the Fergus Creek Watershed ecological reserve site, this we are working to stop.
   - City of White Rock passed a bylaw for dog owners to use the west beach of Semiahmoo Bay as a dog off leash area despite community advocacy and BC government ministry disapproval.
BNR Railroad has just twinned the trestle at the Nicomekl estuary and is pressuring the Semiahmoo First Nation to allow them to build a road to expand and replace the existing trestle at the mouth of the Little Campbell River in the estuary and salt marsh habitats of Semiahmoo Bay. Killdeer nest here, Greater yellowlegs winter here as do thousands of wintering waterfowl, GBHE roost here, Bald Eagles nest nearby, and Green Heron have been sited with young nearby.

Blackie Spit is completely inundated with human activity and dogs and there is no enforcement by the City of Surrey. In 2013 we personally observed a wedding that included people and chairs placed on sensitive coastal sand habitat; people walking dogs off leash and not picking up the dog waste, even when reminded to do so; cycling through the spit area; a class of students with teacher flying kites in the sensitive salt marsh; a group of people doing their tai chi on the sensitive sand habitat; photographer taking a families photos in the salt marsh area; people walking through plantings to get to out bound logs in the salt marsh to ‘hang out’.

City of Surrey has completed a ‘raising of the dyke’ at Sullivan Point with new landscaping into the high shore – horticultural trees and grass, no native species planted. They removed our marine habitat and etiquette sign. We are currently working with environmental programs on replacing the sign

City of White Rock is continually allowing trees cut down on the hillside.

Massive development is continuing in the Grandview and HWY 99 corridors in the Little Campbell watershed.

Anne - Y ☑ N ☐
- Terminal 2 proposal for Port Metro Vancouver Deltaport at Roberts Bank. CEAA Independent Panel Review beginning 2014
- Tsawwassen First Nations lands development on floodplain farmland in progress, Roberts Bank
- Southlands, adjacent to Boundary Bay Village, loss optional farmland to housing development

b. Have any conservation threats lessoned? If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

Margaret - Y ☑ N ☐
City of Surrey has acquired the 67 acres to be 100 acres previously mentioned and as developers proceed in the Fergus Creek watershed (a tributary of the Little Campbell River) they are required to do mitigation works in this site and along the salmon bearing creek. There is an active Red-tailed hawk on site and other SAR species.

City of Surrey engineering is promoting a Biodiversity Strategy of which we are participating stakeholders. Currently it is being worked through senior staff then will go to Mayor and Council in 2014.

Anne - Y ☑ N ☐

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? If yes, please describe.

Margaret - Y ☑ N ☐
Semiahmoo First Nation is working on their land in the Little Campbell Estuary to mitigate the decades ago City of White Rock and City of Surrey dumping on their reserve. Test holes have been dug and tested and excavation will begin shortly. The site will be cleaned out and filled with sand. We hope to facilitate with native planting when appropriate.
FoSBS volunteers planned and completed with project partners A Rocha Canada and the Little Campbell Watershed Society/ Little Campbell hatchery volunteers, an ephemeral wetland/ channels project adjacent to the Little Campbell River for SAR red legged frog etc. GBHE and other birds took over the site immediately. The site has been planted to provide habitat for wintering and migratory birds. RLF has been sited nearby and 2 pair COHO surprised us by leaping into the flooded channels and spawning!

The Fergus Creek Watershed property referred to above has had one mitigation project completed in a riparian section of the creek that includes the removal of invasive H. blackberry, E. ivy etc and the planting of 400 trees and the improvements to the stream channel.

FoSBS conducted five shoreline cleanups and four invasive species removals at Blackie Spit/Crescent Beach. We hosted World Ocean Day and promoted the Fraser River delta IBA there and at twelve other events over the year as well as at the stakeholder meetings we participate in.

Anne - Y ☒ N ☐
- Letters written to CEAA re: Port by BC Nature and individuals requesting independent panel review EA were successful in seeing that.
- I continue as a director of Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust that undertakes conservation activities on farmland
- I gave a talk on Fraser River Estuary to ~40 people at ParksFest and to public at International Migratory Bird Day Festival at Boundary Bay Regional Park.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

Margaret:
Despite the IBA designation, without a form of formal protection, developers do not take it seriously like we do. We feel enforcement of existing laws is a minimal imperative and the improvement of the BC Wildlife Act is crucial.

The removal of habitat protection in fisheries already has a huge negative effect undermining riparian protection and the marine environment. Poachers are removing all living creatures at the beaches of Semiahmoo Bay to Crescent Beach. Fishers used 5 barb hooks to extract migrating salmon in the Little Campbell River estuary and boasted about it, no enforcement to protect the fish.

We must address human disturbance and entitlement through law and enforcement. Education can be meaningful but cannot reach enough of the population quickly enough nor do the entitled hordes respect habitat and wildlife needs.

Local government support is crucial and currently habitat conservation for wildlife is the lowest priority for the City of White Rock and City of Surrey. Large resources and the will to preserve and conserve is required if we are to save this IBA/ WMA/RAMSAR site as we head into the unknowns of climate change, sea level rise and an ever increasing human population demanding the development of homes, shops, recreation, jobs and freedom for pets on what remains of the marine/riparian shorelines, rural and agricultural lands and remaining forests.

Anne:
- Protection of land as compensation for losses of farmland
- Better management of existing protected lands for trigger species (ex: control of recreation impacts)
- No development on biofilm areas.
9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)? [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

Margaret:
400 hours for World Ocean Day; 200 hours for other public events; 125 hours for the in the schools program; 1200 hours for the Beach Hero Marine Interpretive program; 50 hours interpretive signage design and installation; 300 hours for Shorekeepers marine surveys; 50 FoSBS hours for Spartina anglica removal – partners would include hundreds of hours as well; 20 hours GPS monitoring of eelgrass; 150 hours monitoring nest boxes for swallow species, purple martin and wood duck; 400 hours bird counts and surveys; 600 hours for shoreline cleanups; 900 hours for invasive removals and planting projects; 20 hours donated machine time for restoration work; 100 hours for reporting; 40 hours for stakeholder meetings; 90 hours for partnership project meetings. I average about 1600 hours annually to coordinate, execute and monitor FoSBS project and admin work.

Anne:
Approximately 100 hours, writing articles for magazines, newspapers, and giving talks.

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website?

Margaret - Y ☒ N □

Anne - Y ☒ N □

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

Margaret:
SAR Salish Sucker, Pacific Water Shrew populations are currently being monitored on the Little Campbell River.

Anne:
Port is the major issue facing the IBA in the next few years. Loss of biofilm on the mudflats of Roberts Bank will have a severe impact on the Western Sandpiper.
5 Cecil Lake IBA

5.1 Cecil Lake IBA Annual Report 2013

E-mail from Darryl Kroeker:

Our crew never made it to do any maintenance at Cecil Lake in 2013. Too much work, not enough days. We completed the annual waterfowl surveys in 2011 so I no longer have that information to forward as part of an annual report. We had steady rain during 2013 summer so water levels remained good throughout the summer and into fall. The regular precipitation made for poor haying conditions for local ranchers but it grew a lot of cover around Cecil Lake with lots of residual cover for those early nesters this spring.

6 Chain Island & Islets IBA

6.1 Chain Island and Islets IBA Annual Report 2013

Email from Marilyn Lambert:

Not much to report. No Double-crested or Pelagic Cormorants nests. With the recent (2013) report of Brandt's Cormorants nesting at Mandarte Island off Sidney, and many BRCO hanging out in the Chain Islands IBA, I am hopeful they will nest there too. Glaucous-winged Gulls continue to nest, but I'm not sure how many chicks survive as the pesky Bald Eagles continue to harass this colony. I saw a BAEA, perched on the top of a DCCO nest, take off and snatch a GWGU right out of the air. The eagle tried to carry the gull off, but it must have been too heavy and the gull was dropped into the water a short distance away. Jacques Sirois did a Canada Goose Survey from the Trial Islands to Ten Mile Point (Chain Islands IBA is right in the middle of that area) last year and he reported over 600 CAGO. Here are some pics from 2013:

July 2, 2013 Great Chain Island GWGU on territory - empty DCCO nests
7 Checleset Bay IBA

7.1 Checleset Bay IBA Annual Report 2013

Email from David Pinel:

West Coast Expeditions’ staff visited parts of the site several times in July and August 2013, by sea kayak and small powerboat, covering most of the area between the southern boundary near Spring Island and NW to the Acous Peninsula. Some species observed included: Black Oystercatchers, Pigeon Guillemots, Pelagic Cormorants, Marbled Murrelets, Tufted Puffin, Cassin’s Auklet, and Rhinoceros Auklet. For the most part, there was less feed fish activity in the area, therefore lower frequency of bird sightings involving multiple species feeding on/near the water surface, e.g., proximal to Lookout Island which is commonly a hub of activity. Since the Maa-nulth Treaty took effect April 2011, there have been no significant changes in human activities and pressure in/on the IBA. Recreational boating and kayaking traffic varies a little from year to year, but shows no significant change in volume or pressure as overall visitor volume is typically low in this remote area. In summer 2013 there was no significant debris (number of items and overall volume) from the Japanese Tsunami (2011) in the IBA. Several minor shoreline cleanups were undertaken in 2013, and a more significant inventory and cleanup of shoreline debris (tsunami related and otherwise) was scheduled for spring 2014 by local residents (through the school and a Nuu-chah-nulth initiative, together with support from BC Parks). During site visits, I saw no evidence of any oil spills or other contaminants in the Checleset Bay area.
8 Chehalis River Estuary IBA

8.1 Chehalis Estuary 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Chehalis Estuary  B.C. 033  
Caretaker Name: Kathy Stewart  
Date: November 28, 2013

Summary of Site Visits:
I visited the site on virtually a daily basis as long as we were at home. Missed a month or so mid-Jan. to Feb. due to illness; were away a fair bit in March, April & May and all of September. The BYBC was done for the area and submitted. Haven’t done any submissions to Ebird for a while although was doing them back in the spring. CBC was done in this area but not by me and I don’t have the results.

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as Ebird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc?  
Y ☐ N ☒

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☐ N ☒ If yes, please summarize.

Bald Eagles: the official count on Nov. 16th ’13 (first day of festival) was 2,380 which is higher than other count years.

Trumpeter swans: the official count on Nov. 16th ’13 was 260. *this has been a very dry year (at least since spring flood levels dropped) and water levels are and have been very low so the swans are concentrated on Harrison Bay and haven’t spread up towards the estuary at all yet this year. This has been very disappointing. The last couple of years we noticed that we had large numbers of Tundra Swans early in November, and then the Trumpeters stayed for the winter.

Only other species of interest this year was a pair of Mute Swans that were spotted in early October. Although I guess we should mention that we seem to have a growing population of Anna’s Hummingbirds here now too and in late October I saw one lone Western Grebe on Harrison Bay.

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? Y ☐ N ☒ If yes, please list:

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

This past spring the Sts’ailes, Salmon Stronghold, Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival, Hancock Wildlife Foundation and Harrison Mills Regional Association, all joined forces to form the ‘Chehalis Flats Bald Eagle & Salmon Preserve’ with the goal of addressing and educating the public in the importance of the flats being left undisturbed. Signs have been erected in a number of locations throughout the area. With no means of monitoring or enforcing it is doubtful just how much effect they are having.

On the positive side it does appear that the Wildlife Management area designation is proceeding – at least it hasn’t been put on the back burner again, and the Salmon Stronghold has become official.
5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? Y □ N ☒ If yes, please describe.

   a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? Y ☒ N □ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   PEOPLE! Pressure continues to be put on the area by its increasing popularity. I am extremely upset with the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival advertising and extending an invitation to people to visit the area over 4 weekends now instead just the 1. People do not stick to just the sites involved, they spread out all over and wander all over with no one supervising or protecting the area. Unfortunately it is people that don't live here (I am quite sure some board members have never even visited the area) making these decisions....but it is the area that suffers for it. ‘Photographers, especially start arriving here in mid-October and now with the ‘extended’ hours, will no doubt continue probably up until Christmas. If they stayed to paths and roads that would be one thing but the majority of them do not, any bird resting on the ground is fair game and is descended on by hordes of people packing tripods with ridiculously large lens, needless to mention the birds do not stay around. It is not just the winter birds either....for the past two summers a pair of Osprey have attempted to raise a family on a nest on top of a piling within view of the Harrison Bridge – Photographers set up on the bank, in full view of the birds, from day light to dusk, with the result that the birds are so stressed they have yet to raise a young to being fully fledged. Then there are the fisherman. There have always been some fishermen and they really haven’t been a problem, but the numbers of them lined up on either side of the Harrison River, by the bridge, on any weekend this fall has been to the point of being ridiculous! At least with them concentrated there they don’t seem to be crossing the ‘flats’ as much as in the past. Duck hunting continues but really doesn’t seem to create too much of a negative effect.

   b. Have any conservation threats lessoned? Y □ N ☒ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

6. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? Y ☒ N □ If yes, please describe.

