
B.C. Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee Report for 2017

Nathan T. Hentze

4016 Grange Rd, Victoria, B.C., V8Z 4V3; e-mail: nathan.hentze@gmail.com

Abstract: In 2017 the British Columbia Bird Records Committee reached decisions on 68 records. Of these records, 56 were accepted to the Main List, and twelve were not accepted (ten due to identification not being established, and two based on unknown origin). Five new species were added to the Main List. Records submitted involved birds seen between 2006 and 2017.

Key Words: rare bird reports, British Columbia, checklist

Hentz, N.T. 2018. B.C. Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee Report for 2017. *British Columbia Birds* 28:XX–XX.

This is the fifth annual report of the B.C. Bird Records Committee (hereafter committee) since its re-instatement in 2013. Details on the committee's mandate, history, operating guidelines, and past decisions can be found in Hentze (2014; 2015; 2016; 2017). Committee membership remained consistent from the previous year, and included Peter Candido, Chris Charlesworth, Michael Force, Jeremy Gatten, Nathan Hentze (Chair), Guy Monty, and Mike Toochin. Members serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms. In total, the committee reached decisions on 68 records in 2017. These include 56 accepted to the Main List, and 12 not accepted due either to issues of identification (ten reports) or provenance (two reports). Accepted records included five new species added to the Main List. Details on all these records are provided below. Submitted records included observations from 2006 to 2017, as we continue to try to clear the large backlog of records from the past and present. To assist with viewing all records reviewed by the Bird Records Committee, both during the initial 1990s period and the 2013-present one, a database of records has been developed and is posted online at the BCFO website, where it will be updated periodically. The committee would greatly appreciate receiving report submissions for any records, past or present, not in this database. Up-to-date details on committee membership, the review list, rare bird report forms, committee decisions, photos of many of these records, and other information can be accessed from the BCFO website (<http://www.bcfo.ca>).

The following is an account of all records reviewed and adjudicated since the previous report. Bird species are listed taxonomically and with naming following the seventh

edition of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Check-list of North American Birds (1988) and subsequent supplements up to the 58th (Chesser *et al.* 2017). Provincial firsts are written out in uppercase. The number in brackets following the species name refers to the unique Bird Records Committee Number assigned to the record. Primary finders/observers are listed for accepted records only and are designated by (†). If more than one observer is listed, an asterisk (*) indicates those who submitted details. In some cases an observer other than the original finder submitted a report or supplemental evidence (*e.g.*, photographs). Although the committee appreciates receiving reports from the original finder(s), details from subsequent observers are also encouraged and welcomed. If photos (ph), video (v), or sound recordings (so) were provided, that is also noted after the observer's initials. Descriptions of records are based on comments and discussion provided from individual committee members during official committee business. For many records, an attempt is made to provide brief context or background information on vagrancy patterns and/or causes. This is included for general interest, and is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive.

Bird Records Committee Decisions

Accepted Records

Main List

Accepted records are ones for which the committee has received documentation that conclusively supports the

identification. In addition, accepted records are believed to pertain to wild birds that arrived in British Columbia without the active intervention of humans. Records that are provincial firsts are accepted to the main list if they are accompanied by physical evidence (*i.e.* photograph, video recording, sound recording, and/or specimen). Records of non-firsts may be accepted without physical evidence if the provided notes are detailed enough to eliminate other species.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) – (2017-007, 2017-008, 2017-058, and 2017-059)

- 1) 2017-007: Richmond (Iona Island) – 2016 January 11 to March 03 – Paul Clapham[†], Peter Candido (ph)
- 2) 2017-008: Salt Spring Island – 2014 February 17 – Ren Ferguson[†] (ph)
- 3) 2017-058: Vancouver – 2017 March 14-19 – Daphne Lang[†], Brian Stetch (ph)
- 4) 2017-059: Squamish – 2017 April 06 – Chris Dale[†], Chris Murrell (ph, v)

Tufted Duck is a rare Eurasian species that is nevertheless regularly sighted along the West Coast of North America. It is not currently a review species in Washington, Oregon, or California, where records are predominantly distributed from October to April. These four records display that same general temporal trend. These records all referred to adult males, potentially due to the greater identification challenge posed by females. Tufted Ducks are known to hybridize with congeners (Randler 2001, Reeber 2015), and the committee considers this when evaluating records of this species. Such hybrids account for at least some reports in western North America (Hamilton *et al.* 2007), and could occur in the province. Provenance is also a consideration for rare waterfowl. Tufted Ducks are kept in captivity, though were less common in North America than some other potentially wild-occurring species such as Baikal Teal and Falcated Duck (IWWA 2015). None of these birds displayed obvious signs of captivity, and this species has a strong pattern of vagrancy to the region.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) – (2017-068 and 2017-069)

- 1) 2017-068: Maple Ridge – 2017 September 12-15 – Sharon Talson[†] (ph)
- 2) 2017-069: Richmond – 2017 September 10-17 – Steffany Walker[†], Peter Candido (ph)

These two records are noteworthy in that they were concurrent, and both from the Lower Mainland. Vagrancy north of its typical range is well documented for White-

winged Dove throughout North America. In the Pacific Northwest it predominantly occurs from spring through fall, with most British Columbia reports from on or near the coast. It is a distinctive species, which occasionally utilizes bird feeders, as was the case for the Maple Ridge sighting. In both of these records the dove was associating, at least part of the time, with other Columbids: Rock Pigeon for the Richmond record and Eurasian Collared-Dove for the Maple Ridge record.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilocus colubris*) – (2017-038) and (2017-039)

- 1) 2017-038: Progress – 2016 June 04-14 – Jack Carrigan[†] (ph)
- 2) 2017-039: Trail – 2017 August 04-07 – Jennifer Bergen[†], Don Young[†], Chris Charlesworth (ph)

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is a rare but regularly occurring species within a limited area of northeastern B.C. It is currently included on the review list in an attempt to get a better understanding of its numbers and distribution due to low numbers of reports annually. During the B.C. Breeding Bird Atlas, there were no confirmed breeding records in the province, though the atlas may not have accurately sampled this species (Phinney 2015). Record 2017-038 is of an adult male visiting a feeder in Progress, within the expected range of this species in the province. Elsewhere in the province this species is a genuine rarity, such as record 2017-039 of an adult male seen visiting a feeder in Trail.

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) – (2017-042)

Brackendale – 2015 April 15-21 – Ben Hawkins[†] (ph), Frank Hawkins

This adult male Costa's Hummingbird was present in a residential yard, visiting a feeder. Although the breeding range of Costa's Hummingbird has remained relatively stable over time, many records of vagrants have occurred throughout the Pacific Northwest, up to Alaska (Baltosser and Scott 1996), and sightings may be increasing. Records in the Pacific Northwest are predominantly of adult males, though it is not known if this reflects an identification bias as females are harder to identify, or if this represents a true difference in dispersal or vagrancy between the sexes (Baltosser and Scott 1996). In British Columbia most records are from April to May and may represent spring overshoots or potentially post-breeding dispersal. Hybridization is known in this species, particularly with Anna's Hummingbird (Baltosser and Scott 1996), and the committee evaluates all submitted reports for this potential. In this record the photographs showed no indication of intermediate characteristics, suggesting a pure bird.

PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*) – (2017-025)

Delta (Boundary Bay) – 2017 August 25 – Jennifer Wu[†] (ph)

This record is the first photographed record of this species in the province. Despite breeding populations as close as Alberta and elsewhere in the Prairies, there are very few records farther west. This particular record had a confusing history. A leucistic Semipalmated Plover was present at Boundary Bay preceding (and perhaps overlapping) with this sighting, presenting an unusual identification challenge. A bird reported to be a Piping Plover seen August 24 was submitted to the committee. The committee decided that based on the submitted evidence, the possibility of the leucistic Semipalmated Plover could not be eliminated for that sighting. We have thus taken a conservative approach, and accepted only the unequivocal record from August 25.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) – (2017-001)

Delta (Boundary Bay) – 2015 July 24 to August 03 – Rob Lyske^{†*}, Raymond Ng (ph), Liron Gertsman (ph)

This female Bar-tailed Godwit adds to a growing number of records for this species in the province. When subspecific identification has been possible, all reviewed records have pertained to *L. l. baueri*, the East Asian/Alaskan-breeding subspecies, and the form expected to occur here.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) – (2017-040)

Delta (Boundary Bay) – 2016 August 29 to September 03 – Roger Foxall[†], Melissa Hafting* (ph)

This juvenile Ruff was found on the mudflats at Boundary Bay, and observed by many. Ruff is one of the more regularly occurring Eurasian shorebirds on the West Coast, and is not currently on the review list of any Pacific state due to its frequency of occurrence. While it also occurs with some regularity in British Columbia, this is the first record submitted to the committee. The majority of records along the Pacific Coast are from August and September, with small numbers wintering in California (Hamilton *et al.* 2007).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) – (2017-061)

Delta (Reifel Bird Sanctuary and Boundary Bay) – 2017 September 10 and 17 – Mary Taitt^{†*}, Julian Sykes[†], Anne Murray*, Devon Yu (ph), Gloria Conrad (ph), Ilya Povalyaev (ph)

This record was of an adult Curlew Sandpiper moulting into basic plumage. It was first discovered at George C.

Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary on September 10 and observed and photographed by multiple observers. It was not seen there again, but was relocated on September 16 at Point Roberts, Washington. It was subsequently and finally relocated by multiple observers on September 17 at Boundary Bay. Photographs were evaluated from all of these observations, and it was determined that all involved the same individual based on plumage characteristics. As with most Asian shorebirds, the majority of records in western North America are in the fall.

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) – (2017-036)

Delta (Boundary Bay) – 2016 July 22-26 – Kevin Louth[†], Melissa Hafting*, Ilya Povalyaev (ph)

This adult Red-necked Stint was found on the Boundary Bay mudflats and retained much of its breeding plumage. While birds retaining breeding plumage are easier to identify, care still needs to be taken to eliminate other species, particularly Little Stint. Little Stint typically shows stronger white mantle braces and brighter rufous edging to tertials and coverts, amongst other plumage and structural differences. Stint identification is renowned for its difficulty, and this species is likely more regular in the province than records indicate.

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*) – (2017-024)

Victoria – 2016 December 30 to 2017 April 17 – Jeremy Gatten[†] (ph)

Purple Sandpiper is the Atlantic coast equivalent of Rock Sandpiper. Identification of this species pair in basic plumage is difficult, though rarely considered as the two species are almost exclusively allopatric. There have been a scattering of reports in western North America, especially in recent years, with records from Alaska (September 1990; Gibson and Withrow 2015), Alberta (May 2013; Hudon *et al.* 2014), Utah (November-December 2010; O'Donnell *et al.* 2014), and California (March-April 2016; Tietz and McCaskie 2018). There are several subspecies of Rock Sandpiper; *C. p. tschuktschorum* is the one expected to regularly winter in the province. In evaluating this record we also considered other subspecies of Rock, especially *C. p. couesi*. Clear flight shots of the spread wings allowed examination of the primary and secondary feather patterns. These were strongly supportive of Purple Sandpiper. In addition, the bright orange legs, and bright orange and extensive base to the bill were indicative of Purple Sandpiper. The combination of features appeared to be outside the known variation for Rock Sandpiper, but numerous experts with experience with Rock Sandpipers (specifically those in Alaska) and/or Purple Sandpiper were consulted. All of them agreed that the bird was, or at least

was strongly indicative of, Purple Sandpiper. Observers should be aware of the possibility of Purple Sandpiper in the province, and attempt to carefully document any potential birds, especially those with bright orange bare parts colouration.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) – (2017-009)

Vancouver – 2016 January 25-31 – Edward Nygren[†] (ph)

Black-headed Gull is a common species in Eurasia. On the Atlantic it has been increasing in population and range for many decades, being first found breeding in Iceland in 1911, and Greenland in 1969 (Cramp and Simmons 1983). It was first confirmed nesting in Canada in Newfoundland in 1977 (Finch 1978) and Quebec in 1982 (Aubry 1984). Sightings in Alaska are believed to pertain to birds from Asia, rather than Europe. It is uncertain where birds found in British Columbia originate, and may be from either or both populations. However, the scarcity of this species in the interior of the continent (e.g., only one Alberta record; Hudon *et al.* 2014), and the predominance of reports from coastal areas provide support for an Asian origin (Hamilton *et al.* 2007).

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) – (2017-035)

Active Pass – 2013 May 03 – Geoffrey Newell^{†*}, David Newell[†]

Little Gull is a rare but regular species in the province. Though the committee has reviewed few reports, there are numerous sightings in the province and the species appeared to be nearly annual (e.g., Tootchin and Cecile n.d.,a). Many records, such as this adult, involve birds with flocks of Bonaparte's Gull. Over the past decade sightings have declined in coastal British Columbia, but are increasing in the interior. Reasons for this are unknown, but may in part be due to increased observer awareness for this species in the interior as records increase, and/or significant declines in Bonaparte's Gulls, with which this species associates, in the Salish Sea. Bonaparte's Gulls decreased by 12.9% per annum in the Georgia Strait from 1999 to 2011 (Crewe *et al.* 2012) and by 72.3% overall between 1978/79 and 2003-2005 in the Salish Sea (Bower 2009). By submitting rare bird reports to the committee, it is hoped that potential changes in occurrence or distribution over time, such as may be occurring with Little Gull, can be documented more completely using vetted records.

LAUGHING GULL (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – (2017-004)

Sidney – 2016 July 07-15 – Kerry Finley[†] (ph)

This Laughing Gull, aged as a second-year bird, comprises the first photographed record of this species for the province. Among Pacific states, the Laughing Gull is regular only in California. There are few accepted records in Oregon (four; OBRC 2017), Washington (nine; WBRC 2017), or Alaska (four; Gibson *et al.* 2013). Excepting a January sighting in Alaska, sightings from adjacent areas are from the spring through fall.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) – (2017-044 and 2017-046)

- 1) 2017-044: Vernon – 2016 October 19 to November 17 – Chris Siddle[†] (ph)
- 2) 2017-046: Salmon Arm – 2015 July 07 – Allan Dupilka[†] (ph), Reba Dupilka[†] (ph)

Lesser Black-backed Gulls have increased dramatically in North America over the past several decades. Most records pertain to *L. f. graellsii*, the subspecies which breeds closest to North America (and now occasionally within it; e.g., Ellis *et al.* 2008), with an increasing number of records occurring in the west (for example see Hamilton *et al.* 2007). The source for many of the North American records is likely Greenland, where this species has undergone a rapid population increase. The first confirmed nesting in Greenland occurred in 1990, but by the early 2000s the population was estimated at more than 700 breeding pairs in the southwest (Boertman 2008). An expansion of breeding to the eastern Canadian Arctic seems probable, and with it the number of records in the province is expected to rise. Within British Columbia most reports come from the southern interior, as with these two records. While most reports in the province are from the late fall/winter period, record #2017-046 is noteworthy for being in July. It also pertains to a presumed third-year (second-summer) bird, while record #2017-044 is an adult.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) – (2017-027)

