

Appendix B: Hypothetical Species in British Columbia.

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Introduction:

The following species were thought to be identified correctly, and often have poor quality photographs accompanying the record making identification for certain difficult. In some cases the bird was only heard and not observed. Several of these species have been reported without sufficient evidence that would help conclusively document the record for a provincial first. It is very possible that many of these reports are indeed correct, but due to the difficult nature of field identification for some of these species, they are best at present left as hypothetical.

Species List:

Taiga/Tundra Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis/serrirostris*):

There are 3 reports of Bean Goose in British Columbia. The first was a single bird seen and photographed at Deadman Lake in the Okanagan Valley from April 14-26, 1982 (Cannings *et al.* 1987). The bird thought to be an escapee since it was a Taiga Bean Goose or a bird belonging to the European subspecies at that time (Cannings *et al.* 1987). The second was reported with Canada Geese by Guy and Donna Monty at the Englishmen River in Parksville on April 3, 2005 (Toochin *et al.* 2014a). The bird was thought by the observer to be a likely escapee as it was with a flock of non-migratory geese (J. Fenneman Pers. Comm.). The third bird was found by Guy Monty and Rich Mooney Somass Estuary, Port Alberni on November 13, 2009 (Toochin *et al.* 2014a). Distant photographs were obtained of the bird overhead in flight (J. Fenneman Pers. Comm.). There is no doubt a Bean Goose was seen, unfortunately it is not possible to tell which type from the photographs (J. Fenneman Pers. Comm.).

The Bean Goose was split into 2 species by the AOU in 2007 (Banks *et al.* 2007). The Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) breeds from northern Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia east to eastern Siberia (Banks *et al.* 2007). This species winters in Great Britain, Europe, the Middle East, and southern Asia to eastern China and Japan (Banks *et al.* 2007). This species is accidental in Alaska in the Pribilof Islands where there is a specimen from St. Paul Island; which was initially reported as (*A. f. sibiricus*), but is now known (*A. f. middendorffii*), by Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959). Birds seen at the Iowa-Nebraska border (Peterjohn 1985, Williams 1985), at Cap-Tourmente, Quebec (Gosselin *et al.* 1988), Phelps County at Funk Lagoon, Nebraska (Grzybowski 1998), are thought to belong to this species (Banks *et al.* 2007). There is also 1 single accepted record by the Washington Bird Records Committee of a photographed bird

from Hoquiam in Grays Harbor County which stayed from 7-17 December 17, 2002 (Wahl *et al.* 2005, WBRC 2016).

The Tundra Bean Goose (*Anser serrirostris*) breeds in the tundra zone from Novaya Zemlya and the Taimyr Peninsula east across northern Siberia to the Chukotski Peninsula (Banks *et al.* 2007). This species winters in northern Europe, Russia, Turkestan, China, and Japan. Records outside the west coast area in North America include 1 bird in Quebec at Cap-Tourmente; (David and Gosselin 1983); and also photographed in from Whitehorse, Yukon (Eckert 2000). This species is accidental in Alaska in the Aleutian Islands (Amchitka), on the Pribilofs Islands (St. Paul Island), and St. Lawrence Island (Palmer 1976). This species group has started to turn up more along the west coast of North America in the past 20 years, likely partly due to better scrutiny given to migratory flocks of geese in the fall (J. Fenneman Pers. Comm.). California has 1 accepted record of Tundra Bean Goose by the California Bird Records Committee of a photographed bird found at Unit 1 of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in Imperial County on 19 October 19, 2013 (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2017). Another record was not judged to exact species, but was also accepted by the California Bird Records Committee of a long staying bird found and photographed at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in Imperial County from November 9, 2010-January 12, 2011 (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2017). There is 1 accepted record for Oregon for Tundra Bean Goose of a bird photographed at the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Tillamook County on November 9, 2014 (OFO 2016). It seems highly likely with careful scrutiny given to migrating flocks of geese, especially along the west coast; this species will be re-found and confirmed in the future.

Mexican Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus arizonae*):

There is a report of a calling heard-only adult by Doug Brown at Dead Man's Lake, along Highway 97, just north of Rd. 22 on July 6, 1983 (D. Brown Pers. Comm.). Unfortunately the bird was not seen and although the identification is not in question, there is no recording of the bird, so it has to remain hypothetical at this time. A widely published record from Ucluelet, which was at first believed to be Mexican Whip-poor-will is now regarded as an Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferous*) (Dorst 2006, Toochin and Cecile 2018e).

The AOU split the Whip-poor-will into 2 species; the Mexican Whip-poor-will and the Eastern Whip-poor-will in 2010 (Chesser *et al.* 2010). The Mexican Whip-poor-will breeds in the mountains of southern California (probably in San Gabriel, San Bernardino, San Jacinto, and Clark mountains) and from southern Nevada (Sheep Mountains and possibly Spring Mountains), northern Arizona, central New Mexico, and extreme western Texas south through the highlands of Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador to Honduras, also (probably) in southern Baja California (Chesser *et al.* 2010). This species winters from central Mexico south through the breeding

range to Honduras; northern and southern limits of wintering range of migratory population poorly known (Chesser *et al.* 2010). Reports from northwestern California, northwestern Montana, and central Colorado may represent this species but require confirmation (Chesser *et al.* 2010). This species has a much more restricted range than the Eastern Whip-poor-will, but should be looked for nevertheless as it is a potential vagrant.

European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*):

There is a single report of an adult in breeding (alternate) plumage by Peter Hamel and Margo Hearne at Sandspit Airport on December 19, 2009 (P. Hamel Pers. Comm.). The bird was well observed, but unfortunately no photographs were taken (P. Hamel Pers. Comm.). Pacific Golden-Plovers do on occasion winter in the region, but do not show breeding plumage at this time of year (P. Hamel Pers. Comm.). Both observers noted the large size, structure and calls of this bird as being right for European Golden Plover (P. Hamel Pers. Comm.). It has been included here for lack of photographs and at the observer's request (P. Hamel Pers. Comm.).

This species is normally found breeding from parts of eastern Greenland, Iceland, Great Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, westward throughout arctic Russia into central Siberia (Hayman *et al.* 1986, del Hoyo *et al.* 1996, Message and Taylor 2005). The European Golden Plover winters in mostly coastal regions of Ireland, Great Britain, Denmark, northeastern Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, along the coastal lines of the western Adriatic countries, Greece, parts of Turkey, northern Iran (Hayman *et al.* 1986, del Hoyo *et al.* 1996, Message and Taylor 2005). This species is also found wintering along the southern shores of the Mediterranean Ocean from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Syria and Cyprus (Hayman *et al.* 1986, del Hoyo *et al.* 1996, Message and Taylor 2005).

In North America, the European Golden Plover is an irregular spring migrant to Newfoundland (Dunn and Alderfer 2011). This species is casual in Quebec and Nova Scotia, and accidental further south on the east coast in the fall with a single record from Maine and Delaware (Dunn and Alderfer 2011). On the west coast of North America, the European Golden Plover has been found once in Alaska at Ketchikan (and was collected as a specimen) from January 13-14, 2001 (Heinl and Piston 2009). It is noted that very keen observers should carefully check any wintering golden plover that is reported and also check any odd larger looking golden plover in migration as this species could occur again in the future in our region.

Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*):

There have been many reports of this species in British Columbia since 1981 and none of them have ever been conclusively identified with clear photographs, only field notes (Campbell *et al.* 1990b, Bowling 1997c, Hearne and Hamel 1997, Toochin *et al.* 2014b). The difficulty in

separating Long-toed Stint from our Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) is a major obstacle for any record without good photographs or digital recordings to be included on the confirmed list of species for the province. There are many excellent resources available that keen shorebird observers can read to help identify this species such as Veit and Jonsson (1984), Hayman *et al.* 1986, Lewington *et al.* (1992), Jonsson (1992), Paulson 1993, Paulson 2005, O'Brien *et al.* 2006).