   As described in item 4 – the Chehalis Flats Bald Eagle & Salmon Preserve has been formed and signage erected.

7. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

   Having the provincial government finally declare the area to be a Wildlife Management area would be a big first step as there needs to be some agency with authority to actually be able to act should the need occur. Signage that has been erected by the new organization needs to also be put at every pull out along Highway 7 and Morris Valley Road. IF the F.V.B.E.F. plans to continue with the 4 weekends they MUST have people on site including along Morris Valley Road, stopping the public from wandering all over habitat.

8. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)? [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

   Probably averages out to about an hour a day when factor in at least one daily walk, downloading and editing photos and doing daily blog. Have also attended a few local meetings representing the IBA throughout the year.
9. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? Y ☑ N ☐

10. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

Weather conditions play a big role with this IBA as to what takes place here and what species may be here and when. This past year the annual snow melt/rain fed flood waters came up very early (April) and stayed that way until September. This effectively stopped access to the area by anything but watercraft, of which there are growing numbers of, especially canoeists and kayakers but I can’t say that they are having any ill effect on the area. With the new campground on the east side of the Harrison River gaining in popularity, there has been an increase in personal watercraft – they are banned from Kilby, it would be nice if they could also be banned from the waters on the north side of the Harrison Bridge as well, including here at Tapadera.

Eventually, if this became a WMA having some boardwalks and then fencing to block access to sensitive areas would be a plus.
## 9 Chilcotin Junction IBA

### 9.1 Chilcotin Junction 2013 Annual Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24, 2013</td>
<td>Casual: Phil Ranson and Sandy Proulx</td>
<td>Not calculated</td>
<td>Driving. At the Farwell Canyon Bridge over the Chilcotin River: 5 chukars, 8 Common Goldeneye, 1 American Dipper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16, 2013</td>
<td>Wildlife Biologist, Julie Steciw, Min. FLNR</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>5 STGR observed at the lek inside the Junction Sheep Range Provincial Park (JSRPP), 7 observed at the east lek just north of the JSRPP and 0 observed at the west lek just north of the JSRPP boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4, 2014</td>
<td>Cathy Koot and Tom Foley</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>Walked the circle loop inside the JSRPP. And observed VESP, HOLA, MOBL, WEME and a DUFL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8, 2013</td>
<td>Williams Lake Field Naturalist outing in the evening.</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>Bicycling along Moon Road and hiking up Doc English Bluff: LBCU, FLOW, WTSW, BBMA, TOSO, AMRO, YRWA, VESP WEME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, 2013</td>
<td>Kris Andrews and Lubna Khan</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>Driving. English Road: GOEA on nest across Fraser R. on Doc English Bluff, WEKI, BBMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, 2013</td>
<td>Kris Andrews and Lubna Khan</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>Stationary. At w. end of Hwy 20 Bridge over Fraser R: WEKI nesting on hydro transformer; WEME, BUOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 3, 2013</td>
<td>Phil Ranson on BC Nocturnal Owl Survey Route BCF_Meldrum</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>Driving and stopping. 4 FLOW and 3 CONI inside the IBA plus one other FLOW north of the IBA boundary,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 4, 2013</td>
<td>Phil Ranson on BC Nocturnal Owl Survey route BCF_Moon</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>Driving and stopping. Moon Road: 1 LEOW, 3 FLOW, 5 COPO, 2 CONI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 4, 2013</td>
<td>Kris Andrews and Lubna Khan on BC Nocturnal Owl Survey route BCF_English</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>Driving and Stopping. 6 FLOW calling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 5, 2013</td>
<td>Cathy Koot and Jim Sims on BC Nocturnal Owl Survey route BCF_West Fraser</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>Driving and stopping. 1 FLOW, 3 SWTH, 2 AMRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 9, 2013</td>
<td>Cathy Koot did BBS Route: WL 11-045 with 13 stops in the CJIBA</td>
<td>Ditto above</td>
<td>Driving and stopping. Said she did not see/hear any LBCU during the stop count period, but did hear one after. She entered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Observer, Activity</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 19, 2013</td>
<td>Kris Andrews, casual birding</td>
<td>Walking. Farwell Canyon by pictographs: 1 WEKI, 1 VESP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 19, 2013</td>
<td>Kris Andrews, casual birding</td>
<td>Driving. Hwy 20 200 m w. of Fraser River Bridge: 13 DUGR plus 3 (one adult, 2 juv) dead on Hwy 20.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 22, 2013</td>
<td>Kris Andrews, casual birding</td>
<td>Stationary. W. end Fraser River Bridge on Hwy 20: 9 WEKI, LABU, SPTO, NRSW, BA(nk) SW, VESP, WEME, UID flycatcher and driving along Hwy 20 E. of Fraser River Bridge and w. of Chimney Creek.: 10 EAKI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 22, 2013</td>
<td>Kris Andrews, casual birding</td>
<td>Ditto above Driving Moon Road and hiking Doc English Bluff, 15 CHSP, 3 YRWA, 3 WTSW, 1 WEME.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 26, 2013</td>
<td>Williams Lake Field Naturalists outing to Junction Sheep Range PP</td>
<td>Ditto above Hiking. JSRPP and road in and out: 6 Trumpeter Swans flying overhead, 2 STGR, 1 BAEA, 1 OSPR flying overhead, 2 GOEA, 1 NOHA, 2 BBMA, 12 CORA, 7 MOCH, 3 TOSO, 5 SNBU and 2 RUGR on road n. of JSRPP northern boundary.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15, 2012</td>
<td>Julie Steciw-this information was received after the 2012 Annual Report was submitted</td>
<td>Ditto above Julie reports on three leks within the CJIBA a total of 16 Sharp tailed Grouse. One lek was inside the JSRPP, the other two were to the north west and northeast of the JSRPP. The northeast lek is .64 km outside (west of) the CJIBA boundary along the Fraser River.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc?

**YES**, all data was entered into eBird or the BC Nocturnal Owl Survey database or the BBS database.

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? **YES** if yes, please summarize:

- 13 FLOW were detected inside the CJIBA on a total of 4 volunteer monitoring routes established in Jun 2013. In addition one FLOW was recorded north of the IBA boundary on the Meldrum route. A total of 48 stops were established: 10 stops on the Meldrum Creek Road were north of the IBA boundary, extending through the new Fraser Breaks Provincial Park. 1 additional FLOW was heard calling on May 8th on Moon Road near Doc English Bluff by the WLFN.
- 12 STGR were observed by Julie Steciw in or close to the JSRPP on April 16th. 2 STGR were observed at the JSRPP on Oct 26th by the WLFN.
- 1 LBCU was heard on Moon Road on May 8th by the WLFN. 1 LBCU was heard at Stafford’s fields by Cathy Koot on Jun 9, 2013.
- 1 LEOW was observed by Phil Ranson on Moon Road on Jun 4th.
- A GOEA was observed on a nest on Doc English Bluff on May 17th by Kris Andrews and Lubna Khan. 2 GOEA were observed by the WLFN at the JSRPP in October.
White Throated Swifts were observed on Doc English Bluff on May 8th by the Williams Lake Field Naturalists and 3 on July 22nd by Kris Andrews.

- 5 Common Poorwills were heard on Jun 4th on Moon Road by Phil Ranson. Horned Larks were observed by Cathy Koot on May 4th at the JSRPP.
- Sandy Proulx and Phil Ranson observed 5 Chukars at the Farwell Canyon Feb 24, 2013.
- 3 CONI were heard by Phil Ranson on the Meldrum Creek Road on the night of Jun 3rd and 2 CONI on Moon Road on the night of Jun 4th.

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? **Yes** If yes, please list:

The only monitoring program I am aware of was the initiation by WLFN volunteers of a FLOW monitoring survey in the CJIBA consisting of 4 routes with a total of 48 stops including English Road (11 stops), Moon Road (9 stops), Meldrum Creek Rd (18 stops-10 inside the CJIBA) and the West Fraser Route, north of the Fraser River Bridge on Hwy 20 along the Fraser River (10 stops). A very crude estimate of the area surveyed by the 4 routes within the IBA boundaries was 5.3 % assuming 40 stops within the IBA and a maximum hearing radius of 400m. A total of 14 owls were reported inside the CJIBA but only 13 at designated stops and one additional owl reported north of the IBA boundary on Meldrum Creek Road.

The 2010 COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on Flammulated Owl, *Otus flammula*, Special Concern, 2010. estimates the national FLOW population size to be between 1200 to 2000 individuals. Therefore the results of this survey support the Category 4 IBA Criteria target of 1% of the national
population to qualify as an IBA, i.e. 12 to 20 birds. As there is much more of the IBA with suitable habitat to attract breeding FLOW, it is likely that the upper criteria target no. of 20 owls could be easily reached if it was possible to survey more of the OG Interior Douglas Fir stands within the IBA. If the 13 to 14 owls heard calling in June 2013 represent breeding pairs, which is likely the case for at least some of the reported singing males, then again the results strongly support the probable presence of the upper Category 4 FLOW target criteria of 20 individuals for this IBA.

I would like to thank Phil Ranson, Cathy Koot, Jim Sims, and Lubna Khan who joined me in volunteering to set up and monitor the 4 FLOW survey routes. It was a big but worthwhile commitment of time and effort for all participants. I would also like to thank Lubna Khan for volunteering her professional GIS mapping skills and time to produce excellent maps of each FLOW monitoring route with the stop locations and 2013 observations annotated, along with relevant geographic information.

Becky Bings, Habitat Biologist, with MFLNR advised of the following report relevant to the JSRPP, completed for work done by Haddow and Bings in 2010. Monitoring grassland bird nest cover using digital photography at two locations in the Cariboo grasslands of British Columbia. B.C. Forest and Range Evaluation Program Report #23 February 2010 is available at the website below. One of the study areas was within the CJIBA and the Junction Sheep Range Provincial Park. Nest cover for Sharp tailed Grouse, Western Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow was evaluated and recommendations made for grazing management practices that will improve habitat for grassland-nesting birds.


Becky advised that she is currently working on habitat assessment within the JSRPP and CJIBA for grass condition and cover for bighorn sheep.

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report?

No. Not to my knowledge but, the Fraser Breaks Provincial Park was established on March 13th of 2013 by the BC Government to protect Mule Deer, Townsends Big Eared Bats and Flammulated Owls. This park is situated immediately north and adjacent to the CJIBA on the West side of the Fraser River. The park is 883 ha in size.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report?

No changes have been observed other than continued health issues with the Douglas Fir Stands in the CJIBA. Drought is affecting Douglas fir health in the area according to Cathy Koot of the UBC Research Forest.

6a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened?

Yes. Chris Armstrong, Protected Areas Section, MENV, Williams Lake advised that Douglas Fir Bark Beetle is a concern for D. Fir stands in the Fraser Breaks PP since the 2010 forest fires in the Meldrum Creek area. There are plans to use MCH (chemical pheromone) applications this spring to deter spread. Becky Bings advised that the D. Fir Bark Beetle is associated with downed trees along the old fire guards. Some salvage logging has also occurred in fire affected areas, but more on the plateau than along the Fraser River Breaks in the IBA.

6. b. Have any conservation threats lessoned?
Yes. According to Ministry of FLNR representatives, Spruce Budworm infestations seem to be waning in the northern part of the CJIBA and have moved further south into the Alkali Lake and 100 Mile House forest stands. One small area of the spray program overlapped the IBA boundaries along the east side of the Fraser. See map below.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated?