Delta – 2016 November 27 to December 03 – Liron Gertsman^{†*} (ph)

This Slaty-backed Gull, a presumed third-cycle, was within a large, mixed-species gull flock. The majority of provincial records come from coastal areas, particularly the Lower Mainland such as with this record, and Vancouver Island. The Slaty-backed Gull is a “large, white-headed gull”, for which identification is confounded by the presence of similar species and a variety of hybrid combinations. The Slaty-backed itself is known to hybridize with Glaucous-winged Gull (Olsen and Larsson 2003), and Western Gull and Western x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrids also pose identification challenges. While

hybridization was considered by the committee, this bird displayed no outward evidence of genetic tampering. Perhaps owing to difficult identification challenges inherent with younger age-classes, many records in North America involve adult or near-adult birds, such as this record.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) – (2017-053)

Richmond – 2015 November 22-26 – Masaaki Kawabata[†], Ben Keen*, John Gordon (ph)

The evaluation of Burrowing Owl records in the province is confounded by the presence of captive-bred and re-introduced populations. Re-introduced birds are generally banded, but some young birds may migrate before being banded (*pers. comm.* Elaine Humphrey). The migration routes for these birds are not fully known, and banded birds from the reintroduction program have been located as far west as Tofino. However, there are wild populations in Washington, and historically Burrowing Owls have occurred in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island. This particular record was of an unbanded bird in Richmond. It was accepted owing to its lack of bands, location, and historic pattern of vagrancy. However, it is acknowledged that the origin of unbanded Burrowing Owls in the province will not be known with certainty.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) – (2017-067)

Revelstoke area – 2017 September 10 – Don Manson[†], Dusty Viedeman[†], Darlene Cancelliere* (ph)

Red-headed Woodpecker is a species from central and eastern North America, breeding as close to the province as Saskatchewan and eastern Montana (Frei *et al.* 2017). It is casual to accidental throughout western North America, including British Columbia, where most records occur during the summer (Frei *et al.* 2017). Hamilton *et al.* (2007) list short-distance migration along a north-south axis as a potential cause of this species' scarcity in the west. In 2017 there were sightings of this species at Lake Louise, AB in July, and near Calgary, AB in August, suggesting a possible westward incursion (eBird 2017). There have been differing numbers of individuals applied to this record. The documentation received by the committee indicated that it was only possible, but not definitive, that there were two birds present. We thus treat this record as involving only one individual, an adult.

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) – (2017-065)

Victoria – 2017 June 17 to August 26 – Ted Ardley[†] (ph)

This Acorn Woodpecker spent a couple months visiting oaks and feeders in a residential neighbourhood. This species has extended its range northwards over the past century (Koenig *et al.* 1995), and it occurs regularly to southern Washington. This species is known to wander, sometimes in response to food shortages on breeding grounds, and may be found far from its typical breeding habitat (Koenig *et al.* 1995). This record involved a female bird, as with most previous records in the province.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) – (2017-032)

Richmond (Iona Island) – 2017 July 25-28 – Doug Martin[†] (ph)

The Black Phoebe is a widespread flycatcher, breeding regularly as far north as southern Oregon. The only other BRC-accepted Black Phoebe for the province (record # 1997-002) is also from Iona, present on 1997 July 10-11 (Davidson 1999). However, this is not representative of the number of recent reports to the province, which have increased since the mid-2000s (Toochn n.d.,a). This species has also increased in Washington state, with only three accepted records prior to 2000, but 18 accepted records (several of which were believed to be returning individuals) from 2001 to 2011 when the species was removed from the Washington Review List (WBRC 2017).

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – (2017-066)

Hope – 2017 April 25 – Guy Monty[†] (ph)

Loggerhead Shrike is a rare but regular species to the province. The pattern of sightings, being concentrated in spring, is strongly suggestive of overshoots from breeding sites in Washington. This photographed adult fits that trend.

California Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) – (2017-049, 2017-050, and 2017-063)

- 1) 2017-049: Maple Ridge – 2016 November 01 – Anne Hamilton[†] (ph)
- 2) 2017-050: East Vancouver – 2016 October 28 to 2017 April 19 – Mile Willis[†] (ph)
- 3) 2017-063: Vancouver – 2017 September 29-30 – Talia Garber[†] (ph)

California Scrub-Jay is another species which has increased in abundance in the province much more than currently reviewed records would indicate. The species is now fairly regularly reported from the Lower Mainland, where it has bred (Davidson 2015). Northward expansion has been occurring for decades, with increases in range and abundance in Oregon and Washington (Curry *et al.* 2017).

In 2016 the Western Scrub-Jay was officially split into the California Scrub-Jay and the Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (Chesser *et al.* 2016); the latter is unrecorded in the province.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*) – (2017-041)

Delta (Boundary Bay) – 2015 October 16 – Kevin Louth[†], Peter Candido* (ph)

Records of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appear to be increasing in the Pacific Northwest. In Washington, there are 24 accepted records, with 15 of those since 2010 (WBRC 2017). This record involved a bird seen by multiple observers, and photographed, as it actively moved along a hedgerow at Boundary Bay. There are two subspecies breeding in the United States and Canada corresponding to eastern and western populations, which differ subtly in plumage (Pyle 1997) and vocalizations (Pieplow 2012). Both have been documented in Washington State (WBRC 2017), and both could occur in B.C.

Red-flanked Bluetail (*Tarsiger cyanurus*) – (2017-012)

Comox - 2016 December 22 to 2017 January 14 – Shane Tillapaugh[†]*, George Bowron (ph)

This unexpected find during a Christmas Bird Count became the second record of Red-flanked Bluetail in the province. The first bird (record #2013-007) was present January-March 2013 in New Westminster (Hentze 2014). There have been a spate of sightings of this species in the Pacific Northwest since the first provincial record: two records in Washington (March-April 2015 and December 2015; WBRC 2017), and one in Oregon (December 2015; OBRC 2017). Previously there were two sightings in California (November 1989 and December 2011; Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2018), and the species has a well-established pattern of vagrancy to Alaska (spring and fall; Howell *et al.* 2014). While extremely furtive, excellent photos were eventually obtained and it was seen by many.