This species breeds in central Siberia in the northern Verkhoyansky District and around the Ob River and the Irtysh River, parts of Mongolia, near Lake Baikal, the Chukchi Peninsula, the Koryak Plateau, the Commander Islands, the Kuril Islands, land bordering the Sea of Okhotsk with the population estimated at over 25,000 individuals (Hayman *et al.* 1986, Paulson 2005, O'Brien *et al.* 2006, Wetlands International 2006, Birdlife International 2018). After the breeding season, this species migrates southwards passing through China, Indochina, Malaysia and the Philippines and westwards to Burma, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldiv Islands. It is a visitor to New Guinea and Australia (Hayman *et al.* 1986, Paulson 2005, O'Brien *et al.* 2006, Wetlands International 2006, Birdlife International 2018).

Vagrants have reached Sweden, South Africa, Melanesia, and Hawaii (Hayman *et al.* 1986, Round 1996, Paulson 2005, O'Brien *et al.* 2006).

In North America, the Long-toed Stint occurs in Alaska where it is a rare, but regular spring and very rare fall migrant in the Western Aleutian Islands (West 2008). This species is casual in the Central Aleutian Islands and is a very rare spring and casual fall migrant in the Bering Sea region of the Pribilof and St. Lawrence Islands (West 2008). Along the west coast south of Alaska, the Long-toed Stint is an accidental vagrant with no accepted records for Washington State by the Washington Bird Records Committee (Wahl *et al.* 2005, WBRC 2016). In Oregon, there are 2 accepted records of the Long-toed Stint by the Oregon Bird Records Committee a juvenile in bright plumage found and photographed at the South Jetty Columbia River in Clatsop County from September 2-6, 1981 and adult in alternate plumage at the South Jetty Columbia River in Clatsop County on July 17, 1983 (OFO 2016). In California, there is a single accepted record by the California Bird Records Committee of a well photographed juvenile found at Salinas in Monterey County from August 29-September 2, 1988 (Patten and Daniels 1991, Hamilton *et al.* 2007). This species should be checked for in shorebird hotspots in British Columbia every fall as it may one day become a confirmed species for the province.

Recent records where field notes and photographs are inconclusive.

- 1.(1) adult breeding plumage July 1, 1997: Margo Hearne, Peter Hamel: Sandspit, Haida Gwaii (Hearne and Hamel 1997, Bowling 1997c)

- 2.(1) adult breeding plumage August 13, 2001: Margo Hearne, Ben Hamel, Peter Hamel: North Tow Hill Beach, Haida Gwaii (P. Hamel Pers. Comm.)
- 3.(1) partially faded juvenile August 9 & 11, 2002: RTo, MMe, MTo, STo, TP, JT & JK (photo) Iona Island, Richmond (Toochin *et al.* 2014b)

Asian Dowitcher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*):

There is a single report of an adult in breeding plumage by Peter Hamel and Margo Hearne at Delkatla, Masset, in Haida Gwaii May 8, 2001 (P. Hamel Pers. Comm.). This bird was heard calling and well seen in company of an adult Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) and 750 Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*), but unfortunately the observers didn't have a camera with them at the time of the observation (P. Hamel Pers. Comm.). The flocks were obviously in full migration because a return trip later that day produced none of the birds that were present earlier that same day (P. Hamel Pers. Comm.).

The Asian Dowitcher has a disjunct breeding range in the steppe regions that extend from western to eastern Siberia, Russia, and south into Mongolia and Heilongjiang in north-east China (Bamford *et al.* 2008, IUCN 2018). It has been recorded as a non-breeding visitor to Japan, North Korea, South Korea, mainland China, Hong Kong (China), Taiwan (China), Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand (Hayman *et al.* 1986, Bamford *et al.* 2008, Brazil 2009). The IUCN lists the Asian Dowitcher as near threatened (IUCN 2018). The global population is estimated to number about 23,000 individuals (Bamford *et al.* 2008), while national population sizes have been estimated at less than about 100 breeding pairs and less than about 10,000 individuals on migration in China and about 100-10,000 breeding pairs and about 50-1,000 individuals on migration in Russia (Brazil 2009, IUCN 2018). It is dependent on a rather small number of wetlands, notably the wintering sites at the Banyuasin Delta on Sumatra, where up to 13,000 were estimated in 1988 (BirdLife International 2001), and Ujung Pangkah in east Java (BirdLife International 2018).

There are no North American records for this species and without a photograph, this record remains hypothetical.

Providence Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*):

There is 1 report of this species with high quality photographs of a bird found by Mike Toochin, and other observers off Clayoquot Canyon, 40 miles off Tofino on October 6, 2009 (Charlesworth 2010a). Difficulty in separating Providence Petrel and Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*) is highlighted by this record. It was at first thought to be a Murphy's Petrel by the observers and then later the photographs were shared online and some experts felt it

was a Providence Petrel (J. Fenneman Pers. Comm.). After further review expert opinions are divided on the identification and more recently many are leaning towards Murphy's Petrel (J. Fenneman Pers. Comm.).

This species breeds on Lord Howe Island and Philip Island and ranges into the northwestern Pacific Ocean, but if this species is regular off North American pelagic waters is still being worked out (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Clements *et al.* 2017). There are several reported birds from deep ocean research trips from the deep pelagic zone off the west coast of North America, but very few have been substantiated with photographs and there are no skin specimen records for North America (Wahl *et al.* 2005, Hamilton *et al.* 2007).

Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*):

There is a single report of an adult observed by Roger Taylor and Neil Robins flying over the Top Bridge Trail, in Parksville on May 23, 2007 (Cecile 2007b, Toochnin *et al.* 2014a). Though this report is intriguing, unfortunately there are no accompanying photographs and therefore is listed here. As with all seabirds a record for the province is possible, but photographs are always a necessity to rule out other *Sula* species.

This species is strictly oceanic with a breeding range in the United States that is apparently limited to 3 Hawaiian Islands; Kaula (200–400 pairs), Lehua (5–10 pairs) (Harrison 1990a), and Moku Manu, off Oahu (40 pairs) (Nelson 1978c). The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands populations total at least 6,770 birds (Harrison *et al.* 1983). This species has successfully nested on the Dry Tortugas (Clapp and Robertson 1986, Ogden 1991b).

Outside of the United States the Masked Booby breeds on islands off the Yucatan Peninsula, throughout the West Indies from the southern Bahamas to the Venezuelan coast, islands off the Brazilian coast, in the eastern Pacific on the Revillagigedo Islands (18°N 112°W), Clipperton Island (10°N 108°W), and San Ambrosio Island and San Felix Island west of Chile (26°S 80°W) (Nelson 1978c), and Malpelo Island (3° 59' N, 81° 36' W), where approximately 10 birds roost with some breeding (Grace and Anderson 2009).

The Masked Booby forages throughout the tropical oceans and nests on hundreds of islands between 30°N and 30°S (Nelson 1978c). One of the largest breeding populations (apart from Clipperton) is Boatswain Bird Island in the central Atlantic (8°S 14°W) (Grace and Anderson 2009). There are numerous small colonies in the archipelagos of the central and western Pacific, around the mouth of the Red Sea, the Chagos archipelago (7°S 72°E), and islands off northern Australia into Indonesia (Grace and Anderson 2009). An apparently isolated colony reported northwest of Taiwan (Nelson 1978c).

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*):

This species was formerly called Gray Sea Eagle and was possibly represented in the province by the word of a taxidermist that stated a specimen was taken on Vancouver Island March 18, 1898 (Bishop 1905). The record lacks complete and convincing details because the area it was said to have been collected and the location of the specimen are unknown (Campbell *et al.* 1990b). The White-tailed Eagle has its strongholds in Norway and Russia (which together hold >55% of the European population (BirdLife International 2016), and important populations in south-west Greenland, Sweden, Poland and Germany (BirdLife International 2016). Smaller numbers breed in Iceland, United Kingdom, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the former Yugoslav states, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Moldova, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia, the Russian Far East, mainland China, and Japan (BirdLife International 2016). It formerly bred in Algeria and may still do so in Iraq (BirdLife International 2016). Vagrants have been found in Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Cyprus, Egypt, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Myanmar, Palestinian Territory, Saudi Arabia, the Canary Islands; Svalbard and Jan Mayen, Thailand and Tunisia (BirdLife International 2016).