Yes. Tom Hughes, Area Supervisor for Protected Areas, Williams Lake (MENV) advised that his section initiated 2 Grassland LTEM (Long Term Ecological Monitoring) transects in 2012 in JSRPP. These transects will be re-visited in 2016. Also they completed rebuilding the fence along the JSRPP northern boundary to keep range cattle out. This will ensure that livestock grazing does not occur within the Park boundary as per management plan guidelines regarding conservation of the middle and lower grasslands and protection of bighorn sheep habitat there. A bighorn sheep research documentary is being filmed in Junction Sheep Range and Churn Creek. (Filming is taking place over a one year period and is focusing on the decline in the sheep populations along that stretch of the Fraser River.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

I feel that it would be desirable to initiate a more in depth study of FLOW distribution spatially and temporally in the Cariboo Chilcotin Region: numbers, breeding success, food requirements, nest tree availability and recruitment, population dynamics and ecological requirements to maintain a viable population in the CJIBA and adjacent habitat in the Cariboo Chilcotin.
9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?

A rough estimate of at least 80 hours spent by volunteers in bird monitoring, FLOW monitoring including route setup, recording and reporting and mapping, and annual report researching and writing.

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website?  Yes

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

a. The data that can be extracted through eBird for the CJIBA under the “hotspot” category “Chilcotin Junction” appears to be a very incomplete. Not sure why information from some databases that is supposed to be captured under this eBird designation is not showing up yet.

b. It would be desirable to learn more about the habitat needs of these northern Flammulated Owls and potential threats to critical environmental components contributing to their breeding success such as trees with cavities, nest cavity availability, supporting tree health, insectivorous food populations, and more precisely define their distribution in the area so wherever possible land use management activities can be selected that ensure continued population viability.

c. Pending gathering of more information as in 12 b above, the boundaries of the IBA should be adjusted to encompass the boundaries of known northern distribution of the FLOW. Doing this would capture some important bird habitats such as the Chilko Ranch grasslands which support high numbers of breeding Long billed Curlew, Sharp tailed Grouse, horned larks and provide very diverse waterfowl breeding habitat.

d. I have enjoyed acting as the CJIBA caretaker for the past 5 years, but it is time for a new caretaker with a different set of tools in their toolbox and a new focus or interest in the IBA to take over this position. I would be happy to help with the FLOW surveys, if they are repeated in future, and provided I can find someone to accompany me with good hearing and sight skills such as my excellent 2013 co surveyor, Lubna Khan. I have found the Annual Report writing exercise interesting, but very time consuming and I would like to retire from this task. I think the IBA could utilize a caretaker dedicated more to field activities such as monitoring the target bird populations more frequently, on the ground conservation and maintenance activities, establishing a working relationship with landowners within the IBA and the public to raise awareness of the unique attributes and needs of the target bird populations of the IBA.

Prepared by: Kris Andrews
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Williams Lake, B.C.
V2G 5K5
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darcyandrews@shaw.ca
10 Chopaka Customs IBA

10.1 Chopaka Customs 2013 Annual Report

The Site Summary for Chopaka Customs was updated in spring 2014. Please visit http://www.ibacanada.ca/site.jsp?siteID=BC260&lang=EN for up to date information about Chopaka Customs.

11 Cowichan River Estuary IBA
12 Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area IBA

12.1 Creston Valley WMA 2013 Annual Report

The Site Summary for Creston Valley was updated in 2013-2014. Please visit http://www.ibacanada.ca/site.jsp?siteID=BC179&lang=EN for up to date information about Creston Valley.

13 Desolation Sound

13.1 Desolation Sound 2013 Annual Report

BA Name: Desolation Sound          Caretaker Name: Keith Riding          Date: September 9th, 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 7-9, 2013</td>
<td>By boat around all along the edge</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☒ N ☐

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☒ N ☐

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14 Douglas Lake Plateau IBA

14.1 Douglas Plateau 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Douglas Lake Plateau
Caretaker Name: Alan Burger (Nicola Naturalist Society); Rick Howie (Kamloops Naturalists)
Date: 9 January 2014

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>See attached appendix for e-Bird extracts – 20 visits in 2013 by Nicola Naturalists and Alan Burger</td>
<td>Casual surveys by car and on foot</td>
<td>Mostly &lt;10% per visit</td>
<td>Along public roads through private ranchland and Indian Reserves. Routes covered: Pennask Lake Road Minnie Lake Rd (Douglas Creek Rd) Douglas Lake Rd (from Hwy 5A past Douglas Lake to Chapperon Lake).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Howie made 18 trips into the IBA during 2013.</td>
<td>Some were casual birding while enroute while others were intended as investigative field trips. 8 trips were taken from Feb 8 - May 7 and 10 trips were made from Sep. 10-Dec. 12. See attached summary.</td>
<td>&lt;5% per visit</td>
<td>Public roads including Hwy 5a south to Nicola lake and Merritt occasionally, Goose Lake Rd, Knutsford, foot transects through Beresford area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☑️ N ☐
   - Nicola Naturalist Society data and those from Alan Burger are all on e-Bird (see appendix)
   - R. Howie observations are not on E-bird.

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☑️ N ☐ If yes, please summarize.

   Sandhill Cranes were observed:
   - 18 April 2013 296 near Englishman Bridge (minimum estimate from photos provided to Nicola Naturalists)
21 April 2013  2300 estimated on ground and in flight near Englishman Bridge (probably >2,500 birds)

22 April 2013  114 in the same area and near Douglas Lake Ranch HQ

28 April 2013  3 on Douglas Lake Ranch

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest?  Y  N  ☒  If yes, please list:

None that I’m aware of (Alan). Ditto from Rick Howie

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report?  Y  ☒  N  ☐  If yes, please describe.

No major changes in ownership or management at the southern end of the IBA. Quilchena Ranch was bought by Douglas Lake Ranch. Not sure if deal was completed in late 2013 or early 2014. The Nature Conservancy of Canada is negotiating a leasing arrangement with a large landowner and I will await a public announcement before mentioning the location (Rick).

A large mining company has purchased land in the area just south of Kamloops and is in the planning stages for a large open pit mine. If it proceeds, there will be significant changes to the grasslands and mixed forest in the area west of Knutsford and Hwy 5a.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report?  Y  ☒  N  ☐  If yes, please describe.

No major changes to the grasslands and hayfields. The ponds created by Ducks Unlimited at the junction of Pennask Lake Road and Minnie Lake Road (Flume Ponds) were nearly entirely drained when viewed on 9 November 2013. This is an important breeding site for waterfowl. The cause of the drainage is not clear (a Douglas Lake employee said it wasn’t their work and thought a beaver dam had given way).

Construction of a third BC Hydro power line from the substation (junction Lauder Road & Douglas Lake Rd) towards the south and west is underway. This new line runs parallel to the two existing power lines. Having a third power line might have a marginal increase in risk of collisions to birds, but since there are already numerous power cables and pylons along this route the change is probably negligible.

Single family dwellings continue to spread slowly in the Knutsford area, with parcel sizes varying. Habitats away from the house footprints have not changed significantly, but any proliferation of horses and livestock kept by inexperienced range managers will result in degraded grasslands. Such areas are currently visible. (Rick)

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened?  Y  ☒  N  ☐  If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

No evidence of major changes or threats in the south. The potential Ajax mine is a major threat in the Knutsford area. Other drilling exploration is planned for areas east of Hwy 5a in the Knutsford area. If mines were developed in both of those areas, there would be a significant loss of grassland habitat just south of Kamloops.

b. Have any conservation threats lessoned?  Y  ☒  N  ☐  If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.
No change at the southern end. No diminishment at the north end.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

No change at the southern end. Anti-mine protests have been active at the north end. Burrowing Owl releases continue in the Knutsford, Beresford and other areas to the south within the IBA.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

Probably best to leave things as they are. No recommendations at this time (Rick)

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)? [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

At southern end (Nicola Naturalists) – about 40 hours
At northern end (Howie) - 40-50 hours

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? Y ☒ N ☐

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

On 8 October 2013 Rick Howie arranged a meeting with Ian Barnett (Nature Conservancy of Canada) to discuss strategies to approach ranchers in the Douglas Lake Plateau IBA about creating an awareness of the IBA status as well as obtaining permission and support for monitoring of birds in the IBA. Howie, Burger and Barnett met briefly over lunch and agreed that a follow up meeting should be arranged with Dave Haywood-Farmer for additional advice. This meeting has not been held yet. Howie has a personal concern (not verified) that some large land owners may become uncooperative once they learn that the IBA has been created without consultation. Understanding of the legal status and implications is likely low amongst most if not all ranchers.
Appendix – Dates of e-Bird data for the Douglas Lake Plateau IBA in 2013
Nicola Naturalist Society e-Bird account:
2013-04-18 09:22  Douglas Lake Ranch - English Bridge
2013-04-21 09:30  Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-04-22 08:30  Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-04-28 09:45  Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-06-02 10:00  Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-06-02 13:15  Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
2013-09-22 10:40  Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-09-29 00:00  Separation Lake, Knutsford
2013-09-29 00:00  Hwy 5A Napier Lk to Separation Lk
2013-09-29 10:15  Highway 5A Nicola Lk to Napier Lk
2013-09-29 10:20  Guichon Ranch - Beaver Ranch Flats
2013-09-29 11:00  Stump Lake

Alan Burger e-Bird account:
2013-04-07 11:50  Guichon Ranch - Beaver Ranch Flats
2013-04-22 08:30  Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-05-15 21:40  Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-05-22 10:00  Guichon Ranch - Beaver Ranch Flats
2013-05-26 21:40  Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-05-26 23:50  Douglas Lake Road near village
2013-05-30 14:00  Separation Lake, Knutsford
2013-06-02 10:00  Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-06-02 13:15  Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
2013-06-15 21:45  Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
2013-06-16 21:30  Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-07-15 17:00  Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-07-20 11:30  Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
2013-07-20 12:30 Pennask Lake Rd--flume ponds
2013-07-20 13:00 Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-10-08 10:15 Hwy 5A Nicola Lk to Napier Lk
2013-10-08 10:20 Guichon Ranch - Beaver Ranch Flats
2013-10-08 11:20 Knutsford
2013-10-08 16:15 Separation Lake, Knutsford
2013-11-09 10:30 Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-11-09 11:37 Pennask Lake Rd--flume ponds
2013-11-09 12:30 Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
2013-11-09 13:30 Douglas Lake
2013-11-09 14:00 Douglas Lake Ranch
2013-11-09 15:05 Douglas Lake Road - Hwy 5A to Lake

Field Trips by R. Howie
2013 - 02 - 08 Knutsford - Rose Hill area
2013 - 02 - 10 Knutsford to Stump Lake along Hwy 5a
2013 - 03 - 10 Knutsford to Napier Lake along Hwy 5a
2013 - 04 - 09 Knutsford to Quilchena along Hwy 5a
2013 - 04 - 11 Knutsford to Quilchena & Courtney Lake along Hwy 5a
2013 - 04 - 17 Knutsford to Quilchena along Hwy 5a
2013 - 05 - 05 Knutsford to Goose Lake area
2013 - 05 - 07 Knutsford to Quilchena along Hwy 5a
2013 - 09 - 10 Knutsford - Goose Lake area
2013 - 10 - 01 South of Separation Lake on foot through grasslands - private land
2013 - 10 - 02 Separation Lake & grasslands to the south on foot - private land
2013 - 10 - 03 Southeast of Separation Lake on foot - private land
2013 - 10 - 13 Knutsford - Separation Lake area
2013 - 10 - 16 Separation Lake - Rose Hill Rd area
2013 - 11 - 03 Knutsford to Stump Lake along Hwy 5a
2013 - 11 - 10 Knutsford - Separation Lake & Beresford areas - some private land
2013 - 11 - 17 Knutsford, Beresford to Walker Lake
2013 - 12 - 12 Knutsford _ Separation Lake area
15 Duke of Edinburgh IBA

15.1 Duke of Edinburgh Ecological Reserve 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Duke of Edinburgh ER  Caretaker Name: Keith Riding  Date: July 1, 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2013</td>
<td>By boat all around the islets</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☑ N □