WOOD THRUSH (*Hylocichla mustelina*) – (2017-022)

Summerland – 2015 October 25 to mid-November (exact last date unknown) – Tom Lowery[†]* (ph), Chris Charlesworth* (ph)

This is the first provincial record of Wood Thrush. There are multiple records of this species from Alberta (eBird 2017), and exceptionally one from St. Paul Island, Alaska (October 2014; Gibson and Withrow 2015), indicating that this species had potential to reach this

province. The exact end date is unknown, but was described as being “approximately three weeks after first sighting”.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) – (2017-021)

Francois Lake – 2017 July 07 – Keith Walker[†] (ph)

This is the first provincial record of Curve-billed Thrasher. This species has a known history of vagrancy, having reached Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Idaho, Montana, and other areas of North America (Leukering and Pieplow 2014). The Alberta record, formerly (and perhaps still) the most northerly record of this species, was from Barrhead (Slater 2001), a town northwest of Edmonton at almost the same latitude as Francois Lake. This species' vagrancy potential made it likely to eventually reach British Columbia; a couple Montana records have been from near Eureka, only about 10 km south of the B.C. border near Lake Koocanusa (eBird 2017). However, few would have picked Francois Lake as the location for the first provincial record. There are two subspecies groups: an eastern *curvirostre* group, occurring east of Arizona in the United States and south to Oaxaca, Mexico, and a western group (*palmeri*) from Arizona south to Nayarit, Mexico (Tweit 1996). The two subspecies groups have been proposed as separate species, though more study is required owing to a hybrid zone (NACC 2014). Many vagrant Curve-billed Thrashers have not been documented to subspecies, though apparent *palmeri* thrashers have occurred in Alberta, Idaho, and Florida, despite most vagrant records east of the Rocky Mountains referring to the *curvirostre* group (Leukering and Pieplow 2014). The Montana records are believed to pertain to the *curvirostre* group (*pers. comm.* Jeff Marks). This current record was not definitively evaluated to subspecies, though plumage characteristics were suggestive of the eastern group. The photographic evidence may be re-analyzed in greater depth if these groups are considered distinct species in the future. Most vagrant Curve-billed Thrasher records are from the late fall and winter (Leukering and Pieplow 2014), though there is an accepted record from July in Idaho (IBRC 2017), and August in Montana (*pers. comm.* J. Marks).

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*) – (2017-028)

Queen Charlotte City – 2014 September 29 – James Bradley[†] (ph, so)

This well-documented Eastern Yellow Wagtail was photographed and sound-recorded (<http://www.xeno-canto.org/197518>). The bird was present only briefly, where it was observed arriving at a coastal shoreline. This

individual, a presumed hatch-year bird, had the grey-and-white plumage typical of this taxon (though atypical for Western Yellow Wagtail) (Alström and Mild 2003). Despite the fact that this species breeds in Alaska and extreme north-western Canada (to Mackenzie River Delta area), it is significantly rarer anywhere else in North America. There are two accepted records in Washington (WBRC 2017), three in Oregon (OBRC 2017), and 18 in heavily-birded California (Tietz and McCaskie 2018).

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) – (2017-020)

Saanich – 2016 May 04-08 – Geoffrey Newell[†] (ph)

Most records of Red-throated Pipit in the province are during the autumn, and this is the second accepted spring record. The first spring record (#2015-018; Hentze 2016) occurred in a similar time period (2010 May 09-11). Red-throated Pipits typically winter from Africa through Southeast Asia, but birds that travel down the Pacific coast of North America may sometimes overwinter in Mexico (Hamilton *et al.* 2007). Birds returning north from overwintering in the New World may be the source of spring records on the Pacific coast south of Alaska. There are additional spring records from Washington (2004 May 7; WBRC 2017) and Oregon (2004 April 29-31; OBRC 2017).

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) – (2017-016)

Revelstoke – 2012 December 02 to 2013 April 04 – Darlene Cancelliere[†] (ph)

This first-year male Brambling was observed coming to a bird feeder, consistent with many reports of this species in the province. This species is reported almost annually in the province. While most records are coastal, it has also been found throughout the interior of B.C., and indeed throughout North America. Brambling is the most common Eurasian passerine vagrant to mainland North America with most records in the November to March period (Howell *et al.* 2014).

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*) – (2017-048, 2017-070, 2017-071, and 2017-072)

- 1) 2017-048: Merritt – 2016 December 18 to 2017 January 29 – Vic Newton[†], Liis Jeffries[†], Jennifer Newton[†] (ph), Susan Newton[†], Murphy Shewchuk[†] (ph), Alan Burger* (ph)
- 2) 2017-070: Princeton – 2014 June 02-03 – Edward Lahaie[†] (ph, v)
- 3) 2017-071: Princeton – 2016 April 26 – Edward Lahaie[†]

- 4) 2017-072: Princeton – 2014 May 02-05 – Edward Lahaie[†] (ph, v), Cathy Lahaie (ph), Sue Elwell (ph)

All four of these records refer to male birds, as is the case with most provincial records, potentially due to the greater ease of identification of male goldfinch relative to females. This species appears to be increasing in the province. Although described as a permanent resident on the Pacific coast north to southern Washington, this species has expanded its breeding range northwards (Watt and Willoughby 2014). Spring records in the province likely pertain to overshoots from populations in the northern U.S.A., or perhaps are prospecting individuals related to the northwards range expansion. In keeping with this trend, three of these four records are in the late April to early June period. There are relatively few winter records, such as #2017-048, and this is the first winter report submitted to the committee.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) – (2017-014)

Colwood (near Victoria) – 2016 November 20-21 – Ellen Stepniewski[†] (ph), Andy Stepniewski[†]*

Hot on the heels of British Columbia's first Field Sparrow record (#2016-034; 2015 October 30; Hentze 2017), comes this well-photographed second. Both provincial records come from late fall, as does Washington's single accepted record (2016 October 29; WBRC 2017). That these three sightings in B.C. and Washington occurred within a two-year time period is remarkable, given the scarcity of this species in the West. There is one accepted Alberta record (Kananaskis Country; 08 June to early July 2000; Slater 2001), and no accepted Oregon records (OBRC 2017). In addition, California has relatively few sightings (16 records; Tietz and McCaskie 2018), potentially due to the species relatively short-distance north-south migration in central and eastern North America (Hamilton *et al.* 2007).

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) – (2017-002 and 2017-031)

- 1) 2017-002: Sechelt – 2016 August 07-09 – Cathy McLellan[†] (ph), John Hodges*
- 2) 2017-031: Sooke – 2015 September 29-October 27 – Kim Beardmore[†] (ph)

Both of these Black-throated Sparrow records were accompanied by diagnostic photographs. Reports of this species appear to have increased in recent years, perhaps due to a northward range expansion in Washington State (Davidson and Cannings 2015). The majority of reports from the province appear to be in May and June (Toochin

n.d.,b), so the late summer and fall records presented here are noteworthy. While the Sechelt record pertained to an adult bird, the Sooke record was of an immature.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) – (2017-047)

Port Renfrew – 2016 September 05 – Thomas Barbin[†] (ph)

This Lark Bunting record illustrates the benefits of the digital age. Having been photographed during a non-birding event, the bird was eventually posted to iNaturalist where it was ultimately identified. It was a female-type bird present along Botanical Beach with Savannah Sparrows.

Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*) – (2017-018)

Revelstoke – 2015 October 04-31 – Darlene Cancelliere[†] (ph)

There are few birds as distinctive as an adult male Hooded Warbler, such as this one visiting a residential yard in Revelstoke. This was the first record of Hooded Warbler reviewed by the committee. Records from Alberta, Washington and Oregon are spread throughout the year, suggesting that future Hooded Warblers in the province could be found at any month.

Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*) – (2017-045)

Vancouver – 2016 June 21 – Jaryd Turner[†] (ph)

This adult male Northern Parula was located by its song, and record shots were obtained during the brief period it was visible before the bird moved away and could not be relocated. The Northern Parula is one of the more common of the “eastern” warblers to occur in the West, with over 900 records in California, where it has also bred (Hamilton *et al.* 2007). The species has also been removed from the Review List in Oregon (OBRC 2017), though there are only about 18 accepted records in Washington (WBRC 2017). About two-thirds of the records in California are from the spring/early summer (Hamilton *et al.* 2007), a trend which appears to hold for more northerly records.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) – (2017-029)

Revelstoke – 2014 October 30-November 03 – Darlene Cancelliere[†] (ph)

This presumed hatch-year female Blackburnian Warbler was present for several days in a residential yard. While adult males are stunningly distinctive, immature

Blackburnian Warblers, such as this record, are superficially similar to other warblers with yellow-framed auriculars (*i.e.*, Townsend’s and immature Black-throated Green), and observers should remain alert for this species in the province, particularly during the fall when the majority of west coast records occur (*e.g.*, Hamilton *et al.* 2007). Sightings could also occur in the province’s northeast during the breeding season. The Blackburnian Warbler breeds as close as east-central Alberta, with possible breeding as far west as Grand Prairie (Federation of Alberta Naturalists 2007).