In North America, the White-tailed Eagle is rare in the Western Aleutian Islands, where it successfully nested on Attu in 1982 and 1983, with 1 adult resident there until 1996 (West 2008). This species is accidental in the Central Aleutian Islands, at Kiska in August 2005, and is casual at Gambel where there are several sight records and 1 photographed record (West 2008). The White-tailed Eagle is also accidental on Kodiak Island where an adult was photographed on January 28, 2009 (E-bird 2018). There are no confirmed records south of Alaska along the west coast of North America.

This species is accidental in eastern North America with a bird photographed on April 24, 1993 at the Derby Hill Hawk Watch in Oswego County, New York (Brinkley and Byrne 2013). The White-tailed Eagle is also accidental in Hawaii (Zaun 2009).

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*):

The basis for this record comes from 2 rail eggs that were neither Sora (*Porzana carolina*) nor Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) that were collected from a nest at Spotted Lake, near Richter Pass on June 1, 1952 (Campbell *et al.* 1990b). On a return visit to check the nest contents on June 14, the observers found that cattle had trampled the eggs (Campbell *et al.* 1990b). Egg fragments were salvaged and sent to W. E. Godfrey at the National Museum of Canada, but he was unable to make a positive identification (Campbell *et al.* 1990b). Further information on this record can be found in Campbell and Meugens (1971).

The Black Rail, the smallest rail in North America, has a broad distribution, inhabiting tidal marshes and freshwater wetlands throughout the Americas (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). Two of its five subspecies breed in North America, the Eastern Black Rail (*L. j. jamaicensis*) in the eastern United States (and south into Central America) and the California Black Rail (*L. j. coturniculus*) in coastal California, northwestern Baja California, the lower Imperial Valley, and the lower Colorado River of Arizona and California (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). Whereas the Eastern Black Rail is at least partially migratory, wintering in the southern part of its breeding range, the California Black Rail is largely resident (Eddleman *et al.* 1994).

Eastern Black Rail occurs during the summer on the Atlantic Coast from Connecticut (Craig 1990) to southern Florida (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). Occurrence is irregular in most of this range, but concentrations occur in southern New Jersey (Kerlinger and Wiedner 1990), Chesapeake Bay marshes (Davidson 1992), Cedar Island, North Carolina (Eddleman *et al.* 1994), and St. Johns River, Florida (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). This species also occurs along the Gulf Coast in the summer from southern Florida to southern Alabama and in southeastern Texas (American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Runde *et al.* 1990). The Black Rail is rare and local inland from Colorado (Griese *et al.* 1980), Kansas (Thompson and Ely 1989), and Oklahoma to Minnesota, Michigan, and east to Connecticut, but few breeding records from the last 50 years and few sites occupied consistently (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). Recent occurrences in northcentral and northeastern states have been summarized (Hands *et al.* 1989b, Davidson 1992). There have been some definite nesting records (American Ornithologists' Union 1957) from Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania (Allen 1900), Tennessee (Nicholson 1997b), Texas (Oberholser 1974c), and Maryland (Davidson 1992). Nests located since 1970 only in Maryland (Davidson 1992) and Florida (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). Birds that are found in Central America have been found during the breeding season from Veracruz, Mexico (Dickerman and Warner 1961), Belize (Russell 1966), and Panama (Harty 1964), but overall distribution poorly known. This species may inhabit Costa Rica and Honduras (American Ornithologists' Union 1983, Stiles and Skutch 1989). There are West Indian records from the breeding season from Cuba and Jamaica and historically from Puerto Rico (American Ornithologists' Union 1957, Sutton 1983). Birds found in western Peru, Chile, and western Argentina represents different subspecies (Ripley 1977, Fjeldsa 1983).

The Black Rail is an accidental species in Ontario (Cooke 1914a), Maine (Bent 1926), Rhode Island (Davidson 1992), Guatemala, and Bermuda (American Ornithologists' Union 1983).

In coastal California during breeding season, the California Black Rail is presently found at Bodega Bay, Tomales Bay, Bolinas Lagoon, San Francisco Bay estuary, and Morro Bay (Manolis

1978, Evens *et al.* 1991). The overwhelming majority of birds are found in north San Francisco Bay at San Pablo Bay at relatively few sites (Evens *et al.* 1991). This species occurs irregularly south to northwestern Baja California (Wilbur 1987, Erickson *et al.* 1992). The Black Rail is found inland in small numbers in the Salton Trough and on lower Colorado River from Bill Williams River (historically) to Laguna Dam (Evens *et al.* 1991). Most of the inland population is at Mittry Lake, Arizona (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). None located in Colorado River delta in Sonora and Baja California during searches in 1984–1987 (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). There are nesting records in the last 10 years from the San Francisco Bay (Eddleman *et al.* 1994) and Mittry Lake, Arizona (Flores and Eddleman 1993). Accidental records at atypical sites in California (American Ornithologists' Union 1957) probably represent dispersing juveniles, whereas accidental occurrence in Arizona noted by the American Ornithologists' Union (1983) represents nesting population (Eddleman *et al.* 1994).

The winter range is poorly known for the Eastern Black Rail, but generally in southern portion of breeding range (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). Less frequent vocalizations in the winter may make detection difficult (Flores and Eddleman 1991). This species is a rare winter visitor as far north as New Jersey (Root 1988b, Armistead 1992b). The highest density of wintering birds is found in central Florida near Titusville (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). The Black Rail also winters on the Gulf Coast from southeastern Texas to Florida (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). This species is a winter resident in Cuba (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). This species may winter elsewhere in the West Indies and in its breeding season range in Central America (Cooke 1914a, Dod 1986, Downer and Sutton 1990).

The California Black Rail is a resident species (Repking and Ohmart 1977, Root 1988b, Flores and Eddleman 1991). Winter records cited by the American Ornithologists' Union (1957) probably represent post-breeding dispersal of juveniles (Eddleman *et al.* 1994). There are indications of this species wintering north to Tomales Bay, in California (American Ornithologists' Union 1983), but exclusion of this site from breeding range not warranted because birds also occur there in summer (Evens *et al.* 1991), as they have recently in 1993 breed at Bodega Bay (Eddleman *et al.* 1994).

There are no accepted records by either bird records committee for either Oregon (OFO 2016) or for Washington State (Wahl *et al.* 2005, WBRC 2016).

It is very unlikely given the restricted nature of the California population of this species that there will be any future records in the province. The only likely scenario would be if an Eastern Black Rail were to wander off course into British Columbia, but is just as unlikely.

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*):

There is an intriguing report of an adult by Mary Roddick on South Pender Island during July 1975 (Williams 1975e). Unfortunately there are very few details about this record so it remains hypothetical.

The Great Kiskadee is a resident species, with some extra-limital wandering in the southern United States (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002). This species is found in Texas and occurs from Del Rio in Val Verde County, Ft. Clark Springs in Kinney County, Goliad in Goliad County, and Aransas County south to the Rio Grande (Texas Ornithological Society 1995). In Mexico, the Great Kiskadee occurs from south-eastern Sonora, Sinaloa, western Durango, southern Zacatecas, Guanajuato, eastern Nuevo León, and northern Tamaulipas south to Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Yucatán Peninsula (Howell and Webb 2010), and south through Central America and South America to central Argentina (American Ornithologists' Union 1998a). This species is also common in Bermuda where it was introduced and Trinidad in the Caribbean region (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002).

The Great Kiskadee is a lowland bird in Texas (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002). In Mexico and Central America, this species is widespread in the lowlands and at mid-elevations from sea level to 1,800 m (Howell and Webb 2010, American Ornithologists' Union 1998a). The Great Kiskadee is rare in areas that are sparsely vegetated such as South Padre Island, in southern Texas, but nested there in 2001 (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002). This species' occurrence in Sonora is irregular (Russell and Monson 1998), but has nested as far north as Rio Matape, central Sonora (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002). The Great Kiskadee is often absent from offshore islands within the general range of this species, such as Isla Holbox and Isla Cozumel, which are about 20 km offshore from the northeastern Yucatán Peninsula, in Mexico (Howell and Johnston 1992, Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002, Howell and Webb 2010). Such absences on these offshore islands are possibly due to lack of freshwater habitat and tall, fruiting trees (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002). The Great Kiskadee is locally distributed in Costa Rica and Panama, especially along the Pacific slope, but has become more widespread throughout as forests have been cleared (Ridgely and Gwynne 1989, Stiles and Skutch 1989). For unknown reasons, this species is absent from the Pacific slope of Ecuador and Peru (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002).