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☑ N □

Rhinocerous Auklet – 205
Pigeon Guillemot - 378
16 English Bay Burrard Inlet IBA

16.1 English Bay Burrard Inlet 2013 Annual Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IBA Name: English Bay - Burrard Inlet</th>
<th>Caretaker Name: Robyn Worcester, Stanley Park Ecology Society</th>
<th>Date: 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once per month</td>
<td>Coastal Waterbird Survey</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lost Lagoon site (entered online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once per month</td>
<td>Beached Bird Survey</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deadman’s Island Site (entered online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2013-April 2013 Oct 2013-Dec 2013</td>
<td>Seawall Survey of Stanley Park (weekly)</td>
<td></td>
<td>BCIT Fish, Wildlife Recreation program (data attached)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March-Aug 2013</td>
<td>Great Blue Heron colony Monitoring</td>
<td></td>
<td>Just Stanley Park colony (data attached)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2013</td>
<td>SPES annual winter seawall survey</td>
<td></td>
<td>Just Stanley Park (data attached)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? N [ ]
   - All data are attached
   - Several pertinent reports created with the data can be found at the following links:

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y [ ]
   Yes:
   - WEGR – on BCIT FWR bird surveys
   - BAGO – on SPES winter bird count (see attached data) as well as BCIT FWR bird survey
   - GBHE – monitored through the breeding season (see attached data)
3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? N ☒

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? N ☒

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? N ☒

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? Y ☒
   • Oil Tanker traffic proposed for this IBA is still of great concern.
   b. Have any conservation threats lessened? N ☒

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? Y ☒
   • SPES continues to restore, enhance, monitor and maintain habitat that supports migratory birds. Specific actions include the maintenance of floating islands - structures which provide habitat for birds to use for resting, feeding and potentially breeding away from urban trails and disturbance by pets and people. To promote the productivity of declining species such as the wood duck and tree swallow, SPES maintains and monitors nest boxes and other nesting habitat in key breeding areas. To protect and enhance the overwintering habitat for waterfowl, including several species at risk, we will actively engage the community in enhancement and monitoring efforts along the park’s shorelines and intertidal areas. Public awareness and skills-building is incorporated throughout these initiatives for sustainability as well as to support stewardship of natural habitats beyond Stanley Park’s borders.
   • We continued working with the City of Vancouver to Develop a ‘Bird Friendly Strategy’
   • We hosted another successful Bird Week series of events for the public.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?
   • More restrictions on boaters/paddle boarders coming close to large flocks of birds that winter around the foreshore. Increased disturbance pressure from off leash dogs, paddle boarders and pleasure craft operators is of growing concern. It would be ideal to have buoys offshore that restrict how close watercraft can get to large flocks of birds especially in Oct-Dec.

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?
   • Probably at least 300 hours – this is not including BBS and CWS survey volunteers

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? Y ☒

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).
17 Fraser Lake IBA

18 Greater Vancouver Watershed IBA

19 Hesquiat Lake Area IBA

20 Jervis Inlet/McRae Islets IBA

20.1 Jervis Inlet/McRae Islets 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Jervis Inlet/McRae Islets       Caretaker Name: Keith Riding       Date: September 5, 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 5, 2013</td>
<td>Circled the islet by boat</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☒ N ☐

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☒ N ☐

GWGU – 46 (21 were juveniles)
21 Kilpoola Lake IBA

21.1 Kilpoola Lake IBA 2013 Annual Report

This is my first annual report for the Kilpoola IBA as I took over the caretaker duties just over a year ago. It was a very busy year for the IBA with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) purchasing the Elkink Ranch South block which comprises almost 25% of the IBA area. With their purchase last year of the Sage and Sparrow Grasslands parcels NCC has now protected almost 40% of the IBA area. Under an agreement with the previous landowner controlled grazing will still be allowed on the Sage and Sparrow Grasslands but the Elkink Ranch South property will no longer have grazing on it. Hopefully this will allow the sagebrush to grow bigger and this is important as the Sage Thrashers require big sagebrush for nesting. Sagebrush tends to be smaller in grazed areas, probably due to damage to the cryptogrammic crust by cattle hooves. The road going to the border through Sage and Sparrow Grasslands has been gated so only vehicles with permission may use the road. This will greatly help to preserve the area by keeping the ATV and 4x4 owners from tearing up the road and causing erosion. Foot access is still allowed so naturalists and hikers can still access the area. NCC has now started inventorying the area for its biological diversity. They have had several experts go in surveying the area and numerous red-listed species have been identified already.

The Conservation Data Centre paid for 4 days of linear transect bird surveys in NCC's Sage and Sparrow Grasslands that were performed by me. Two singing Sage Thrashers were found near the border. They were seen throughout the summer by numerous observers. A pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers was found nesting in the Sparrow Grasslands parcel and they were seen sporadically throughout the summer. A second pair was seen on the Elkink Ranch South block by others. Threatened Common Nighthawk were found 3 times on the surveys. As well provincially red-listed Brewer's Sparrow (17 singing males), Lark Sparrow (4 singing males) and Grasshopper Sparrow (2 singing males) were found. Several more Brewer's Sparrows were heard singing in other sections of the IBA. A new nighttime nightjar survey route was set up which went through the IBA and 7 Common Nighthawks were detected as well as 3 Flammulated Owls. Surveys were also conducted by me to check some areas where Lewis' Woodpeckers previously nested. None were found. Other species of interest included a Red-breasted Sapsucker, the first ever summer record for the Okanagan, and a pair of Grey Flycatchers, a species that should be listed due to its extremely limited Canadian distribution. COSEWIC will not consider listing a species until after it has been here for 50 years and they were only discovered in the late 70's so Grey Flycatcher doesn't yet meet the criteria for listing despite there being less than 100 pairs in Canada. Leah Ramsey from the Conservation Data Centre also did a week of bird surveys on NCC's new Elkink Ranch South property but I don't have any data from her surveys. The Burrowing Owl Conservation Society put in burrows in the Badger Flats area in the spring and put 4 pairs of the owls at the site. Only 1 pair bred successfully and they produced 2 young. Apparently Burrowing Owls had poor breeding success at all the BC sites last year.

Over the year I visited the IBA about 20 times spending about 75 hours in the area. During my time in the IBA, as well as the surveys I conducted, I met numerous researchers, naturalists, hikers and outdoor recreation enthusiasts and was able to point out some of the species of concern and inform them of the importance of the area for the conservation of endangered species and the reason the area has been designated an IBA. The Central Okanagan Naturalist Club came for a weekend to the South Okanagan and I took them on a tour of NCC's Sage and Sparrow Grasslands, informing them of the importance of the area, and managing to show them the Sage Thrashers as well as several endangered plant species. I also took the Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists on a nature walk in the IBA, showing them the beautiful diversity of plants and animals in the area and informing them of the importance of the new NCC acquisitions to the IBA. In April an
IBA workshop took place in Osoyoos and the participants made a visit to the IBA during which bird observations were made.

The new NCC acquisitions have certainly changed the IBA and I cannot imagine anything that will have a more profound effect than their recent purchases. Over 80% of the IBA area is now protected either through BC Parks, NCC or the Nature Trust and these changes will hopefully have a positive effect on the endangered bird species breeding in the IBA.

Doug Brown
### 22 K’omoks IBA

#### 22.1 K’omoks IBA 2013 Annual Report

**IA Name:** K’omoks  
**Caretaker Name:** Art Martell  
**Date:** October 25 2013

**Summary of Site Visits:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many throughout the year</td>
<td>BBS, eBird, Coastal Waterbird Surveys, Beached Bird Surveys, CBC, Comox Spring Bird Count, Swan Counts, CVN Birders walks/Field Trips</td>
<td>80+%</td>
<td>Multiple locations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc?  
   - Y  
   - N

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year?  
   - Y  
   - N  
   - If yes, please list.  
   

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest?  
   - Y  
   - N  
   - If yes, please list:

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report?  
   - Y  
   - N  
   - If yes, please list:

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report?  
   - Y  
   - N  
   - If yes, please describe:

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened?  
   - Y  
   - N  
   - If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   b. Have any conservation threats lessoned?  
   - Y  
   - N  
   - If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   Proposals for coal mining at Deep Bay are now on hold.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated?  
   - Y  
   - N  
   - If yes, please describe:

   Ongoing programs for re-establishment of Eelgrass (Project Watershed) and Bull Kelp (Point Holmes & Hornby Island). Trumpeter Swan Festival reinitiated November 2013.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?
Reduction in harvest of Herring, reduced hardening of shorelines (greenshores),

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)? [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

Unknown, but estimated 1000+ hrs.

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? Y ✗ N □

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc.)
23 Laskeek Bay IBA

23.1 Laskeek Bay 2013 Annual Report*

See full report at http://www.laskeekbay.org/publications.html

SUMMARY
This was Laskeek Bay Conservation Society’s 24th field season on East Limestone Island, Laskeek Bay, Haida Gwaii. The 2013 season ran from 3 May to 12 July, bringing 25 volunteers and 106 visitors to the island. Project Limestone was back this season bringing 29 students and 9 teachers/chaperones to the island. Ancient Murrelet chick departures at Cabin Cove were the highest recorded since 2007. No raccoons were detected on the island this season. Black Oystercatcher surveys were conducted in both Laskeek Bay and in Gwaii Haanas. We censused Glaucous-winged Gull colonies in Laskeek Bay and found 295 active nests at three colonies. Pigeon Guillemots used 16 of the 28 nest boxes at Lookout Point. Eight Cassin’s Auklet nest boxes were active, and 4 chicks fledged by 10 July. Four near-shore sea surveys were completed and Marbled Murrelet counts were higher than in 2012. Two Hecate Strait sea surveys were completed. Marine mammal sightings this season included 12 Humpbacks, 1 Grey whale, 6 Minke whales, 7 Harbour porpoises and 5 different groups of Killer whales. Seventeen wildlife trees were active: 11 with Red-breasted Sapsuckers, 1 with Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 1 with Hairy Woodpeckers, 1 with Northern Flickers, 1 with Brown creepers and 2 with Red-breasted Nuthatches. Both the Common Raven and Peregrine Falcon nests were active, but no Bald Eagle nests were confirmed active this season.

Prepared by Jake Pattison and Vivian Pattison
Reviewed and Edited by Laskeek Bay Conservation Society
Box 867, Queen Charlotte, BC, V0T 1S0

24 Lawn Point IBA
25 Little Qualicum Estuary to Nanoose Bay IBA

25.1 Little Qualicum Estuary to Nanoose Bay 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: L. Qual. Est. to Nanoose B.  Caretaker Name: Christopher M. Stephens  Date: December 8 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>Casual Counts, Scanning</td>
<td>&gt;25%</td>
<td>Key IBA Shoreline Section Perusa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 1-26</td>
<td>Casual Counts, Site Monitoring</td>
<td>&gt;20%</td>
<td>Key IBA Shoreline Section Perusa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 24-30</td>
<td>Casual Count-Disturbance Check</td>
<td>&gt;15%</td>
<td>Monitoring Estuarine &quot;Hotspots&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 10 - Dec 7</td>
<td>Species Specific Counts</td>
<td>&gt;20%</td>
<td>Checked Secluded &amp; Public Beaches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☐ N ☒

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☒ N ☐

   I observed several hundred Brant in the shallows of Parksville Bay, Rathtrevor Park, Columbia Beach & the Little Qualicum River Estuary on spring visits. I observed 25 Brant on Dec. 5 at Parksville Bay. Several Western Grebes, many colonial waterbirds/scoters/loons present. Columbia Beach's Admiral's Lagoon = hotspot for Black Oystercatchers & Black Turnstones (triggers). Horned Grebe widely present. I noted hundreds of Glaucous-winged, Mew & Thayer's Gulls (trigger) in spring/fall/early winter. Frequent spring & fall disturbances a problem at all beaches. People don't know to stay away from these

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? Y ☒ N ☐

   Coastal Waterbird Survey  
   Reports from Live-in Moorecroft Regional Park Caretaker?  
   BC Breeding Bird Atlas  
   BCVIBIRDS Yahoo Groups Reports, Christmas Bird Count

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? Y ☒ N ☐

   Changes have occurred in the uplands and watersheds feeding into the IBA. Many use related threats on the primary, directly connected coastal areas where trigger species are found in migration, breeding season and while wintering remain the same. Extensive concern has been raised in local papers over illegal shellfish harvesting - could affect birds. I may take this up in the media and investigate further in 2014. Moorecroft Park was established, & my work with Parksville led to a key marsh being protected.
5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? Y ☐ N ☒

   This is my first report as the new caretaker. Habitat conditions have not drastically changed. I will use this space to discuss that upland forests, rivers and woodlands supporting the health of the coastline and waters further out need to be protected to reduce pollution. Reduced forest cover due to weakened logging regulations since 2000 threaten salmon availability to birds, such as Thayer's Gull. Shoreline hardening and erosion continues to pose a possible threat to forage fish, while eelgrass loss is a concern. Herring quotas and illegal clam digging, plus seaweed harvesting warrant scrutiny. Any effort to plant and restore upland vegetation and riparian habitat is worthwhile. Support MVIHES watershed work.