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) – (2017-064)

Vancouver – 2017 June 11 – Hugh Griffith^{†*}, Cole Gaerber (ph)

As the case with many summer records of vagrant warblers, this bird was first detected due to its song. Among the more regular of the eastern vagrants, there is even a single breeding record for the province (Campbell *et al.* 2001). In the region there appears to be peaks of this species in the summer (especially June), and again in September during fall migration (Toochin and Cecile n.d.,b; WBRC 2017).

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*) – (2017-017)

Revelstoke – 2015 October 06-13 – Darlene Cancelliere[†] (ph)

This female Black-throated Blue Warbler was photographed while it foraged in company with a Hooded Warbler (record 2017-018 above) in a residential yard. Despite breeding only as close as Manitoba, the Black-throated Blue Warbler is a regular autumnal vagrant to the West. There are about 700 records in California as of 2007, with 95% occurring in the fall (Hamilton *et al.* 2007), and the species is no longer reviewed in Oregon (OBRC 2017). There are sixteen accepted records in Washington (WBRC 2017), with most fitting the same trend of fall sightings, as with this Revelstoke record.

Hermit Warbler (*Setophaga occidentalis*) – (2017-055)

West Vancouver (Cypress Mountain) – 2017 May 07 – Don Kitteringham[†] (ph)

This record was of a photographed, adult male Hermit Warbler. Evaluating records of this species in the province is fraught with uncertainty, given that hybrid zones with Townsend’s Warbler exist in close proximity to British Columbia, in the Olympic Peninsula and Cascade

Mountains of Washington (Krosby and Rohwer 2010). Hybrids are fertile, and as a result hybridization goes beyond the first generation (*i.e.*, backcrossing is possible, which may dilute hybrid features) (Pearson 2013). The yellow face typical of Hermit Warbler is genetically dominant, and is therefore typically expressed in hybrids (Rohwer and Wood 1998), further confounding our assessment of records. In addition, there is evidence that Hermit Warbler used to occupy coastal regions of the province. Secondary contact with the more aggressive Townsend's Warbler has pushed the hybrid zone roughly 2,000 km farther south, to current locations in Washington and Oregon (Krosby and Rohwer 2009). This has left a "genetic wake" of Hermit Warbler mtDNA in otherwise morphologically-pure Townsend's Warblers in coastal B.C. (Rohwer *et al.* 2001; Krosby and Rohwer 2009). We are thus left with relying on phenotypic evidence for what is principally an issue of genetics. The photographic evidence received on this bird showed that visible characteristics (*e.g.*, lack of flank streaking, lack of yellow below bib, grey back) were consistent with "pure" Hermit Warbler, and the record was accepted on that basis. The committee acknowledges that photographs were insufficient to assess subtle clues of introgression (*e.g.*, the crown was not visible).

NORTHERN CARDINAL (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) – (2017-051)

Cranbrook – 2017 November 07-ongoing¹ – Katrin Powell^{†*} (ph), Greg Ross[†], Ilya Povalyayev (ph)

This is the first accepted record of Northern Cardinal for British Columbia. This bird was an after hatch-year female (*pers. comm.* Peter Pyle). The identification was easily established, though the committee considered provenance. The Northern Cardinal is not legal as a cagebird in Canada and the United States, though is commonly kept in Mexico (Roldán-Clar *et al.* 2017). The only evidence of captive Northern Cardinals in the province comes from Nanaimo, where a bird was (illegally) released in the 1990s and persisted for at least two years (*pers. comm.* Guy Monty). Furthermore, Washington state has five records which were not accepted due to uncertain origin. However, the species has been expanding its range since the mid-1800s, with significant extensions north and west due to climate change, habitat alteration, and feeding stations (Halkin and Linville 1999). In Alberta this species was first documented in 1987 (Slater 1997), with nesting confirmed in 2009 and 2010 (Hudon *et al.* 2011). Montana also has multiple accepted records (*e.g.*, MBRC 2012). Given the ongoing range expansion of this species, the lack of evidence of cagebird trade in this species

locally, and the fact that the location fits within a pattern of records in adjacent jurisdictions, it was accepted. It remains to be seen whether this record heralds the beginning of this species' establishment in the province.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) – (2017-003, 2017-056, and 2017-057)

- 1) 2017-003: Pemberton – 2016 July 05 – Seth Stere[†], Toby Theriault[†], Joanna Streetly* (ph)
- 2) 2017-056: Port Coquitlam – 2015 December 21-25 – John Findlay[†], Melissa Hafting*, Hilary Maguire (ph)
- 3) 2017-057: Port Alberni – 2017 March 22 to April 19 – Sandy McRuer[†], Penny Hall* (ph)

Record 2017-003 was of an adult male seen well by multiple observers, and observed singing. Campbell *et al.* (2001) report that most observations (to that publishing date) are of singing males present for only 1 or 2 days in June and July, consistent with this record. Campbell *et al.* (2001) list one breeding record in the province from Creston, and since that time additional breeding has been confirmed in the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench (Howie 2015). Winter and early spring records are significant, and records 2017-056 and 2017-057, both of males, may be the latest and earliest records in the province respectively.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) – (2017-037)

Brentwood Bay (near Victoria) – 2006 March 21 to April 04 – Jeremy Gatten^{†*}, Mike Yip (ph)

This immature (second-year) Painted Bunting was present at a feeder in a residential yard. Painted Bunting is a casual species to the West. There are at least two records in Alberta (Slater 2001; Hudon *et al.* 2008), three in Washington (WBRC 2017), and eight in Oregon (OBRC 2017). There are two disjunct populations, treated as subspecies by some authorities, which have even been proposed as distinct species (Lowther *et al.* 2015). The Eastern group is a relatively short-distance migrant (breeding in the U.S. southeast and wintering in Florida and the Bahamas), while the Western group, which breeds in Texas and adjacent states, undergoes a moult-migration to the west (Arizona and northern Mexico) before undertaking movements farther south to wintering grounds (as far south as Panama) (Lowther *et al.* 2015). Based on these differing migration strategies, the source of British Columbia records is likely the Western group. However, provenance is also a consideration for this species, which is frequently trapped and sold in Latin America, and even

¹ As of press-time this bird's stay was ongoing. A final end date determination will be included in future updates to the sightings database and clarified in a future annual report.

in areas of the United States (Lowther *et al.* 2015; Hamilton *et al.* 2007; Sykes *et al.* 2006). Many records in California, especially adult males during summer and winter, are believed to pertain to escapees, though the situation there was confusing for observers and California Bird Records Committee members alike (Hamilton *et al.* 2007). There was no evidence of prior captivity for this individual.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) – (2017-054)

Revelstoke – 2017 May 05 – Darlene Cancelliere† (ph)

This female Dickcissel was feeding below a feeder in a vagrant-prone residential yard, where it was photographed. Other Dickcissel records in the province (most unreviewed by the committee), and adjacent regions suggest that this species could occur in the province at essentially any time of year.