The Great Kiskadee has occurred in Trans-Pecos part of west Texas where there are over 5 records, mainly in Big Bend National Park (Wauer 1996) and in east and central Texas in Bexar, Calhoun, Chambers, Grayson, Hays, Tarrant, and Travis Counties (Lasley *et al.* 1999a, Sexton *et al.* 2000, Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002). Such extralimital records increased in the late 1990s and early 2000s (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002). There are also records from southern Arizona with 2 Pima County records (Rosenberg and Witzeman 1999). This species has occurred in southern

New Mexico where there are 4 records; with 2 in Eddy County, singles in Sierra County, and Lincoln County (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002). The Great Kiskadee been found in Oklahoma in Roger Mills County (Pulich 1988a), southwestern Kansas in Morton County (Grzybowksi 1995), and southern Louisiana, where at least 6 records have been found from 1930 to 2001; with 2 in Vermilion Parish, 2 in Cameron Parish, Plaquemines Parish, and Orleans Parish (Lowery 1974, Dittmann *et al.* 1998, (Brush and Fitzpatrick 2002). There are 2 California records, with 1 from Los Angeles County, in 1926, and San Jose County, in 1958 (Harvey 1958) possibly of uncertain origin (Hamilton *et al.* 2007). This species has been recorded once in the southern Baja California Sur, in Mexico (Collins *et al.* 1991b). This species is accidental in Falkland Islands off the coast of Argentina (Ridgely and Tudor 1994).

It is not a massively wandering species away from its range, but as with any flycatcher it could turn up in the future anywhere in the province.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*):

There are 2 intriguing reports for British Columbia of this charismatic species. The first was a well described presumed adult by Rick and Sandy at Cow Bay, on Flores Island, 20 km northwest of Tofino from October 12-15, 1995 (Toochin *et al.* 2014a). Unfortunately there is no photograph, but the verbal description, plus the pointing out this species in the observer's field guide left no doubt that it was likely a correct identification (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.). Of note, Washington State's only record had been found a month before further south down the west coast and the timing of this bird fits perfectly with it possibly involving the same bird (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.). The second report for the province was an adult reported by B. and R. Lanteigne at Duncan Ave and Fairview Road in Penticton, in the south Okanagan on September 8, 2001 (Cecile 2002a, Toochin *et al.* 2014a). Although written submission of field notes was made with a convincing description by an observer who claims familiarity with the species, no photographs were taken (D. Cecile Pers. Comm.).

The Fork-tailed Flycatcher breeds southern Mexico to South America and occurs in North America strictly as a vagrant species. There are 4 subspecies of the Fork-tailed Flycatcher (Zimmer 1937). The nominate subspecies (*T. s. savanna*) is found from central and southern Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina, south to the Río Negro (Ridgely and Tudor 1994, Mobely 2004, Marini *et al.* 2009). This subspecies is highly migratory and overwinters in Amazonia in a large portion of northern South America (Jahn *et al.* 2013), and Trinidad and Tobago, occasionally appearing in the West Indies (Ridgely and Tudor 1994). The second subspecies is (*T. s. monachus*) which is found from southern Mexico in Veracruz and eastern Tabasco, and Belize south to Colombia, Venezuela, and several offshore islands, Surinam and north-central Brazil (Teul *et al.* 2007, Mobley 2004). This subspecies is localized and somewhat

nomadic (Hamilton *et al.* 2007). The third subspecies is (*T. s. sanctaemartae*) which is resident and found from the Caribbean lowlands of Northern Colombia and extreme northwestern Venezuela (Mobley 2004). The fourth subspecies (*T. s. circumdatus*) is resident in the Amazon Basin of Northern Brazil in eastern Amazonas and Pará and Amapá states (Mobley 2004). Adult males of all 4 subspecies are most reliably identified by the patterns of emargination of the outer primaries (Lockwood 1999).

Vagrants of the nominate subspecies (*T. s. savanna*), and to a lesser extent the subspecies (*T. s. monachus*), occur regularly in northcentral and northeastern North America with some records from south central and southeastern North America (McCaskie and Patten 1994, Shepherd and Smith 1996, Lockwood 1999). The northern most records have occurred in northern Ontario, New Brunswick, and in Nunavut (Abraham 2003). Most of these vagrant sightings occur in fall (September-November) with a lesser number in spring and early summer (May-June) (McCaskie and Patten 1994).

Records of the Fork-tailed Flycatcher along the west coast of North America are incredibly rare and this species is an accidental vagrant. There are 3 accepted records for California by the California Bird Records Committee (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2018). The first record for California was a bird photographed at Bridgehaven near the mouth of the Russian River, in Sonoma County, from September 4-8, 1992 (Heindel and Patten 1996). The second state record was a photographed bird found in the vicinity of Yuba City, in Sutter County, on September 28, 2006 (Tietz and McCaskie 2018), and the third state record was found and photographed at Sea Ranch, in Sonoma County, on September 12, 2017 (Tietz and McCaskie 2018). There is 1 accepted record for Oregon by the Oregon Bird Records Committee of an immature bird found at Nehalem Meadows, in Tillamook County, on April 5, 2010 (OFO 2016). There is 1 accepted record for Washington State of a photographed bird found at Ilwaco, in Pacific County, from September 12-13, 1995 (Wahl *et al.* 2005, WRBC 2016). There is also a single accepted record for Idaho by the Idaho Bird Records Committee of a likely adult photographed near Picabo, in Blaine County, from August 25 - September 7, 1991 (Trost 1991). There is also a record from Alberta of a bird found at Drumheller on 1 June 1988 (Wedgwood 1989).

The Fork-tailed Flycatcher, not unlike the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) is a species prone to vagrancy and can turn up anywhere in North America. The Fork-tailed Flycatcher should be looked for in both the spring overshoot period May-June in known vagrant traps and especially in the fall from September-November along the west coast of Vancouver Island and in the southern interior of the province (McCaskie and Patten 1994). It is very likely that this species will be found in British Columbia in the future.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*):

There have been many reports of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds believed to be Allen's Hummingbirds in British Columbia over many decades (Fannin 1898, Saunders 1902, Brooks 1903, Kermode 1904, Crowell and Nehls 1971c, Tatum 1971, and Guiget 1978). Photographs of a bird found in Victoria on May 22, 1971 to early June was ruled by Godfrey (1986) to not rule out the possibility of a male Rufous Hummingbird. Unfortunately with all these reports and others, there has yet to be a record that can establish beyond a doubt (Campbell *et al.* 1990b). The problem of 1st year male Rufous Hummingbirds showing varying amounts of green feathering on the upper back complicates identification of suspected Allen's Hummingbirds in British Columbia (Howell 2003). One helpful identification tool is the courtship displays of the male Allen's Hummingbird that are different to that of the Rufous Hummingbird (Howell 2003). The other identification feature that can best be determined in the hand or by spread tail photographs are the outer three rectrices of the Allen's Hummingbird are far narrower than that of the Rufous Hummingbird (Howell 2003).

The Allen's Hummingbird has 2 recognized subspecies within its narrow range (Clements *et al.* 2017). The nominate subspecies (*S. s. sasin*) breeds in a narrow strip along the Pacific Coast from extreme southwestern Oregon in Curry County, may breed north to Coos (Jewett 1929) and Douglas County (Gilligan *et al.* 1994), south to southern California in Santa Barbara and Ventura County (Small 1994); also the resident subspecies (*S. s. sedentarius*) is on 6 of the Channel Islands; San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, Santa Catalina, and San Clemente (Clark and Mitchel 2013) located 20–79 km off the coast of southern California, and on the mainland in coastal Los Angeles Counties (Wells and Baptista 1979a), where it is expanding its range.