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? Y ☐ N ☒

   Yes. Great Blue Herons are a species of conservation concern (COSEWIC/Blue List for our fannini subspecies). I have frequently observed a lone, or 2 of these birds being endlessly harassed by dogs or flushed by humans. People need to notice herons and stay well away from them. Outreach/education needed. Illegal shellfish harvesting needs further study. Cuts to the Fisheries Act may send ripple effects and could be a threat. Habitat loss, petro-pollution from upland gas stations/car washes, parking a risk.

   b. Have any conservation threats lessoned? Y ☐ N ☒

   Bald Eagle attacks caused many disturbances to Brant, but when I watched humans on Parksville's flats with concern, I saw responsible behavior and no dog chases. This problem, but perhaps due to education & enforcement postings, it has been reduced somewhat. I am concerned by constant flushing of 6 Target species at Columbia Beach -one good sign re: gulls/brant/shorebirds could work wonders....

   City Council is protecting the Parksville Wetlands vis a vis my initiative - parksvillewetlands.weebly.com.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? Y ☒ N ☐

   Public education to reduce Brant Disturbance continues. Work to maintain and restore watersheds continues. Columbia Beach is a huge gathering area for many trigger species, but dog/human disturbance is extremely frequent. Regular flushing needs to be addressed - let's get a big sign? I am working with the Friends of Whiskey Creek Wetlands Society as a consulting Field Ornithologist to document and assist in the protection of wetlands leading to and supporting the Little Qualicum River Estuary's water source and bird habitat. Brant Festival Tours Continue to raise awareness. There is a vital need for disturbance/pollution education, and forage fish protection.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

   The Island Highway is lined with gas stations and parking lots in Qualicum & North Parksville to Rathtrevor, meters from shorelines. Tests have indicated contamination of the estuary and waterfront, which could affect birds. Rain Garden development and oil cleanup efforts? Protect upland buffers to maintain transition ecosystems between land & water. Educate public re: gull/shorebird disturbance.

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?

   50 to 65 hours. I spent time analyzing conservation threats, observing species, disturbance and pollution sources in towns, and compiling information and talking with other birders. I discussed birds in articles.
10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? Y ☑️ N □

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

I feel that this IBA has great potential to remain strong, but the broader implications of upland habitat change may have dire impacts on productivity, ecological integrity and pollution loss. Work with local government to protect/enhance watersheds, work with provincial agencies lobbying for stronger riparian protection, & work with law enforcement to limit disturbance/poaching. Maintain the community with upland habitat for songbirds/raptors as well as target waterbirds. A big sign for Columbia Beach please?

26 McFadden Heronry IBA

27 McIntyre Beach Rose Spit IBA
28 Mitlenatch Island IBA

28.1 Mitlenatch Island 2013 Annual Report by MIST

IBA Name: Mitlenatch Island
Caretaker Name: Peggy Sowden (MIST)
Date: 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 29 to Sept 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☒ N ☐

Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park covers approximately 155 hectares, the island is 36 hectares and 119 hectares are the marine water surrounding the island (the island is ~ 22% of the park)

Approximately 80% of the island is restricted access - closed to all during the seabird nesting season (April-Sept.).

MIST volunteers go by foot along the trail system in the non-restricted area and by small boat they circumnavigate the entire island. Their bird sightings are recorded several times a month. (~ 80 entries this year)

MIST volunteers did 79 separate bird counts over Apr.1-Sept 18 – entered on eBird.

BCBBS records are also done at least once monthly in the summer. GWGU nest counts are planned every 5 years. Pelagic and Double-crested cormorant nest numbers are done at two points in the nesting season.

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☒ N ☐

See Appendix A.

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? Y ☒ N ☐

BC Beached Bird Survey ongoing: Linda Cole, MIST lead on this project (1-250-756-1050)


Abstract: Relationship between foraging, diet and potential for contaminant exposure in the Glaucous-winged gull. Mikaela Davis (MSc) successfully defended her Master’s thesis on this project in spring 2012, a) investigating Glaucous-winged gull diets across three historically-used breeding colonies off the coast of Vancouver Island, and b) comparing findings with those of similar studies conducted 27-
37 years ago. This study provided essential information for the interpretation of contaminant monitoring data and use of the Glaucous-winged gull as a suitable monitoring species for marine contaminants on the Canadian West coast, under EC’s Chemical Management Plan.

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report?  **Y □ N □**

Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park (Class A Park, Category 1) was established in 1961. It has a special status as a Nature Provincial Park. BC Parks supports Mitlenatch as an IBA, in large part, through their ongoing support of the MIST program.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report?  **Y □ N □**

6. Current and potential conservation threats include:

I. Marine and freshwater aquaculture - industrial aquaculture: Large amounts of debris from aquaculture operations wash up on the island's beaches. Styrofoam breaks apart and these smaller pieces have been known to be ingested by birds. Small plastic particles are also ingested by marine invertebrates and this affects all the creatures up the food chain.

II. Climate Change – from an increase in violent storms to changes in precipitation and temperature nesting birds will be affected. The climate changes, if gradual, will in turn cause a gradual decline in bird population numbers and it will be difficult, at times, to ascertain the underlying cause of the decline.

III. Earthquakes/tsunamis- the largest impact may be the island breaking part or being permanently submerged.

IV. Recreational activities- From direct interference at nest sites to birds being tangled in fishing gear human interference remains the biggest immediate threat to birds on Mitlenatch. It is the one of the threats which can be dealt with directly.

V. Invasive alien species and problematic native species. Plants, both alien and native can convert a rocky island to a forested island not suitable for nesting.

VI. Fire suppression. Periodic fires (eg. 1955) have kept the island free of heavy vegetation

VII. Direct and Indirect mortality. Traditional First Nations egg collecting may cause significant impact if all bands with historic connections to Mitlenatch collect GWGU eggs.

VIII. Garbage and solid waste. Consumption of human refuse may result in lowered reproduction and survival rates for GWGU.

**Supporting Documents**


2. Human interference results in nest sites being abandoned. *Dramatic Changes in Breeding Seabird Populations near Nanaimo BC*, Bill Merilees and Guy Monty,2005
7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated?  

Y ☑️ N ☐

**MIST** - MIST (Mitlenatch Island Stewardship Team) provides the island’s volunteer program. This year MIST volunteer teams were on the island from March 29 - to Sept 18. During each week volunteers perform a series of tasks including: providing a protective presence for the nesting seabirds by greeting visitors, answering their questions and by ensuring they are keeping on the paths and are landing their vessels at the designated locations (away from nesting Black Oystercatchers, Pigeon Guillemots and molting Harlequin Ducks). The volunteers also offer nature walks for visitors and guide them in use of the bird blind. Beach clean-up is done weekly. Removal of non-native blackberry and *Sedum acre* is done in the non-restricted area on alternate weeks throughout the summer. Data inventory is collected and includes: eBird, BCBBS, an Intertidal survey (BC Parks mandate, PISCO design) and Plant Phenology. MIST also installed a new interpretive sign as well as more directional signs (“no entry birds nesting”, “use of the bird blind” and “no dogs” signs).

Contacts:  
Peggy Sowden, MIST Representative -Box#163 Sayward, BC, V0P1R0, 1-250-949-0349, davetpeggys@msn.com; Derek Moore, BC Parks Von Donop Area Supervisor, Miracle Beach: BC Provincial Parks, 1812 Miracle Beach Dr., Black Creek, BC V9J 1K1, 1-250-337-2410, Derek.Moore@gov.bc.ca

**RCA** – A large Rockfish Conservation Area surrounds Mitlenatch Island. DFO manages the RCA program. Due to limited staff and funds the Fisheries officers are unable to provide an adequate protective presence. MIST is working on ways to educate the public about the RCA and the importance of marine protection to the well-being of all species. Newspaper articles will be published in June and brochures and posters will be distributed to Marinas and boaters. In a conversation with Neil Davis of DFO the changing of the RCA designation to RCA/no angling was suggested by MIST.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

**Improve the forage fish availability to nesting seabirds**: Actions could include: promoting measures against climate change, increased inventory collection on forage species with further fisheries restrictions and enforcement of new and existing regulations and public education. On Public education it would be helpful to hire students during the summer (senior high school or university students) to conduct a number of activities. Activities could include: increase public awareness through direct contact eg. Information booth, distribution of pamphlets at boat launches, marinas and fishing licensing points. Also speaking to Fishing clubs, Public schools and events, etc.

**Reduce human interference with nesting sites**: Through public education and government policy discourage/prevent public access to islets with nesting or potential nesting habitat.

The MIST program has greatly reduced human interference with the nesting activity of not only the trigger species (Glaucous-winged Gull, Pigeon Guillemot, and Pelagic Cormorant) but other nesting species as well (e.g. Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black Oyster Catcher)

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?
10. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

**Problem:** While there are still large numbers of the Trigger species nesting on Mitlenatch Island there has been a steady decline of nesting GWGU nests on Mitlenatch Island (in 1991 census over 3000 nesting pairs, in 2010 census just over 1000 nesting pairs). The major factors that appear to be responsible are an increase in Bald Eagle predation and a decline in available forage fish. As well, the loss of the rocky nesting areas may be a factor in the decline of nesting GWGU. This loss is due invasive species and natural succession covering the rocks. There are anecdotal reports of an increase in the GWGU nesting on nearby small islets.

**Possible Solutions:**
1. Provide a larger marine area around the island to include all of the foraging area. As well it would be beneficial to consider adding nearby islets to the IBA. Further recording of the nesting activity on the adjacent islets would be needed to determine which islets would be most helpful to include.
2. Take measures to improve forage fish numbers.
3. Consider invasive species/succession control through removal and controlled burns.

**Other descriptions:** Mitlenatch Island is an Associated Garry Oak ecosystem. As this type of ecosystem is under pressure from human developments throughout Coastal BC, protecting an example such as Mitlenatch Island is very important. Removal of invasive species and slowing succession are two ways to maintain both the unique flora and the rocky nesting habitat required by Glaucous–winged Gulls, Black Oystercatchers, Pelagic Cormorants and Double-crested Cormorants. In addition to the invasive plant removal program MIST is doing, a controlled burn is being considered. To maintain the maximum biodiversity, many areas such as the Aspen Grove, would be protected.

**Appendix A. Summary of Bird Records for Trigger Species and other Valuable Species**

The *underlined* number is the maximum number recorded during Apr6 to Sept12 in 2011, Apr1 to Sept 13, 2012 and Mar.29 to Sept.17, 2013.

1. **Glaucous-winged Gull – trigger species**


Due to the fact that accurate nest counts from circumnavigation of the island can’t be obtained (can’t see all nests, especially on West Hill) numbers of nests or birds will not be very useful in assessing the population change until the proper active nest count is done in 2015. A single travelling count**across the notch meadow was set up monthly for 2013, .2 km- the length of the trail from Camp to NW bay ) this may provide a better idea, over time, of nesting population numbers vs. casual observations. All birds sighted from the trail are counted, including along those along the shoreline of Camp and NW bays. The lower number of birds sighted in 2013 is due to the smaller sample size being counted.