Provisional List

The committee previously decided that records of provincial firsts need to be accompanied by physical evidence to be accepted to the main list. Physical evidence could include photographs, videos, sound recordings or specimens. Records of species that do not occur on the Main List, but for which the committee believes the identification is conclusively supported by the details provided, and that are believed to pertain to wild, naturally occurring vagrants (*i.e.*, are not escapees), are assigned to the Provisional List.

There were no records assigned to the Provisional List in 2017.

Non-accepted Records

Identification Not Established

The following reports are ones for which the documentation was inadequate to conclusively determine the species involved. It must be stated that in not accepting these records, we are not indicating that these sightings were necessarily mis-identified. Although that may sometimes be the case, it is more frequent that the documentation submitted does not fully eliminate other species, even if they happen to be rarer than the one submitted. This may be due to incomplete submissions, or simply important features of plumage or behaviour not observed in the field. Names of observers are withheld from non-accepted reports.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) – (2017-060)

Salt Spring Island – 2015 November 15

This written report and field sketch detailed a female-type *Aythya* duck. While Tufted Duck could not be

discounted, neither could the possibility of a Tufted Duck hybrid or other *Aythya* species (see account of this species under Accepted Records). In addition, several features that would help support the identification (*e.g.*, presence of a small tuft, broad black nail on bill) were not noted.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) – (2017-030)

Edouard Creek (West Kootenay) – 2017 July 23

This written description was of a bird seen through binoculars at moderate distance (300 m). Some details reported were inconsistent with the identification, and the report was sufficiently lacking in information to determine what kind of bird was encountered.

Parakeet Auklet (*Aethia psittacula*) – (2017-062)

Active Pass, Mayne Island – 2017 September 04

This report consisted of a written description of the sighting conditions and briefly the bird itself. The bird was seen for a short period of time, without the aid of optics, though at close range. While the description provided could fit Parakeet Auklet, it could apply equally to Rhinoceros or Cassin's Auklet; neither of which were discussed, nor could be eliminated based on the details provided.

Elegant Tern (*Thalasseus elegans*) – (2017-019 and 2017-034)

- 1) 2017-019: Victoria – 2010 September 09
- 2) 2017-034: Earl's Cove area (Sunshine Coast) – 2015 September 04

Both of these reports consisted of written descriptions. Record 2017-019 was of a bird seen briefly, without optical aid, as it flew overhead. The sighting location was over land, within 1.5 km of the coast, which the committee considered unusual for this species. Record 2017-034 was of a bird seen approximately 200 m from a B.C. Ferry on the Sunshine Coast. The time of year of both sightings falls within the period when Elegant Terns disperse northwards up the Pacific Coast from California. Both records also described at least some features consistent with Elegant Tern. However, in both cases the committee felt that the identification was not completely supported, either due to the difficulty of assessing features reliably given the sighting conditions, or in not being able to completely eliminate similar species.

White-faced Ibis (7) (*Plegadis chihi*) – (2017-010)

Victoria – 2016 May 20

This report consisted of a written description, which noted seven ibis seen briefly in flight. While the

description was consistent with *Plegadis* ibis, more specific features that would support the identification to species were not provided. Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) is yet unrecorded in the province, though there are records from Washington (WBRC 2017), Montana (MBRC 2012), and Alberta (eBird 2017). It is expected to eventually occur in the province, and should be considered for any ibis sighting here.

White-headed Woodpecker (*Picoides albolarvatus*) – (2017-015)

Fairmont Hot Springs – 2017 June 25

This written report detailed a bird seen very briefly from a moving vehicle. While certain features were consistent with the identification, other details were ambiguous or did not match this species. In addition, though White-headed Woodpecker is rare anywhere in the province, the location of the sighting is beyond any previously-described locales. Thus details were deemed inadequate for conclusively determining the species involved.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – (2017-005)

Richmond – 2016 June 09

This report consisted of a submitted report form and two poor photos. While the observer is familiar with the alleged species, the photos, while suggestive of a shrike, were too low-quality to allow a determination of species to be made. Unfortunately no description of the bird was provided, highlighting the importance of the written description in rare bird reports.

Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) – (2017-013)

Barriere area – 2017 June 26

This written report detailed a bird seen briefly at a highway rest stop. Submitted details were inconclusive to species, with several parts of the bird left undescribed. Cerulean Warbler has no previous accepted records in the province, and no accepted records from the West Coast north of California, nor from any other territory immediately adjacent to British Columbia.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) – (2017-006)

Kelowna – 2013 September 24

This report included a written description of a bird studied at relatively close range. The description was intriguing, though a couple noted features were

inconsistent with Summer Tanager, and the possibility of Hepatic Tanager, though unrecorded in the province, could not be discounted. Ultimately a conclusive identification could not be made.

Origin Uncertain

This category is one for which the documentation conclusively established the identification, but for which there were significant concerns about provenance. In most cases there is a concern that the individual was brought to the province in captivity, from whence it escaped or was released, or that it arrived in the province on its own, but had a captive origin. In most cases this category includes species that are known to be widespread in private collections, and/or which lack known natural vagrancy patterns.

House Swift (*Apus nipalensis*) – (2017-011)

Ladner – 2012 May 18

Details of this sighting have been published in Szabo *et al.* (2017), which was the sole basis for our evaluation. This record involved a specimen (male), found dead, along the Deltaport container terminal causeway. Records of this nature are evaluated for species identification and provenance. *Apus* swifts pose considerable identification challenges. House Swift is extremely similar to, and formerly conspecific with, Little Swift (*Apus affinis*), and also very similar to Horus Swift (*Apus horus*). Fortunately Szabo *et al.* (2017) performed an extensive analysis of the specimen, including morphometrics and DNA sequencing, providing a thorough discussion on the identification. The Bird Records Committee accepts the identification of House Swift, based on this extensive documentation. The presence of a specimen allowed this individual to be examined at a level far exceeding any report ever received by the B.C. Bird Records Committee, and readers are strongly encouraged to refer to Szabo *et al.* (2017) for in-depth discussion. The committee thus considered origin. While several species of *Apus* swift have reached the New World, including a Pacific Swift (*Apus pacifica*) in the Yukon Territory within about 30 km of the B.C. border (eBird 2017), there is no pattern of vagrancy of House Swift (or Little or Horus swifts) to North America. Within much of its East and Southeast Asian range, the House Swift is believed to be resident, though northern populations may be migratory (Chantler 2000). We believe that a naturally occurring vagrant arriving alive in British Columbia would be unlikely to have occurred at the Deltaport, rather making first landfall at some other destination (e.g. Vancouver Island). Furthermore, the Deltaport is a major import/export hub in a global supply chain, receiving frequent trans-Pacific container ships. The committee was troubled by the coincidence of this specimen being found in such close proximity to a main

hub receiving vessels from the known range of this species. Ultimately, the committee felt that there was no way of knowing if this bird arrived *alive* within British Columbia's jurisdiction. While Szabo *et al.* (2017) describe scenarios which may facilitate this species' natural arrival to North America, we believe a possible alternative is that this individual perished at some location prior to our boundaries and came to rest on a container ship, before being dislodged during the unloading process. This possibility, along with the lack of a vagrancy pattern (and low vagrancy potential) to North America were important considerations for the committee in determining its decision.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) – (2017-026)

Balaklava Island (Queen Charlotte Strait) – 2017
September 6-7

This record was one of the odder ones that the committee has dealt with. A written report and multiple, high-quality photographs left no doubt as to the species identity, and if nothing else was known this record would likely have been accepted. However, in the midst of our evaluation new information was revealed regarding this individual's probable origin. According to "The Raptors", a multi-faceted organization which houses multiple species of local and exotic raptors in Duncan (www.pnwraptors.com), three Black Vultures that were deemed non-releasable were imported from Georgia, USA. At some point in June 2017, a tree fell and damaged the aviary containing the Black Vultures. One flighted, unbanded individual escaped and no recapture was attempted. This was reported to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations at the time, though not to the birding community. Fun fact: this is the only report the committee has reviewed in which the focal bird had a known name, Balthazar. Given this knowledge, and the scarcity of this species as a vagrant to the province, the committee determined that the probability that this record pertained to Balthazar was too great for acceptance. On 2017 September 27 a Black Vulture was sighted at Pedder Bay in Metchosin. While this sighting was also submitted to the committee, we assume the Metchosin record to involve the same escaped bird. Sightings of a Black Vulture in the Victoria area persisted until at least 2017 December 10, and all are believed by us likely to pertain to the same bird.