Migratory birds are best known to spend the non-breeding period from August through December in a narrow range in central Mexico, in the states of Mexico, Morelos, and Puebla (Phillips 1975b, Howell and Webb 2010).

However, there are scattered reports of individuals wintering over a broad area. The species winters sparingly in the southeastern United States, mainly toward the Gulf Coast region, such as from southeastern Texas, southern Louisiana (Newfield 1983), Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia (American Ornithologists' Union 1998a); scattered winter records to Florida, Tennessee, and Virginia (Bassett and Cubie 2009, Clark and Mitchel 2013). One Allen's Hummingbird was recaptured in three successive winters in Alabama/Florida (Bassett and Cubie 2009).

The only accepted record for Washington State by the Washington Bird Records Committee is a specimen (UWBM #20483) of a male from Seattle in King County, from May 27, 1894 (Wahl *et al.* 2005)

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*):

There is a single report of an adult found and well described by Martin Carver along snow ridges between 5 mile and Ketutl Basins in the East Kootenay on June 15, 2003 (Toochin 2014f). It was at the time reported as a Western Scrub-Jay as the split in California Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) and Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*) didn't occur until it was sanctioned by the AOU in 2016 (Chesser *et al.* 2016).

The Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay has 2 subspecies (Chesser *et al.* 2016). The first subspecies which is the nominate is (*A. w. woodhouseii*) is a resident species from southeastern Oregon, southern Idaho, southern Wyoming, western and southern Colorado, and extreme western Oklahoma south to eastern California (from White Mountains to Providence Mountains), southern Arizona, in the Mexican highlands to northeastern Sonora, Jalisco, central Guanajuato, Mexico, Distrito Federal, and Hidalgo, and east to western and central Texas (Chesser *et al.* 2016). This subspecies is a casual to accidental vagrant in southeastern California, southern Manitoba, northern Wyoming, Illinois, Indiana, central Kansas, and the Texas Panhandle (Chesser *et al.* 2016).

The second subspecies is (*A. w. sumichrasti*) is also resident from Tlaxcala south to Oaxaca (west of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec), Puebla, and west-central Veracruz (Chesser *et al.* 2016).

The fact that Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay has wandered as far north as northern Wyoming and Manitoba does mean this record could well be valid. All future records should be photographed if possible. The overall similarity to California Scrub-Jay makes a sight record only more problematic.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*):

There is 1 report of an adult by Keith Moir at Vaseux Lake, in the south Okanagan on June 25, 2002 (Toochin *et al.* 2014a). Unfortunately there are no details and no photographs pertaining to this record.

In Canada, the Yellow-throated Vireo is found breeding from southeastern Manitoba (Godfrey 1986), extreme southwestern Ontario and southeastern Ontario (Godfrey 1986), everywhere in Minnesota, but not in the northeastern corner of the state (Janssen 1987), northern Wisconsin

(WBBA 2018a), the southern Upper Peninsula of Michigan (Brewer *et al.* 1991), southernmost Quebec (Cyr and Larivee 1995a), everywhere in Vermont, but not in the northeastern corner of the state (Laughlin and Kibbe 1985), central New Hampshire (Foss 1994a), and in southeastern Maine (Adamus 1987). This species breeds to the south along the Atlantic coast of the United States and is found in central Florida (Kale *et al.* 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994b), the Gulf Coast of Mississippi (Toups and Jackson 1987) and Alabama (Imhof 1962), southern Louisiana (Oberholser 1938), and southeastern Texas (TBBA 2001, Tweit 2005). The Yellow-throated Vireo extends westward into west-central Texas (Thornton 1951, Maxwell 1979), where associated with woodlands along rivers, creeks, and gulches (Oberholser 1974c), generally uncommon to rare and local at the western extremities of its breeding range and this species is an extremely rare summer resident in north-central Texas (Pulich 1988b), also found commonly in eastern Oklahoma (Reinking 2004) with isolated breeding records in western Oklahoma (Shackford 1990), eastern Kansas (Busby and Zimmerman 2001), eastern Nebraska and South Dakota along the Platte and Missouri rivers (Johnsgard 1979a), with isolated populations that exist in northeastern and central S. Dakota (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union 1991), western Minnesota (MBBA 2018a), and into central North Dakota along Missouri and Souris rivers (Stewart 1975b, Johnsgard 1979a), and southeastern Saskatchewan (Smith 1996b).

In Mexico, the Yellow-throated Vireo is a possible breeder in Coahuila, where it has been recorded on June 20 in Jiménez near the Texas border (Friedmann *et al.* 1957). Interestingly there are extremely few summer records west of breeding range (Roberson 1980, Small 1994), but 3 summer records from Colorado (Andrews and Righter 1992). Of note, it appears that the Yellow-throated Vireo is expanding into southern California, with this expansion thought to be fueled in part by changing weather conditions in the Southeast (Patten and Marantz 1996).

The Yellow-throated Vireo winters primarily from Mexico in southern Veracruz and eastern Oaxaca, , south through Central America, including the Yucatán Peninsula and Cozumel Island, to northern South America to the mountains of western Colombia, and in western and northern Venezuela (Ridgely and Tudor 1989, Howell and Webb 2010).

Although recorded from many Caribbean islands during migration, this species is known to winter regularly only on New Providence in the Bahamas, but probably is found uncommonly on other nearby islands in the northern Bahamas (Brudenell-Bruce 1975); also found uncommonly on St. John, in the Virgin Islands (Raffaele 1989); and is probably is found on Cuba (Rodewald and James 2011). There are winter records from Jamaica where it is a casual species (Rodewald and James 2011), Puerto Rico has 2 records, Vieques has 1 record, it is rare in St. Thomas, and is rare in St. Croix (Raffaele 1989), it is casual in Antigua and Barbuda, and casual in the Dominican Republic (Arendt 1992). The Yellow-throated Vireo may winter on Cébaco

Island off the Pacific Coast of Panama (Wetmore *et al.* 1984). In general, this species is uncommon throughout its winter range, it is more rare in the Caribbean region (Rodewald and James 2011).

In South America, the Yellow-throated Vireo is fairly common on the western slope of the Andes Mountains in Venezuela from 1,000–1,500 m, it is uncommon on the eastern slope of Andes, and very uncommon in the northern coastal mountains of Venezuela (Rodewald and James 2011). The Yellow-throated Vireo is likely most numerous in the Santa Marta Mountains of Colombia (Ridgely and Tudor 1989). This species is reportedly regularly in winter in southern Texas and northern Florida (American Ornithologists' Union 1983), with scattered additional records mostly from the Gulf Coast, with very few records have been well documented, causing many experts such as Phillips (1991) and Remsen *et al.* (1996) to question the validity of nearly all these records. There can be confusion with the much more likely Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*) which clouds many North American winter records (Dunn and Alderfer 2011). Stevenson and Anderson (1994b) consider this species rare to casual in the winter throughout most of Florida, but apparently only one winter specimen exists from southern Florida on January 24. There is a well-documented winter sighting record of a bird present from December 5, 1969–March 19, 1970 in southern California (Small 1994).

North of California along the west coast of North America the Yellow-throated Vireo is an accidental vagrant with only a handful of records. There are 3 accepted records in Oregon by the Oregon Bird Records Committee (OFO 2016). The first record was of an adult at the Headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, in Harney County, 9 June 9, 2000; the second was a bird found at Brookings, in Curry County, on July 3, 2004; and the third record was a photographed bird found at the Goose Lake Recreation Area, Lake Co., on September 5, 2010 (OFO 2016). There is a single photographed accepted record in Washington State by the Washington Bird Records Committee of a bird found at Spencer Island, in Snohomish County, from October 26-28, 1995 (Wahl *et al.* 2005, WRBC 2016). There are 3 accepted records by the Idaho Bird Records Committee (IBRC 2018). The first sighting occurred at Williams Creek on June 1, 1993; the second record occurred at Camas National Wildlife Refuge on 29 May 29, 2005; the third sighting occurred at Circle Drive, near Castle's Corner store in Carey, Idaho from May 23-24, 2015 (IBRC 2018). There is a single accepted record for Alberta, by the Alberta Bird Records Committee of a photographed banded bird found at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, in Calgary, on 2 August 2, 2003 (Hudon *et al.* 2006).