2011: Apr.11/*815, May 25/1467, July 22/300 (casual observations)
2012: Apr.12/921, May 24/*1384 (casual observations)

2013: May 13/490**, May 19/500**

2. Pelagic Cormorant - trigger species

Historic – total number of nests (active or not active)


Largest Total Number of Birds (juvenile, immature and adults) Counts taken on Island Circumnavigation C or along nesting cliffs N

2011:  May25/218 C, June 24/* 719 C, July 22/366 C
2012:  May 24/185 C, July 31/ *378 C

3. Double-crested Cormorant

Historic –total number of nests (active and not active) (No nests were recorded 1959-1993)


** This is difficult from the water. A more accurate count will be done in 2015 with the GWGU census

Largest Total Number of Birds (juvenile, immature and adults) Counts taken on Island Circumnavigation C or along nesting cliffs N

2011:  May 25/*/59 C
2012:  May 24/40 C, July22/*60 C
2013: May 15/*/80 N, May22/56 C, Aug3/54 C

4. Pigeon Guillemot – trigger species

2012: Apr.15/125, May 24/*166, June 13/10, July22/60
2013: Apr.4/24, May14/*/380, July3/110

PG numbers will be lower at times, as adults maybe on the nests which are not visible

5. Black Oystercatcher

2011: Apr.11/9, May 13/16, May 25/5, June 24/*/36, July 21/4, July22/7
2012: Apr.15/8, May 14/*/13, June 13/2, July 31/12
2013: May 5/17, May 9/13, July3/*/35

6. Northwestern Crow

2011: Apr.11/22, May 13/19, May 25/*/46, June 24/26, July 22/35
2012: Apr.9/*/100, May 13/50, June 13/8, July 31/12
2013: May 11/28, June5/30, July 19/80, Sept 4/*/121
7. Harlequin duck

2011: Apr.11/25, May 13/*78, May25/58, June 24/82, July22/29
2012: Apr.12/*136, May 24/53, June 13/39, July 5/10, Aug 29/1
2013: Apr.17/68, May 22/*99, July 19/61, Aug.17/10

28.2 Mitlenatch Island 2013 Annual Report by Keith Riding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IBA Name: Mitlenatch Island</th>
<th>Caretaker Name: Keith Riding</th>
<th>Date: Fall 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary of Site Visits:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date(s)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Area of IBA Covered (%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-9-2013</td>
<td>Boat around island</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☒ N ☐

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☒ N ☐

GWGU – 118
BRCO – 362

29 Mt. Arrowsmith and Area Mountains IBA
30 Osoyoos Oxbows IBA

30.1 Osoyoos Oxbows 2013 Annual Report

Osoyoos Oxbows IBA 2013 annual report

After several years with quite a bit of activity 2013 was a fairly quiet year for the IBA. Over the year I made more than 20 visits to the IBA, spending more than 60 hours in the field. In January and February the owls in the woods put on a great showing Up to 4 Barn Owls were seen as well as 11 Long-eared Owls, 6 Great Horned Owls, 2 Short-eared Owls and a Northern Saw-whet Owl. The new oxbows that Ducks Unlimited dug in the Road 22 meadows south of the road are starting to grow in with cattails on the edges. The willow saplings they planted are showing little growth so far and it will probably take several years for the vegetation to grow up. In the spring there was unprecedented flooding of the Road 22 meadows with water flowing right across Road 22. This lead to well above average numbers of ducks and shorebirds. Okanagan rarities such as Ruddy Turnstone, Caspian Tern, American Avocet and Snow Goose were attracted to the flooded fields. This also brought in a large number of birders and naturalists and I used the opportunity to meet many of them and inform them about the IBA and its importance. The Long-billed Curlews arrived on schedule in late March but then disappeared for several weeks before re-appearing in mid-May. They were seen regularly after that and appeared to breed successfully. The Bobolinks also arrived on schedule and were seen in decent numbers with 11 or 12 males seen. Christine Bishop, who works for the Canadian Wildlife Service, ran a program to put geolocators on Yellow-breasted Chats, with me doing the banding. Chat numbers were quite healthy with most pairs being successful on their first broods and having second broods. I will be back in there to recapture the birds and retrieve the geolocators when they return in the spring. Tim Forrester, a university student working on his masters, was doing research on riparian birds in the oxbows and other south Okanagan locations. Keith Hobson, another CWS researcher, was banding and putting geolocators on Veery and Gray Catbirds in the oxbows and other locations.

On the Ecological Reserve 4-5 singing male Lark Sparrows were noted and the pair of Peregrine Falcons again nested successfully on the Throne. In November I found cattle in the Ecological Reserve and informed the owner who promptly removed them.

The Osoyoos Cottages development on the Osoyoos Indian Reserve continues to produce a large volume of traffic passing through the IBA but it has slowed down some from what it was in the first year. There is also a greater amount of vehicles from prospective buyers. The traffic is still about three times the volume from before the development. The new Fortis BC power line that is shown to go straight across the conservation lands to supply more power for the development has not yet been started.

I attended a meeting of the Regional District planning committee where the Willow Beach landowner had applied to get the area zoned for up to 80 houses, a much smaller development than the previous plan. I had major concerns about the development plan as there was really no environmental protection such as the first plan had. This was only a meeting to get the zoning approved though and any development will still have to get further approval and go through full public hearings before any development is approved. The zoning change was approved and the parcel was immediately put up for sale and has now been sold to another developer.

That’s about it, a quiet year for the Osoyoos Oxbows IBA but I’m sure a lot busier than most IBAs.

Doug Brown
31 Pacific Spirit Regional Park IBA

32 Porlier Pass IBA
### 33 Seabird Colonies (EC/CWS)

#### 33.1 Update for CWS Visits of Seabird Breeding Colonies in 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IBA#</th>
<th>IBA NAME</th>
<th>Date of Previous Visits</th>
<th>Date of Next Anticipated Visit</th>
<th>Primary Researcher</th>
<th>Overview of Research/available reports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC139</td>
<td>Alder Island</td>
<td>2005 - partial, brief</td>
<td>none at present</td>
<td>CWS</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 50; unpublished CWS data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC010</td>
<td>Anthony Island (Skaang Gwaii)</td>
<td>2006-CWS monitoring plots; 2009 - RHAU banding/blood sampling; 2010 - RHAU banding/blood sampling; 2011 - CWS monitoring plots</td>
<td>2014 – RHAU geolocator deployment</td>
<td>CWS; Mark Hipfner - S&amp;T Environment Canada</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 65; unpublished CWS/S&amp;T data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC141</td>
<td>Dodge Point &amp; Gogit Passage island chain</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>none at present</td>
<td>CWS</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 50; Ref. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC016</td>
<td>Englefield Bay Islands</td>
<td>2004 - Helgesen, Lihou, Saunders Is.; 2011 - 4 days on 2+ islands to investigate recovery from racoons</td>
<td>none at present</td>
<td>CWS; Mark Hipfner - S&amp;T EC; Tony Gaston S&amp;T EC 2011</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 65; unpublished CWS data; Ref. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC004</td>
<td>Frederick Island</td>
<td>2005; 2013 – placed geolocators on ANMU; occupancy sampling in CAAU and ANMU colonies</td>
<td>2014 – retrieval of geolocators from ANMU; repeat survey of nesting colonies of ANMU and CAAU</td>
<td>Laurie Wilson CWS; Envt. Can.</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 95; unpublished CWS data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Year(s)</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Researcher(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC093</td>
<td>Gillam Island</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC105</td>
<td>Goose Island Group and Banks</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC125</td>
<td>Grey and Green Islands</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC009</td>
<td>Hippa Island</td>
<td>1983; 2011</td>
<td>John Elliot may have visited for some toxicity work</td>
<td>2014 - ANMU geolocator deployment</td>
<td>Mark Hipfner - S&amp;T Envt. Can. Ref. 3; CWS/S&amp;T unpublished data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC005</td>
<td>Kerouard and St. James islands</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>Mark Hipfner - S&amp;T Envt. Can.</td>
<td>CWS/S&amp;T unpublished data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC136</td>
<td>Kunghit Island and Luxana Bay</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>Mark Hipfner - S&amp;T Envt. Can.</td>
<td>CWS/S&amp;T unpublished data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC088</td>
<td>Kyuquot Channel Islets</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC003</td>
<td>Langara Island</td>
<td>2004 - colony survey; 2005-2008 - SFU grad student under Mark Hipfner</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>CWS; Mark Hipfner - S&amp;T Envt. Can.; SFU/CWS Wildlife Chair (CWS tech Rep 445)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC008</td>
<td>Lepas Bay Islet</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC122</td>
<td>Lucy Islands</td>
<td>2006 - CWS monitoring plots; 2009 - RHAU banding/blood sampling; 2010 - RHAU banding/blood sampling; 2011 - CWS monitoring plots; 2012 - Mark Hipfner pilot study with DFO (RHAU feeding on juvenile salmon); 2013 - Placed geolocators on RHAU and 2nd year of collaborative study with DFO</td>
<td>2014 - RHAU geolocator retrieval</td>
<td>CWS; Mark Hipfner - S&amp;T Environment Canada</td>
<td>unpublished CWS/S&amp;T data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC253</td>
<td>Major Brown Rock</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC106</td>
<td>Moore and Byers Islands and Bank</td>
<td>1988; 2013</td>
<td>Placed geolocators on RHAU on Moore Islands to understand movements while at sea</td>
<td>2014 - RHAU geolocator deployment</td>
<td>Mark Hipfner - S&amp;T Environment Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC140</td>
<td>Ramsay and northern Juan Perez Sound islands</td>
<td>2007 - Ramsay I. - CWS monitoring plots, 2012 - Ramsay I. - CWS monitoring plots ANMU/CAAU</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>CWS</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 50; Ref. 5 &amp; 6; unpublished CWS data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC137</td>
<td>Rankine and Langtry</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>None at present</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 50; Ref. 7;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Monitoring plots/Research</td>
<td>Responsible Bodies</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp #</td>
<td>Published Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC138 Skincuttle Inlet Islands</td>
<td>2008 - CWS monitoring plots - George and East Copper Is.; 2013 - CWS monitoring plots – George (ANMU) and East Copper Is.(CAAU)- geolocators on ANMU</td>
<td>- CWS; Mark Hipfner - S&amp;T Environment Canada</td>
<td>unpublished CWS data</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC103 Smith Sound islets</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>none at present</td>
<td>CWS</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 121</td>
<td>References 1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC090 Solander Island and Brooks Bay</td>
<td>1988 - Solander Island colony survey</td>
<td>none at present</td>
<td>CWS</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 94</td>
<td>References 1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC011 Tian Bay/Port Louis area</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>none at present</td>
<td>CWS</td>
<td>CWS Tech Rp # 43</td>
<td>References 1-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References**


doi:10.1017/S0959270910000043
36.1 Skookumchuck Prairie 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Skookumchuk Prairie  |  Caretaker Name: Peter Davidson  |  Date: November 21 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 24 2013</td>
<td>Casual</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15 birds – long billed curlew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1 2013</td>
<td>Casual</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16 birds – long billed curlew</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc?  Y ☐ N ☒

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☐ N ☐ If yes, please summarize.

Bank Swallows at Lussier Bridge

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? Y ☐ N ☒ If yes, please list:

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

The alfalfa fields owned by Barry Minor have been sold to another Alberta rancher. The area is still farmed for hay 11-12 of the birds were seen in the fields. Have several pictures of them.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

Some of the area has been logged by Canfor for pulpwood and sawlogs. The area is north of Mardis Post and south of the Skookumchuk Pulp mill.

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? Y ☐ N ☒ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   b. Have any conservation threats lessoned? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.
Amount of open range has increased

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated?  Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

   I believe Penny Ohanjanian did another assessment of long billed curlew in the Skookumchuk area.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

   Having some kind of agreement with the rancher on alfalfa land would be very useful to protect one of the main feeding areas.

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?  
   [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

   8 hours

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website?  Y ☒ N ☐

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

   As I have said previously, the boundaries need adjustment. They are not logically parted easy of the Kootenay River.

37 Snake Island IBA
38 Somenos Marsh IBA

38.1 Somenos Marsh 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Somenos Marsh IBA  Caretaker Name: Paul Fletcher  Date:

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Ongoing bird monitoring</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☐ N ☒

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☒ If yes, please summarize.

   Both Trumpeter Swans and Great Blue Herons were observed

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? N ☒ If yes, please list:

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? Y ☐ N ☒ If yes, please describe.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? Y ☒ If yes, please describe.

   More invasive species.