Acknowledgements

The provincial birding community has provided much encouragement and assistance to the committee, and we are indebted to all birders who have submitted reports, answered

queries, and provided comments and constructive criticisms. Assessing bird records necessitates a collaborative approach, and the committee also thanks the following individuals for providing comments or supplementary information for select records: Matt Bartels, Kevin Karlson, Aaron Lang, Bruce Mactavish, Jeff Marks, Ann Nightingale, Michael O'Brien, Peter Pyle, Martin Reid, and Daniel Ruthrauff. The committee would especially like to thank George Clulow for the many roles he serves in assisting the committee and to Art Martell for his guidance in addition to editorial assistance on this and previous reports. Thanks also to Michael Force, Peter Candido, and Guy Monty for reviewing this report. Finally, all efforts were made to provide accurate date and observer information in this report. If any errors exist, they are the sole responsibility of the author. Any corrections should be sent to the BRC Chairperson.

Literature Cited

- Alström, P. and K. Mild. 2003. *Pipits and Wagtails*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J.
- American Ornithologists' Union. 1988. *The AOU check-list of North American Birds, 7th Edition*. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C. <<http://www.aou.org/checklist/north/print.php>>.
- Aubry, Y. 1984. First nests of the Common Black-headed Gull in North America. *American Birds* 38: 366-367.
- Baltosser, W.H. and P.E. Scott. 1996. Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), version 2.0. in P.G. Rodewald (ed.). *The Birds of North America*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. <<https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.251>>
- Boertman, D. 2008. The Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*, in Greenland. *Arctic* 61:129-133.
- Bower, J.L. 2009. Changes in marine bird abundance in the Salish Sea: 1975 to 2007. *Marine Ornithology* 37: 9-17.
- Campbell, R.W., N.K. Dawe, I. McTaggart-Cowan, J.M. Cooper, G.W. Kaiser, A.C. Stewart, and M.C.E. McNall. 2001. *The birds of British Columbia. Vol.4. Passerines: wood-warblers through Old World sparrows*. UBC Press, Vancouver, B.C.
- Chantler, P. 2000. *Swifts: A guide to the Swifts and Treeswifts of the World. Second edition*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn.
- Chesser, R.T., K.J. Burns, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovette, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen Jr., J.D. Rising, D.F. Stotz, and K. Winker. 2016. Fifty-seventh supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds. *The Auk* 133:544-560.
- Chesser, R.T., K.J. Burns, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovette, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen Jr.,

- J.D. Rising, D.F. Stotz, and K. Winker. 2017. Fifty-eighth supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Check-list of North American Birds. *The Auk* 134: 751-773.
- Cramp, S. and K.E.L. Simmons, eds. 1983. *Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Vol. 3*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, U.K.
- Crewe, T., K. Barry, P. Davidson, and D. Lepage. 2012. Coastal waterbird trends in the Strait of Georgia 1999-2011: Results from the first 12 years of the British Columbia Coastal Waterbird Survey. *British Columbia Birds* 22: 8-35.
- Curry, R.L., A.T. Peterson, T.A. Langen, P. Pyle, and M.A. Patten. 2017. California Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), version 3.0. in P.G. Rodewald (ed.). *The Birds of North America*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. <<https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.cowscj1.03>>
- Davidson, G.S. 1999. B.C. Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee Report for 1996-1997. *British Columbia Birds* 9:15-18.
- Davidson, P.J.A. 2015. Western Scrub-Jay in Davidson, P.J.A., R.J. Cannings, A.R. Couturier, D. Lepage, and C.M. Di Corrado (eds.). *The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia, 2008-2012*. Bird Studies Canada. Delta, B.C. <<http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca/accounts/speciesaccount.jsp?sp=WSJA&lang=en>> [2018 January 03]
- Davidson, P.J.A. and R.J. Cannings. 2015. Black-throated Sparrow in Davidson, P.J.A., R.J. Cannings, A.R. Couturier, D. Lepage, and C.M. Di Corrado (eds.). *The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia, 2008-2012*. Bird Studies Canada. Delta, B.C. <<http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca/accounts/speciesaccount.jsp?sp=BTSP&lang=en>> [2018 January 03]
- eBird. 2017. *eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance* [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, N.Y. Available: <<http://www.ebird.org>>. [2017 December 31].
- Ellis, J.C., M.C. Stoddard, and L.W. Clark. 2008. Breeding by a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) on the Atlantic coast of North America. *North American Birds* 61:546-548.
- Federation of Alberta Naturalists. 2007. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta: a second look*. Federation of Alberta Naturalists, Edmonton, Alta.
- Finch, D.W. 1978. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) breeding in Newfoundland. *American Birds* 32: 312.
- Frei, B., K.G. Smith, J.H. Withgott, P.G. Rodewald, P. Pyle, and M.A. Patten. 2017. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), version 2.1. in P.G. Rodewald (ed.). *The Birds of North America*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. <<https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.rehwoo.02.1>>
- Gibson, D.D., L.H. DeCicco, R.E. Gill Jr., S.C. Heintz, A.J. Lang, T.G. Tobish Jr., and J.J. Withrow. 2013. Third report of the Alaska Checklist Committee, 2008-2012. *Western Birds* 44: 183-195.
- Gibson, D.D. and J.J. Withrow. 2015. Inventory of the species and subspecies of Alaska birds, second edition. *Western Birds* 46: 94-185.
- Halkin, S.L. and S.U. Linville. 1999. Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), version 2.0. in P.G. Rodewald (ed.). *The Birds of North America*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. <<https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.440>>
- Hamilton, R.A., M.A. Patten, and R.A. Erickson (eds.). 2007. *Rare Birds of California*. Western Field Ornithologists, Camarillo, Calif.
- Hentze, N.T. 2014. B.C. Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee Report for 2013. *British Columbia Birds* 24: 32-35.
- Hentze, N.T. 2015. B.C. Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee Report for 2014. *British Columbia Birds* 25: 40-48.
- Hentze, N.T. 2016. B.C. Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee Report for 2015. *British Columbia Birds* 26: 41-50.
- Hentze, N.T. 2017. B.C. Field Ornithologists Bird Records Committee Report for 2016. *British Columbia Birds* 27: 42-52.
- Howell, S.N.G., I. Lewington, and W. Russell. 2014. *Rare birds of North America*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J.
- Howie, R. 2015. Indigo Bunting in Davidson, P.J.A., R.J. Cannings, A.R. Couturier, D. Lepage, and C.M. Di Corrado (eds.). *The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia, 2008-2012*. Bird Studies Canada. Delta, B.C. <<http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca/accounts/speciesaccount.jsp?sp=INBU&lang=en>> [2018 January 06]
- Hudon, J., R. Klauke, R. Knapton, M.R. Lein, J. Riddell, B. Ritchie, and R. Wershler. 2008. Eighth Report of the Alberta Bird Record Committee. *Nature Alberta* 38: 28-31.
- Hudon, J., R. Klauke, R. Knapton, M.R. Lein, J. Riddell, B. Ritchie, and R. Wershler. 2011. Tenth Report of the Alberta Bird Record Committee. *Nature Alberta* 41: 37-40.
- Hudon, J., R. Klauke, R. Knapton, M.R. Lein, J. Riddell, B. Ritchie, and R. Wershler. 2014. Eleventh report of the Alberta Bird Record Committee. *Nature Alberta* 43: 38-41.
- [IBRC] Idaho Bird Records Committee. 2017. *Idaho Bird Records Committee*. <<https://idahobirds.net/idahobrc/>> [2018 January 03]
- [IWWA] International Wild Waterfowl Association. 2015. *2015/2016 IWWA Captive Waterfowl Survey*. <http://www.wildwaterfowl.org/assets/2015_iwwa_survey.pdf> [2017 December 27]
- Koenig, W.D., P.B. Stacey, M.T. Starback, and R.L. Mumme. 1995. Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), version 2.0. in P.G. Rodewald (ed.). *The Birds of North America*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. <<https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.194>>