The Yellow-throated Vireo is accidental in Great Britain, at Cornwall with a bird found from September 20-27, 1990 (Cramp and Perrins 1994b) and in Germany where there is a single fall record (Aumueller 2005).

This species should be watched for in British Columbia during the late spring and early summer and the fall at known passerine vagrant traps and banding stations across the province.

“Siberian” Stonechat (*Saxicola t. maurus*):

There is 1 report of a bird that by its description best matches a “Siberian” Stonechat. This record was of an immature bird described by Adrian Dorst at the Tofino Airport, on October 26, 2010 (Toochin *et al.* 2014a). This report is very likely valid, but unfortunately there was not quite enough details and no photographs were obtained of the bird in question and therefore remains hypothetical in status.

The Stonechat is a small thrush found throughout the Old World with eight subspecies (Clements *et al.* 2016). The often called “Siberian” Stonechat breeds across most of northern Eurasia from the Ural Mountains and Turkmenistan eastward into Siberia, and northern Japan and winters mainly in northern India and Southeast Asia (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Brazil 2009, Hellstrom and Waern 2011). The “Siberian” Stonechat regularly strays west as far as Western Europe and Great Britain in the fall, primarily from the last week of September through October, but also in the spring (Lewington *et al.* 1992, Hellstrom and Waern 2011). The Siberian Stonechat is composed of 2 subspecies; the westerly (*S. t. maura*) and the easterly (*S. t. stejnegeri*) (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Brazil 2009). These subspecies are distinct at their geographic extremes, but widely intergrade across large regions of Siberia (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Hellstrom and Waern 2011).

In North America, the Stonechat has occurred as a casual migrant vagrant in Alaska, in particular St. Lawrence Island, where at least 8 spring vagrants have been recorded between the dates of May 24 – June 6 (Sullivan and Patton 2006). The first 2 Alaskan fall records were supported by specimen evidence and belonged to the subspecies (*S. t. stejnegeri*) (Gibson and Kessell 1992). The first was a bird that had died the previous fall in 1985 and was salvaged from a Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) burrow in Galena, in west-central Alaska (Osborne and Osborne 1987), and a bird was collected on Middleton Island on September 28, 1990 (Gibson and Kessell 1992).

Outside of Alaska, there have been only a couple of records for Stonechat in North America and both have been of Siberian Stonechat. One bird was photographed October 1, 1983 on Grand Manan Island, in New Brunswick (Wilson 1986). The other was a presumed first-fall bird photographed on San Clemente Island from October 20-21, 1995 (Sullivan and Patton 2006).

This is a likely vagrant species that could show up in British Columbia, especially on Haida Gwaii or along the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*):

There are 3 reports of this species for British Columbia. The first report was an adult reported to the Victoria Rare Bird Alert from Central Saanich near Victoria on July 28, 1991 (Toochin *et al.* 2014a). The second report is of a bird that was either an immature male or female by experienced birder John Kalman at 3389 Cypress St. between 17th & 18th Ave., in Vancouver on September 22, 2003 (Toochin *et al.* 2014b). The observer had seen the species before in southern California and even heard the bird call (J. Kalman Pers. Comm.). Unfortunately he didn't have his camera, when he returned later in the day to photograph the bird it was not relocated despite an extensive search (J. Kalman Pers. Comm.). This record is almost certainly valid, but remains hypothetical at this time. The third report was of an adult by Terry LeBlanc at 8th Ave West and Vine St., in Vancouver on December 7, 2015 (D. Cecile Pers. Comm.).

Unfortunately neither the first nor the third reports have detailed field notes or photographs accompanying the record and must remain hypothetical.

The Phainopepla is found in desert and arid woodlands from northern California, southern Nevada, northern Arizona, extreme southwestern Utah, southern New Mexico, and southwestern Texas, south over the Mexican plateau to northern Oaxaca (Miller *et al.* 1957, Howell and Webb 2010, Sauer *et al.* 1997).

Phainopeplas breed in two distinct habitats at different times of the year, an unusual pattern among North American passerines (Chu and Walsberg 1999). Between February and April this species breeds in the Sonoran Desert in Arizona and in the portion of the Sonoran Desert extending into California, called the Colorado Desert (Chu and Walsberg 1999). As the summer heat intensifies and the berry supplies dwindle, Phainopeplas vacate the desert (Chu and Walsberg 1999). In May, they arrive in the oak and sycamore canyons of Arizona and California, where they breed through July (Chu and Walsberg 1999). The two distinct breeding seasons have prompted conjecture that the same individuals breed in both habitats each year (Chu and Walsberg 1999). However, specific migratory routes are unknown, and it remains uncertain whether the same birds breed in both desert and woodlands (Chu and Walsberg 1999).

The Phainopepla is a casual to accidental vagrant migrant in eastern Colorado and western (Andrews and Righter 1992), Kansas, central-southern Texas, Nebraska, at Wallacetown in southern Ontario from December 26, 1975 – January 21, 1976 (Godfrey 1986), Wisconsin, and

Rhode Island; with sight records from Massachusetts and Guadalupe Island off Baja California (American Ornithologists' Union 1998a).

North of California, the Phainopepla is an accidental vagrant in Oregon where there are 5 accepted records by the Oregon Bird Records Committee, including 1 specimen record (Gilligan *et al.* 1994, OFO 2016). There is a single accepted Washington State record by the Washington Bird Records Committee of a female found in West Seattle, in King County, on September 24, 1994 (Wahl *et al.* 2005, WBRC 2016).

The Phainopepla is prone to vagrancy and it a species that could turn up in British Columbia at any time of year. This species could turn up anywhere from Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, south Okanagan to the south Kootenay country.

Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*):

There are 2 reports without photographs for British Columbia. The first was an adult singing male found by G. and D. Hartland in Wyndell in June 1982 (Butler *et al.* 1986). The second was an adult male found by Micki Beston: south of Barriere, on Highway 5 at pullout sign 1862 Outlanders on June 26, 2017 (M. Beston Pers. Comm.). This species is in serious decline throughout its breeding and wintering grounds (Robbins *et al.* 1992) and is the least likely of eastern birds to turn up in British Columbia due to its incredibly rare status in western North America (Dunn and Garrett 1997). Unfortunately, neither report has enough definitive information to be included on the confirmed list of British Columbia birds.

The Cerulean Warbler breeds in eastern North America mainly from central Minnesota (MBBA 2018b), northern Wisconsin (WBBA 2018b), the central Lower Peninsula of Michigan, locally in the western-central Upper Peninsula (Haas 2011), southern Ontario north to about 44.30°N (Dunn and Alderfer 2011), New York, primarily in the Catskill Mountains and in western New York State (NYSBBA 2018, Rosenberg 2008), Connecticut (Ellison 1994a), and Rhode Island where this species rare and local (Enser 1992), south through northwestern New Jersey (Walsh *et al.* 1999b), Pennsylvania (Stoleson and Butt 2012), extreme northern Delaware where this species is rare and local (Hess *et al.* 2000b), northern and western Maryland (Ellison 2010a), and the mountains of west Virginia, western North Carolina, and extreme northern Georgia where this species also rare and local (Klaus 2010a), and west to southeastern Arkansas (Dunn and Garrett 1997), Missouri, and eastern and central Iowa (IBBA 2018).