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? Y ☒ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   New dike has isolated a portion of the IBA from the Marsh area and is now at risk of urban development

   b. Have any conservation threats lessoned? N ☒ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

   Small red-listed flower rehabilitation project undertaken

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

   Municipal protection for the entire Somenos floodplain- making the IBA larger. Less intrusion from humans and dogs.
9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)? [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

Over 1,000 hours, if not a lot more

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? Y ☒

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).
### 39 South Thompson River IBA

#### 39.1 South Thompson River 2013 Annual Report

**IBA Name:** South Thompson River  
**Caretaker Name:** Rick Howie (RRH)  
**Kamloops Naturalists (KNC)**  
**Date:** Feb. 26, 2014

**Summary of Site Visits:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Jan 2013</td>
<td>Annual Swan &amp; Eagle Count (RRH, 6 KNC members) Prime purpose was to count swans and eagles along the river. Misc observations of other species made as well.</td>
<td>75% (entire length of river but little upland area.)</td>
<td>Travel by vehicle. 6 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Mar 2013</td>
<td>Casual (RRH) Kamloops to Chase</td>
<td>75% of length</td>
<td>Brief visit 1 hr. Travel by vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Mar 2013</td>
<td>Casual birding along North side of river to Campbell Creek.</td>
<td>&lt;10%</td>
<td>Travel by vehicle. 2 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2013</td>
<td>Casual (RRH) Kamloops to Chase. Misc observations while driving Hwy 1 enroute to Shuswap Lake.</td>
<td>75% of length</td>
<td>Travel by vehicle. 1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Apr 2013</td>
<td>Survey birding along North side of river to Campbell Creek.</td>
<td>25% of length</td>
<td>Travel by vehicle. 4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 May 2013</td>
<td>Casual (RRH) Kamloops to Chase</td>
<td>75% of length</td>
<td>Misc observations while driving Hwy 1 enroute to Shuswap Lake. 1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 June 2013</td>
<td>Surveys for Hwy widening in upland area near Harper Ck</td>
<td>2% length</td>
<td>Foot transects. 2 people 8 hrs each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 June 2013</td>
<td>Surveys for Hwy widening in upland area near Harper Ck</td>
<td>2% length</td>
<td>Foot transects. 2 people 8 hrs each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 June 2013</td>
<td>Surveys for Hwy widening in upland area near Harper Ck</td>
<td>2% length</td>
<td>Foot transects. 2 people 8 hrs each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 July 2013</td>
<td>Casual (RRH) Kamloops to Chase</td>
<td>75% of length</td>
<td>Brief visit 1 hr. Travel by vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 July 2013</td>
<td>Casual (RRH) Kamloops to Chase</td>
<td>75% of length</td>
<td>Brief visit 1 hr. Travel by vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Oct 2013</td>
<td>Surveys from Kamloops to Chase along North side of the river</td>
<td>75% of length</td>
<td>Travel by vehicle 5 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Nov 2013</td>
<td>Surveys from Kamloops to Monte Ck</td>
<td>50% of length</td>
<td>Travel by vehicle 2 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Dec 2013</td>
<td>Surveys from Kamloops to Pritchard along both sides of river</td>
<td>60% of length</td>
<td>Travel by vehicle 6 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Dec 2013</td>
<td>Kamloops xmas bird count (RRH + 25 members of KNC)</td>
<td>20% of length</td>
<td>Portions of the IBA are surveyed within the CBC count circle. 8 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

BC IBA Caretaker Annual Reports 2013  
59
1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y ☑ N ☐

   Some data entered into BCBBA project. All observations in database maintained by R Howie and available.

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y ☑ N ☐ If yes, please summarize.

   Trumpeter swans were wintering along the river. The annual mid-January count resulted in 134 birds being found which was below average. Heavy ice in some areas plus shore ice restricted foraging areas, causing birds to leave prior to the count date. Separate report maintained by R. Howie.

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? Y ☐ N ☑ If yes, please list:

   Nothing locally but counts of Trumpeter Swan wintering populations are made in the Courtney-Comox area.

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? Y ☐ N ☑ If yes, please describe.

   Not to my knowledge.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? Y ☑ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

   No major changes. Small developments of private housing occur annually. Widening of Hwy #1 between Pritchard and Chase will continue to remove upland habitat within 500 m of the river. At least 50 ha were eliminated in 2013.

   No changes to the river habitats or riparian areas.

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? Y ☑ N ☐ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   Highway widening projects between Monte Creek and Chase will continue to eliminate upland forested and field habitats until the project is complete over the next several years. A few vineyard developments have converted pastures to grapes which reduces some foraging habitat for Canada Geese, but it is not in short supply, nor are the geese.

   b. Have any conservation threats lessened? Y ☐ N ☑ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   Not to my knowledge.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? Y ☑ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

   Nothing new to my knowledge.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?
9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?  
[Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

14 trips into the IBA were made by R. Howie. 86 hours were spent on casual observations or surveys within the IBA. However, there were likely twice that spent by one observer who visits Tranquille every other day, but his data has not been logged for this report. The area is just outside of the IBA but eventually should be included. Other members of the KNC spend time observing within the IBA but we have yet to capture this time and data source in a formal way.

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website?  Y ☐ N ☐

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

Please note that the mapping for this site on the IBA website does not indicate that it includes the river mouth at Kamloops Lake near Tranquille. The map stops sort of the river mouth by about 9 km. The pond at Tranquille includes useful swan habitat at times and the river downstream of the IBA is an important area for wintering gulls, Bald Eagles and waterfowl. White Pelicans have been using the mouth of the Thompson River regularly in large numbers. A proposal to increase the length of the IBA will be made.
40 Strathcona Provincial Park IBA

40.1 Strathcona Provincial Park 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Strathcona Provincial Park  Caretaker Name: Amada Vaughan  Date: January 8 2014

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 14 2013</td>
<td>Annual bird count – Buttle Lake, south end</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3 birders, walked and drove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15 2013</td>
<td>Annual bird count – Buttle Lake, north end</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3 birders, walked and drove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15 2013</td>
<td>Annual bird count – Paradise Meadows</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2 birders walked trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16 2013</td>
<td>Annual bird count – Wood Mnt, Forbidden Plateau</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5 birders walked trails</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y □ N □

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y □ N □ If yes, please summarize.

Ptarmigan report cards are sent directly to Prof. Kathy Martin at UBC, her post doc asst. Michelle Jackson said there were 11 reported sightings of the W-T Pt this year.

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? Y □ N □ If yes, please list:

Michelle Jackson, post doc fellow, email michellegooch@gmail.com

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? Y □ N □ If yes, please describe.

“Friends of Strathcona Park” lost their court case to try to prevent (commercial) horse use in the Bedwell Valley. I do not think the valley is being heavily affected at this time but horses bring a risk of non-native flora.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? Y □ N □ If yes, please describe.

The WT Pt habitat is vulnerable to change due to climate change. Michelle is running habitat models and climate change projections for ptarmigan and hopes to have more information in the next couple of months. For 2013 after hot dry summer we had a cool wet autumn, followed by a dry cold winter. As an example of the problems caused by climate change, the roots of yellow cedar are vulnerable to cold damage if not protected by a blanket of snow.
6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

Climate change will continue to affect habitat of the WT Pt. There is discussion re opening overnight ski-huts in the park, to increase numbers of cross country skiers, may have possible impact on birds. Also unconstrained and unchecked snowmobile use in the Mt. Becher areas is of concern. Lack of funding means little chance of catching offenders.

b. Have any conservation threats lessened? Y ☐ N ☒ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

Not that I am aware of OTHER THAN the non-profit Strathcona Wilderness Incentive, which speaks to promote awareness of and concern for park related issues and is staffed by volunteers.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

Education. Facts, figures, colorful posters, anything to raise awareness and concern.

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)? [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

200-250 hrs

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? Y ☒ N ☐

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

There is a breeding facility for Van. Is. Marmots at Mt. Washington. This is a critically endangered species. The good news is that 26 litters with 75-80 pups were born in the wild this year.
41 Squamish River Estuary IBA

41.1 Squamish Estuary 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Squamish River Estuary  Caretakers: John Buchanan & Chris Dale

Issues in the Squamish IBA

Off Leash Dogs
As it was noted in last year’s report the Squamish Estuary trails and dike are popular places for the general public and dog walkers. Once again off leash dogs have been seen running in the estuary grasslands chasing ducks and geese.

Windsurfers and kiteboarders
The windsurfer and kiteboarder association seems to be doing a better job of policing and informing their members of the importance of staying in the areas designated for windsurfing and out of the estuary wildlife habitat.

Birds of interest in the Squamish River IBA

Bald Eagles
Thousands of Bald Eagles used to visit the Squamish and Brackendale areas from November to February but with the poor Chum Salmon runs in the last few years the numbers of Bald Eagles visiting the area has been down. There were twice as many eagles seen during 2013 Squamish Christmas Bird Count and 2014 Brackendale Eagle Count than during the past few years. Hopefully this upward trend will continue in the next years.

Christmas Bird Counts
- December 2011 423 birds
- December 2012 582 birds
- December 2013 1147 birds

Brackendale Eagle Count
- January 2011 655 birds
- January 2012 804 birds
- January 2013 1617 birds

White-winged Crossbills
There was an eruption of White-winged Crossbills in the Squamish IBA during the winter and spring of 2013 with multiple flocks of over 100 birds seen between January and April.

Fall Finches
There were very few Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills seen during the fall and winter months this year in the Squamish IBA. Total Siskins seen during the Christmas Bird Count was 6 birds and no Red Crossbills were recorded.

Owls
During the upper Squamish River Owl survey held in February only two Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard.
Only a couple of Barred Owls were reported to e-Bird in the Squamish Estuary but many were heard in the Brackendale and Finch Drive areas of Squamish.
The usual one or two Short-eared Owls were seen in the estuary during spring and fall.

**Virginia Rails**
Many Virginia Rails were seen in the marshy areas of the estuary this year. One day a total of eight rails were seen or heard in the estuary. The Chelem Trail area had one family with at least three young.

**Black Tern**
A Black Tern was spotted over the East Marsh in June but was not photographed. The next morning there was a report of a Black Tern at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver which may have been the same bird.

**Mountain Bluebirds**
Mountain Bluebirds are seen every year in the estuary during March, April and May as they migrate north through the valley but for the last two years a few have been spotted in October, late November and early December as they head south. This fall two Mountain Bluebirds stayed near the old Rail West site during November and were still present in January. The two birds seemed to adapt to the lack of insects in the site’s gravel and grasslands during the cold snap in December by foraging for insects near the ventilation ducts on the top of the large buildings and inside the large door openings.

**Site Monitoring**
A monthly bird census of the Squamish River Estuary has been carried out on the second Sunday of each month since 1991 and the data sent to Bird Studies Canada and E-Bird Canada. Derek Sutton and Dave Lassmann have kept a master list of all the birds seen during the monthly counts since 1991 and a checklist of birds seen in the Squamish Estuary was compiled by Jim Wisnia in the mid 1990s and updated in 2007 and 2012 by Karl Ricker. Total bird species now on the checklist is 249 not including four new species seen in the Squamish area since the latest checklist was published.

**Birds of Interest Seen In the Squamish IBA During 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loggerhead Shrike</td>
<td>First for the Estuary checklist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-breasted Chat</td>
<td>First for the Estuary checklist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Flycatcher</td>
<td>First for the Estuary checklist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Tern</td>
<td>Undocumented sighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Woodpecker</td>
<td>Irregular - seen every few years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Duck</td>
<td>Irregular - seen every few years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-billed Curlew</td>
<td>Irregular - seen every few years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross’s Goose</td>
<td>Irregular - only a couple of previous sightings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Martin</td>
<td>Irregular - only a couple of previous sightings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
42 Stuart, Tachie and Middle Rivers IBA

42.1 Stuart, Tachie and Middle Rivers 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Stuart, Tachie and Middle Rivers

Caretaker Name: Joanne Vinnedge

Date: November 29, 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13/13</td>
<td>Swan count – Stuart R</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Drove to all accessible areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4/14</td>
<td>FS James – Christmas bird count</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Drove to all accessible areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc?  
   Y ☑ N ☐

   Swan numbers were sent to Rick Howie, Kamloops. He complies.

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year?  
   Y ☑ N ☐

   Trumpeter Swans: Christmas bird count Dec 27 2013 & Jan 4 2014
   Swan Counts: Jan 13 2013 & Jan 14 2013

   Swan numbers were down in Jan 2014 for both CBC and Swan count day (29 observed). I think this is due in large part to very warm weather and a significant amount of open water inaccessible to observers.