- Krosby, M. and S. Rohwer. 2009. A 2000 km genetic wake yields evidence for northern glacial refugia and hybrid zone movement in a pair of songbirds. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 276: 615-621.
- Krosby, M. and S. Rohwer. 2010. Ongoing movement of the Hermit Warbler x Townsend's Warbler Hybrid Zone. *PLoS ONE* 5: e14164. <<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0014164>>.
- Leukering, T. and N. Pieplow. 2014. Identifying Curve-billed Thrasher subspecies: why and how. *Colorado Birds* 48: 296-304.
- Lowther, P.E., S.M. Lanyon, and C.W. Thompson. 2015. Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), version 2.0. in P.G. Rodewald (ed.). *The Birds of North America*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. <<https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.398>>
- [MBRC] Montana Bird Records Committee. 2012. *MBRC Annual Report 2012*. <<https://www.montanabirdadvocacy.org/about-mbrc/>>
- [NACC] North American Checklist Committee. 2014. *Comments on Proposals 2014-C*. <http://checklist.aou.org/nacc/proposals/comments/2014_C_comments_web.html#2014-C-9> [2018 January 04]
- [OBRC] Oregon Bird Records Committee. 2017. *The records of the Oregon Bird Records Committee through December 2017* <<http://www.orbirds.org/recordsdec2017.pdf>> [2017 December 30].
- O'Donnell, R.P., S. Carr, C. Fosdick, R. Bond, R. Fridell, S. Hedges, C. Neuman, R. Ryel, T. Sadler, J.J. Skalicky, M. Stackhouse, and M. Webb. 2014. Rare Birds of Utah: the Nineteenth Report of the Utah Bird Records Committee (2010-2012). *Western Birds* 45: 112-131.
- Olsen, K.M. and H. Larsson. 2003. *Gulls of Europe, Asia and North America*. Christopher Helm, London, U.K.
- Pearson, S.F. 2013. Hermit Warbler (*Setophaga occidentalis*), version 2.0. in P.G. Rodewald (ed.). *The Birds of North America*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. <<https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.303>>
- Phinney, M. 2015. Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Davidson, P.J.A., R.J. Cannings, A.R. Couturier, D. Lepage, and C.M. Di Corrado (eds.). *The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of British Columbia, 2008-2012*. Bird Studies Canada. Delta, B.C. <<http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca/accounts/speciesaccount.jsp?sp=RTHU&lang=en>> [2017 December 27]
- Pieplow, N. 2012. Eastern and Western Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. *EarBirding*.(blog) 31 January 2012. <<http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/3518>>
- Pyle, P. 1997. *Identification Guide to North American Birds: Part I*. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, Calif.
- Randler, C. 2001. Field identification of hybrid waterfowl – *Aythya. Alula* 4: 148-156.
- Reeber, S. 2015. *Waterfowl of North America, Europe and Asia*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J.
- Rohwer, S. and C. Wood. 1998. Three hybrid zones between Hermit and Townsend's Warblers in Washington and Oregon. *The Auk* 115: 284-310.
- Rohwer, S., E. Bermingham, and C. Wood. 2001. Plumage and mitochondrial DNA haplotype variation across a moving hybrid zone. *Evolution* 55: 405-422.
- Roldán-Clar, B., V.M. Toledo, and I. Espejel. 2017. The use of birds as pets in Mexico. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 13:35. <<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13002-017-0161-z>>
- Slater, A. 1997. First Report of the Alberta Bird Record Committee. *Alberta Naturalist* 27:40-41.
- Slater, A. 2001. Third Report of the Alberta Bird Record Committee. *Alberta Naturalist* 31: 4-6.
- Sykes Jr., P.W., L. Manfredi, and M. Padura. 2006. A brief report on the illegal cage-bird trade in southern Florida: a potentially serious negative impact on the eastern population of Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). *North American Birds* 60: 310-313.
- Szabo, I., K. Walters, J. Rourke, and D.E. Irwin. 2017. First record of House Swift (*Apus nipalensis*) in the Americas. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 129: 411-416.
- Tietz, J. and G. McCaskie. 2018. Update to *Rare Birds of California* 1 January 2004-6 January 2018. <http://www.californiabirds.org/cbrc_book/update.pdf> [2018 January 07]
- Toochin, R., n.d.,a. The status and occurrence of Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) in British Columbia in Klinkenberg, B. (ed.). 2017. *E-Fauna B.C.: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia*. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of B.C., Vancouver. <www.efauna.bc.ca>. [2018 January 02]
- Toochin, R., n.d.,b. The status and occurrence of the Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*) in British Columbia in Klinkenberg, B. (ed.). 2017. *E-Fauna B.C.: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia*. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of B.C., Vancouver. <www.efauna.bc.ca>. [2018 January 02]
- Toochin, R., and D. Cecile. n.d.,a. The status and occurrence of Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) in British Columbia in Klinkenberg, B. (ed.). 2017. *E-Fauna B.C.: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia*. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of B.C., Vancouver. <www.efauna.bc.ca>. [2017 December 27]
- Toochin, R., and D. Cecile. n.d.,b. The status and occurrence of the Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Esophagi pensylvanicus*) in British Columbia in Klinkenberg, B. (ed.). 2017. *E-Fauna B.C.: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia*. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Deptment of Geography, University of B.C., Vancouver. <www.efauna.bc.ca>. [2018 January 02]

- Tweit, R.C. 1996. Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), version 2.0. in P.G. Rodewald (ed.). *The Birds of North America*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. <<https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.235>>
- Watt, D.J. and E.J. Willoughby. 2014. Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), version 2.0. in P.G. Rodewald (ed.). *The Birds of North America*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. <<https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.392>>
- [WBRC] Washington Bird Records Committee. 2017. *Summary of records accepted by the Washington Bird Records Committee 21 October 2017* <<http://wos.org/documents/WBRC/WBRC%20Accepted%20Oct%202017.pdf>> [2017 December 30].