Within this area, the Cerulean Warbler is not uniformly distributed with breeding more widespread within certain regions such as southern Missouri, southern Wisconsin, eastern Kentucky, west Virginia, eastern Ohio, southwestern Pennsylvania, and western New York State

(Dunn and Garrett 1997). However, this species is also extremely local in other nearby regions such as Illinois, northern Indiana, western Tennessee, and western Kentucky (Dunn and Alderfer 2011). The Cerulean Warbler breeds locally with its range extending north to extreme southern Quebec, north to about 45.30°N (Bannon and Robert 1996a), northwestern Vermont where this species is rare (Dunn and Garrett 1997), central Massachusetts where this species is rare (Dunn and Garrett 1997), east to eastern Virginia and eastern North Carolina (Dunn and Alderfer 2011); south to northern Alabama, southern Arkansas (Dunn and Garrett 1997), and possibly northern Mississippi (Turcotte and Watts 1999); and west to the easternmost portions of Oklahoma (Cavalieri *et al.* 2011), in Kansas where this species is very rare and local (Busby and Zimmerman 2001), and Nebraska, and possibly southeastern South Dakota (Peterson 2012). The Cerulean Warbler may also breed in northern Louisiana and in extreme northwestern South Carolina (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

This species winters in mountains of northern South America (Curson *et al.* 1994), on both the east and west slopes of the Cordillera Central of the Andes in Colombia (Dunn and Garrett 1997), and on east slopes in Venezuela (Dunn and Garrett 1997), Ecuador, Peru, and northern Yungas of Bolivia in low numbers (Tobias and Seddon 2007, Herzog *et al.* 2009). Occasional winter records exist also for the tablelands of eastern Venezuela, west slopes of the Andes in Ecuador (Buehler *et al.* 2013) and forested foothills as far as southeastern Brazil (Dunn and Garrett 1997). Very small numbers may winter in the foothills of Costa Rica and Panama (Dunn and Garrett 1997). A few individuals recorded wintering in Grand Cayman as non-breeding residents (Raffaele *et al.* 1998).

The Cerulean Warbler is a casual to accidental vagrant west to North Dakota and southwestern Manitoba, north to south-central Ontario (North Bay), New Hampshire, Maine, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland (where a bird was present from November 18- December 2, 1995, providing the latest fall record for North America (Mactavish 1996), and east to Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Greater Antilles (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

The Cerulean Warbler is an accidental species anywhere in western North America, with a handful of records from Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, northern Baja California (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

Along the west coast of North America, the Cerulean Warbler is one least frequently recorded of the eastern wood-warblers despite increasing intensity of searching (Hamilton *et al.* 2007). In California, the California Bird Records Committee reviewed enough records to formulate its detection rate at about 1.0 bird per year from 1974-1981 (Hamilton *et al.* 2007). This detection rate dropped considerably to 0.4 birds per year from 1982-1997, and no birds were reviewed by

the committee from 1998-2003 (Hamilton *et al.* 2007). Since 2003 there have only been 4 records (Tietz and McCaskie 2018). This rate of vagrancy detection has been linked to declines in the Cerulean Warbler's population due to habitat loss both on the breeding grounds and on the wintering grounds (Robbins *et al.* 1992). To date there are 19 accepted records by the California Bird Records Committee (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2018). There are no accepted records for Oregon (OFO 2016) or for Washington State Wahl *et al.* 2005, WBRC 2016).

Although the Cerulean Warbler is an unlikely species to turn up in British Columbia, it should be checked for by keen observers with the most likely timing of a vagrant occurring in late May into June and in the fall from August to September.

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*):

There is a single report of an adult male singing found by Roger Taylor and Neil Robins at the Englishman River Estuary, on the Parksville side in March 7, 2007 (Toochin *et al.* 2014a). Unfortunately the description given was far too vague to rule out Spotted Towhee (J. Fenneman Pers. Comm.) and there were no photographs (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.). This bird was searched for extensively by several experienced people and the only bird located was a singing male Spotted Towhee (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.). It is likely given that this species does wander westward that there will be a confirmed record for British Columbia in the future.

The Eastern Towhee is found in the eastern United States and the adjacent borderlands of southeastern Canada (Dunn and Alderfer 2011, Greenlaw 2015). This species breeds in southern Manitoba (Dunn and Alderfer 2011), extreme northeastern North Dakota at the Pembina River (Stewart 1975b), north-central Minnesota (Dunn and Alderfer 2011), northern Michigan including the Upper Peninsula (Dunn and Alderfer 2011), southeastern Ontario around the eastern Great Lakes (Sibley 2000), extreme southern Quebec including the Ottawa Valley and the southwestern St. Lawrence Plain) (David 1996b), northwestern and central Vermont (Hunt 2013), north-central New Hampshire (Janeway 1994a), and southern Maine eastward along coast to western Washington County (Adamus 1987). There are isolated breeding populations that occur in the Turtle Mountains of north-central North Dakota in Rolette and Cavalier counties (Stewart 1975b), in eastern Qu'Appelle Valley of southeastern Saskatchewan (Smith 1996b), and possibly in extreme southwestern New Brunswick and central and northern Nova Scotia (Greenlaw 2015). Southward, occurs throughout mid-western and southeastern states to the central Gulf Coast and southern Florida, except on the Florida Keys and absent also from large areas of southern Florida because of there is unsuitable habitat (Stevenson and Anderson 1994b, Greenlaw 2015).

The Eastern Towhee extends as far west as Iowa, except in the northwestern parts of the state (Thompson 1996a), extreme southeastern South Dakota (Whitney *et al.* 1978) and eastern Nebraska, where species hybridizes locally with Spotted Towhee, especially westward along Platte River (Sibley and West 1959, Mollhoff 2001), eastern Kansas west to about 96°-97°W (Busby and Zimmerman 2001) and extreme northeastern Oklahoma where this species is rare and local (Revels 2004b), south through northern and eastern Arkansas (James and Neal 1986) and eastern and southern Louisiana, but excluding the lower Rio Grande Delta (Greenlaw 2015).

This species is migratory in the spring and fall (Greenlaw 2015).

The Eastern Towhee winters primarily from southern New England, southeastern New York, southeastern and southwestern Pennsylvania, southeastern Ontario, northern Ohio, northern Indiana, northern Illinois, southern Iowa, and eastern Kansas (Greenlaw 2015), south through eastern Oklahoma (Sutton 1967b, Greenlaw 2015), and the eastern third of Texas (Oberholser 1974c, Greenlaw 2015), and throughout the Southeast, where northern migrants augment numbers of residents in the region (Greenlaw 2015). In the northern part of this species winter range, it occurs in reduced numbers, but usually regular and local (Greenlaw 2015). The main populations are in the southern states from Texas eastward to southeastern Atlantic Coast (Root 1988b). The Eastern Towhee is rare, irregular, and local north of the mentioned wintering range (Greenlaw 2015).

The Eastern Towhee does occur as a rare to casual vagrant northward, usually in the fall and in the early winter, to Newfoundland (Tuck 1968b) and Nova Scotia (Tufts 1973), west to the Colorado foothills of the Rocky Mountains (Andrews and Righter 1992).

The Eastern Towhee is an accidental vagrant migrant in United Kingdom with a single bird found at Lundy Island, in Devon, England, on June 7, 1966 (Lewington *et al.* 1992).

This species is a highly potential vagrant in British Columbia and should be watched for at bird feeders and vagrant traps throughout the southern regions of the province.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*):

There are several reports for this species in British Columbia and all, including an accepted record in Campbell *et al.* (2001), lack photographic evidence and conclusive song recordings of this species. The first record for the province is listed in Campbell *et al.* (2001) as a specimen at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, number 47715, collected in Vancouver in June 1889 (Stone 1899). There is no mention of this specimen record or specimen number in Stone

(1899) and a search of the database of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia failed to locate this specimen and it is possible that the specimen was mis-labelled and the bird was collected somewhere else. The second report was made by the late Brian M. Kautesk of an adult found at the entrance Stanley Park, Vancouver on April 30, 1978 (Kautesk 1982, Campbell *et al.* 2001). Unfortunately there are no photographs of this record, but there is a good write up and detailed field notes on file (Kautesk 1982). The third report of a 3 singing adults found by Brian M. Kautesk, and seen by others at Sea Island, in Richmond from June 3-16, 1981(Kautesk 1982, Weber 1982, Campbell *et al.* 2001). This record was widely accepted in Campbell *et al.* (2001), but one important part of the puzzle was ignored, with song recording sent to experts and a written letter sent to the then Vancouver Rare Bird Committee stating that the birds in question singing were Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) (T. Plath Pers. Comm.). Since this is the only evidence other than field notes it complicates this record and it is left as hypothetical at this time (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.). The fourth report was of an adult found by Thor Manson along the dyke near Road 22, outside Oliver, on May 18, 2003 (Toochin *et al.* 2014a). This report didn't clearly rule out Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) which breeds in the hills in that area (D. Cecile Pers. Comm.). The fifth report was of a juvenile reported by Guy Monty at Holden Creek, Nanaimo River Estuary, on September 9, 2005 (Cecile 2006a, Toochin *et al.* 2014a). Unfortunately the bird was not relocated or photographed despite extensive searches by many observers (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.). It is recognized that the exclusion of this species from the confirmed list is controversial to some observers, but it is not unreasonable to request that these records be re-examined at a future date to see if the evidence presented can hold up to scrutiny (R. Toochin Pers. Comm.).