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest?  
   Y ☑ N ☐

   Cliffs Resources: nickel property adj to SW edge of Middle River EA data
   TransCanada (spectra) pipeline is crossing Middle River. EA data collection (but not during winter to my knowledge).

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report?  
   Y ☑ N ☐

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report?  
   Y ☑ N ☐

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened?  
   Y ☑ N ☐

   Four proposed pipeline routes. Three on Stuart River including Enbridge and one on middle River. #LNG and one oil/condensate proposed. Two of the lines cross areas of historical open water such as Middle River outlet and outlet of Stuart Lake.

   b. Have any conservation threats lessoned?  
   Y ☑ N ☐
7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated?  Y ☒ N ☐

Not in 2013. We collected summer info during BC Breeding Bird Atlas.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?  [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website?  Y ☒ N ☐

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

This IBA is long and skinny with poor winter access. Surveying all 3 rivers completely during one survey has not happened. The private land portion of the Stuart River from lake outlet to start of IBA boundary needs to be captured in IBA.

43 Summallo – Skagit River IBA
44 Tachick and Nulki Lakes IBA

44.1 Tachick and Nulki Lakes Annual Report 2013

IBA Name: Tachick and Nulki Lakes  Caretaker Name: Nancy Krueger  Date: November 11 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 31 2013</td>
<td>Count for IBA</td>
<td>Tachick – 10</td>
<td>From Lodge by potlatch house on reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nulki – 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 3 2013</td>
<td>Count for IBA</td>
<td>Tachick – 10</td>
<td>From lodge last end from potlatch house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nulki – 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11 2013</td>
<td>Count for IBA</td>
<td>Tachick – 10</td>
<td>From lodge last end from potlatch house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nulki – 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc?  Y ☑ N ☐

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year?  Y ☑ N ☐  If yes, please summarize.

   Waterfowl.  COME seem to be increasing

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest?  Y ☑ N ☐  If yes, please list:

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report?  Y ☑ N ☐  If yes, please describe.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report?  Y ☑ N ☐  If yes, please describe.

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened?  Y ☑ N ☐  If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   b. Have any conservation threats lessoned?  Y ☑ N ☐  If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated?  Y ☑ N ☐  If yes, please describe.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

   Probably nothing really would.  It seems to depend on what kind of nesting season they had as to how many ducks come through
9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)? 

[Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

No outreach or conservation. Bird counting time including travel ~10 hrs.

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? 

Y ☒ N ☐

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

None
Tofino Mudflats IBA

44.2 Tofino Mudflats 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Tofino Mudflats  
Caretaker Name: Dan Harrison (Raincoast Education Society), Barb Beasley  
Date: February 13, 2014

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 23-25; Sept 21</td>
<td>Eelgrass Surveys</td>
<td>~20%</td>
<td>Eelgrass beds surveyed by foot on Tofino Mudflats.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? **Y ☑ N ☐**

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? **Y ☑ N ☐** If yes, please summarize.

   Although no formal surveys were conducted in 2013, E-bird records submitted by Adrian Dorst and others included the IBA trigger species: Western Sandpipers and other shorebirds (Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Short-billed Dowitcher, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Wandering Tattler, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Black Oystercatcher), waterfowl (Mallard, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Eurasian Wigeon, Surf Scoters, and Buffleheads) and Great Blue Herons.

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? **Y ☑ N ☐** If yes, please list:

   • Bird Studies Canada and Simon Fraser University launched a collaborative project in 2013 to study Western Sandpiper behaviour and abundance during their southward migration. The Tofino Mudflats is one of the sites in the study that aims to census about 20 sites in the Salish Sea and Vancouver Island, and northern Puget Sound Region.

   • Parks Canada completed a study of the effect of unleashed dogs on the behaviour and distribution of shorebirds within the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. A portion of their study area was within the IBA.

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? **Y ☑ N ☐** If yes, please describe.

   The Tofino Mudflats was designated a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site of regional importance in March 2013. The official name of the WHSRN site is: Tofino Wah-nah-jus Hilth-hoo-is Mudflats.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? **Y ☑ N ☐** If yes, please describe.
6. **a.** Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? NO. If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

Threats and pressures remain the same as in previous years. One of the biggest threats is recreational use, particularly off-leash dogs, at Chesterman Beach and Long Beach during shorebird migration.

**b.** Have any conservation threats lessoned? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

The District of Tofino has established a development permit area along the shoreline of the Mudflats that hopefully will lessen the impact of new developments.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? YES If yes, please describe.

In 2013, the Raincoast Education Society completed a background document summarizing all the monitoring work that had been done on eelgrass beds in the past, and, recommending future work. As a result, the Raincoast Education Society surveyed and mapped eelgrass beds in a portion of the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area that had not been surveyed. The Raincoast Education Society developed a proposal to establish a long-term monitoring program that involves an educational component with local school children.

The District of Tofino created a short film about the WHSRN designation and the importance of the Tofino Mudflats for migrating shorebirds and presented it at the Species and Ecosystems at Risk Local Government Working Group symposium in October 2013. The video is available at http://vimeo.com/76363234.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

A new strategy to deal with off-leash dogs on beaches during shorebird migration. Research that involved interviewing dog owners at Long Beach in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve indicated that most people who let their dogs run off-leash are already aware of the issues and harm that their dogs can cause to the birds. Stronger enforcement of regulations seems to be needed.

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?  [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

Approximately 25.

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website?  Y ☒ N ☐

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

The District of Tofino won an award in Biodiversity Conservation from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for the part they have played in conserving the Tofino Wha-nah-jus Hilt-hoo-is Mudflats and helping to obtain its WHSRN designation.
45 White Islets IBA

46 White Lake Area IBA

46.1 White Lake Area 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: White Lake  Caretaker Name: Doreen Olson  Date: February 4 2014

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2013</td>
<td>CBC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>Casual</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2014</td>
<td>Drive through</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Casual drive through</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? Y □ N □

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? Y □ N □ If yes, please summarize.
   Sandhill Cranes – landed on White Lake (spring migration)

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? Y □ N □ If yes, please list:

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? Y □ N □ If yes, please describe.
   A wildfire was very close to the IBA it could have spread into the IBA but quick action by Firefighters prevented this.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? Y □ N □ If yes, please describe.
   Wildfire

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? Y □ N □ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.

   b. Have any conservation threats lessoned? Y □ N □ If yes, please describe what, when, where, etc.
7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? Y ☒ N ☐ If yes, please describe.

Naturalist club cleaned roadside of garbage and debris.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)? [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

10 hours

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? Y ☒ N ☐

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

Spring and late summer saw large migration of tiger salamanders. This local population had been considered very small.
Crews contain White Lake Road fire

Thanks to Mother Nature and a lot of sweat equity, the
White Lake Road fire was 100 per cent contain-
red. The blaze that broke out Sunday afternoon, south-
west of Olanchan falls burned approximately 70 hectares
with five officials predicting full containment later that
day. We were still on evacuation alert as of Monday morning.

Mattowash said the blaze was 100 per cent contain-
ed when a low wind of 10 km/hr allowed them to
burn the five remaining hectares. The blaze was
smoke controlled and contained to the area
south of the road. It was fully contained
by Tuesday afternoon.

Mattowash said the blaze was human-caused, but it is
currently unknown what caused the blaze. The blaze
was reported around 9 a.m. Sunday morning.

A total of 26 firefighters from 13 fire
departments were on scene.

Mattowash said the fire was
not contained by homes, but it is
estimated that 18 members of the fire department
were able to pull back and protect
their properties.

The fire started near the
airport and was brought under
control.

Mattowash said the fire was
not contained by homes, but it is
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their properties.

The fire started near the
airport and was brought under
control.
Fire crews contain White Lake Road wildfire

Willowbrook firefighters protect homes and ranches from threat

Thanks to Mother Nature and a lot of sweat equity, the White Lake Road/Willowbrook fire is 100 per cent contained.

The wildfire that broke out on Sunday afternoon, southwest of Okanagan Falls burned approximately 70 hectares of forest. By Monday morning it was 70 per cent contained, with fire officials predicting full containment later that day.

Twelve homes on Yellowbrick Road and Willowbrook Road were still on evacuation alert as of Monday morning, but that order was lifted Monday afternoon.

Local resident Denis Pelletier was in Las Vegas when he was notified of the fire. He wasn’t too worried because he had a good horse sitter who relocated the animals out of harm’s way.

“It was interesting to come back and see what was burned,” said Pelletier, noting that a portion of land he donated to BC Parks suffered the fire’s wrath. The homeowner stated there is a lot to be said for cattle grazing when it comes to preventing fire spread.

Both Forest Protection Officer Jim Mottishaw and Willowbrook Fire Chief Brad Fossett knew immediately that the July 28 fire had strong potential.

“We knew we were into a stage three fire because it was crawling into the trees,” Fossett said, recalling what he saw when he first arrived on scene at 3:30 p.m.

He explained that 18 members of the fire department utilized four pieces of equipment to take up a defensive position and protect nearby properties.

“Our job was to pull back and protect the exposures, making sure the homes were protected,” Fossett said.

At one point the flames came within 300 yards of nearby homes, he stated. Luckily, Willowbrook Road acted as a barrier and air tanker support stopped the immediate threat. Firefighters were patrolling the road to make sure the blaze didn’t jump across.

Fossett noted they had a limited water source on the ground, but the biggest challenge was the wind, he pointed out. Winds of 25 km/h caused the fire to spread rapidly on Sunday.

“It was fast moving,” Mottishaw said, noting the blaze got into the timber, which created deadly snags that fire crews had to be wary of.

Mottishaw said ground crews did the majority of the work. He praised members of the Willowbrook Volunteer Fire Department for their crucial role. In fact, he noted members took it upon themselves to extinguish a spot fire 300 metres up a steep slope - a job normally reserved for forestry crews. This fire had the potential to spread into a local subdivision, the Chronicle was told.

Fossett said it’s “boots on the ground” that contain fires, with help from Mother Nature.

He noted this fire was in rough terrain, so he didn’t want his members charging up there like “cowboys.”

Mottishaw said the blaze was human caused, but it’s still too early to say how. The officer believes it started on the side of the road in a ditch. He said it could have been a cigarette or how someone parked his or her vehicle. Even a spark from a brake shoe could have been the culprit, he noted. According to Mottishaw, there were no campfires or all-terrain vehicles in the area when the fire broke out.

Willowbrook firefighters and forestry crews were assisted by Kaleden Fire Department, which took action on the north end of the fire.

There were no reports of any structures burned.
47 Vaseux Lake Area IBA

47.1 Vaseux Lake Area 2013 Annual Report

IBA Name: Vaseux Lake  Caretaker Name: Eva Durance  Date: November 23, 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)</th>
<th>Area of IBA Covered (%)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Breeding Bird Survey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hwy 97 McIntyre Bluff to Seacrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
<td>casual birding</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>boardwalk, lake to south end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>birding over lake n. meadows</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>boardwalk, blind, banding stn trails</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc?  Y ☐ N ☒

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year?  Y ☒ N ☐
   Yellow-breasted Chat: 3 heard in thickets below Bluff and above river to south June 9, BBS

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest?  Y ☒ N ☐
   Vaseux Banding Station, Aug.- Oct.
   WiTS in Southern Interior - monitors cavity-nesting species
   CWS Chat-monitoring project

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report?  Y ☒ N ☐

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report?  Y ☒ N ☐

6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened?  Y ☒ N ☐
   Hwy 97 expansion south of Bluff destroyed some habitat (though not likely that of target species) and widening of highway increases speed of traffic leading to great danger for birds and other wildlife
   b. Have any conservation threats lessened?  Y ☐ N ☒

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated?  Y ☒ N ☐
   1. BC Parks replanting of riparian thickets south of parking area, primarily for Chat
2. planning begun through Caretaker for building of new bird blind north of current blind (which will be removed except for a viewing platform) and boardwalk to the blind. Posters on the IBA and bird identification will be mounted in blind and possibly along boardwalk. Information/education for visitors.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

1. Additional appropriate locations in the IBA (likely mostly/all in the Wildlife Refuge)

2. Owl boxes/platforms for Barn Owl

9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)?  

   [Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]

   approx. 30 hrs

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website?  

    Y ☒ N ☐

11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).

    I like these forms: very clear and straightforward.