The Baird's Sparrow breeds in Canada from southern Alberta, mostly south of Stettler and east of the Red Deer River, with an extension west to the Calgary area; as far north as Elk Island Park (Godfrey 1986, Semenchuk 1992), in southern Saskatchewan, north to Manito Lake, Redberry Lake, and Nipawin; in mixed, moist-mixed Grassland, and Cypress Upland ecoregions north to Saskatoon, in low numbers in grassland pockets within the Aspen Parkland region (Godfrey 1986, Davis *et al.* 1996) and southern Manitoba in Oak Lake, Grand Rapids, Swan River, Lake St. Martin, Winnipeg, and Whitewater (Godfrey 1986).

In the United States, the Baird's Sparrow breeds from south to central and eastern Montana west to Teton County (Montana Bird Distribution Committee 1996), in North Dakota this species is most common in the glaciated hill region of Missouri Coteau east of the Missouri River in the northwestern and central portions of state (Stewart 1975b), northwestern and north-central South Dakota in Harding, Perkins, Corson, McPherson, Faulk, Dewey and Edmunds Counties (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union 1991, Peterson 2012), and possibly in western Minnesota where there are recent summer records for Clay County and probable

breeding, but there is a confirmed nesting record in 1930 in Pennington County and in 1937 in Polk County (Janssen 1987, Coffin and Pfannmuller 1988). There are isolated records in southeastern Wyoming, but this species is unconfirmed, in Laramie County (Oakleaf *et al.* 1992), in Wisconsin a singing male was present from June 16-26, 1982 in Manitowoc County; also sporadic records between the dates of April 26–June 26, and 6 hypothetical records between 1949 and 1980 (Robbins 1991), and extreme western Ontario with a singing male reported, but unconfirmed from July 8-9, 1980, in the Rainy River District (Lemey 1981). A report of territorial birds found on June 27, 1996 in northwestern Nebraska is unsupported with conclusive evidence (Sharpe *et al.* 2001c).

In migration, the Baird's Sparrow is rarely found east or west of the Great Plains corridor and is incredibly secretive away from the breeding grounds (Green *et al.* 2002, Dunn and Alderfer 2011).

The Baird's Sparrow winters from extreme southeastern Arizona in the Sonoita Plains, Altar and San Rafael Valleys, bases of Chiricahua, Huachuca, Santa Rita, and Patagonia Mountains (Monson and Phillips 1964), is it also found casually; with few winter reports confirmed in southern New Mexico (Hubbard 1978c), and in the high-plains grasslands of southwestern (Trans-Pecos) Texas (Oberholser 1974c) south through north-central Mexico to extreme northeastern Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998), extreme northwestern Chihuahua, northeastern Durango, and extreme northern Zacatecas (Howell and Webb 2010, American Ornithologists' Union 1998a).

The Baird's Sparrow is an accidental vagrant species in Oklahoma with 4 records between the dates of April 12 and May 2; also 9 Nov (Sutton 1967b), New York with 1 record on November 13, 1899, in Suffolk County (Dyer 1998) and Maryland with 1 record on October 14, 1966, in Ocean City, in Worcester County (Dyer 1998). There are single sight reports for Ohio (American Ornithologists' Union 1998a), eastern Ontario (James *et al.* 1976) and West Virginia (Breiding 1985), and there are also 4 sight reports for Illinois (Bohlen 1989).

Along the west coast of North America, the Baird's Sparrow is an accidental species in California with 7 accepted records by the California Bird Records Committee (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2018). These records span the dates of September 3-October 10 (Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2018). Five of these records have been found on the Farallon Islands, off the coast of San Francisco, which is a well-known vagrant trap for lost migrant passerines (Small 1994, Hamilton *et al.* 2007, Tietz and McCaskie 2018). There are 3 accepted records for Oregon by the Oregon Bird Records Committee with the first record found at Falcon Cove Beach, in Clatsop County, on September 25, 1975; the second record was found on Sauvie

Island, in Multnomah County, on November 11, 1980; and the third was an immature found at the Nehalem sewage ponds, in Tillamook County, on September 23, 1983 (OFO 2016). There are no records for Washington State (Wahl *et al.* 2005, WBRC 2016).

The Baird's Sparrow is such a secretive species that outside of a singing bird in the summer, it is most likely to be found at a banding station or by an extremely lucky individual in the fall at a known vagrant trap. This species is possible anywhere in the province and could turn up in the future.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*):

There is a single report of a 1st year male by Neil Hughes at Boss Lake, in the Kane Valley on June 16, 2012 (N. Hughes Pers. Comm.). This record is listed as hypothetical at the request of the observer and since there is no photograph.

The Scott's Oriole breeds in appropriate habitat from sea level to 3,000 m in north and central Mexico and in western and southwestern United States (American Ornithologists' Union 1998a). This species is less common in the northernmost and southernmost portions of its breeding range (Jaramillo and Burke 1999).

In California, the Scott's Oriole range is discontinuous throughout the southern part of state (Flood 2002). This species breeds north to San Luis Obispo, Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties (Small 1994). Within this area, the Scott's Oriole is fairly common in the Mojave Desert south to Joshua Tree National Monument and west to north slope of San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains; it is fairly common along the desert slopes and valleys of San Jacinto, Santa Rosa, Volcan, and the Laguna Mountains (Flood 2002). The Scott's Oriole also breeds in Kern County from the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada and the Tehachapi Mountains west into the Walker Basin, and in lower numbers in the northern desert ranges, including Grapevine, White, Inyo, Coso, and the Panamint Mountains (Flood 2002). This species is a local breeder in Quatal Canyon and upper Cuyama Valley of southern San Luis Obispo, northwestern Ventura, and northeastern Santa Barbara Counties and the occasional breeder elsewhere such as Escondido, in San Diego County (Garrett and Dunn 1981, Small 1994).

In Nevada, the Scott's Oriole breeds in the easternmost part of the state in Elko, White Pine, Lincoln, and Clark counties (Flood 2002). Within this area, this species is least numerous in northeastern Nevada (Titus 1996a). It is rarely observed elsewhere in Nevada (Linsdale 1951, Titus 1996a), but there is a single breeding record from northwestern Nevada in Unionville, Pershing County, in 1976 (Alcorn 1988).

This species is generally uncommon in summer in western, southern, and eastern Utah (Walters and Sorenson 1983), although it is fairly common in localized populations such as Lytle Ranch Preserve, in Washington County (Webb 1999a). This species is rare in northeastern Utah (Hayward *et al.* 1976a, Behle 1981). The Scott's Oriole is also rare in southwestern to south-central Wyoming, where it is found only in areas of Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) woodland, primarily in southern Sweetwater County (Fitton and Scott 1984, Dorn and Dorn 1990). In Colorado, this species is rare; found mainly in the extreme western part of the state in Mesa, Rio Blanco, Moffat, and Montezuma Counties (Flood 2002). A recent breeding bird atlas suggests that there are local breeding populations that may also occur in southeastern Colorado in Las Animas County (Dexter 1998f). The Scott's Oriole has been thought to be an extremely rare breeding species in southern Idaho (Johnson 1994d, American Ornithologists' Union 1998a), but it is possible that this species may occur more regularly than previously suspected (Jaramillo and Burke 1999).

In Arizona, the Scott's Oriole is a common summer resident of live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and yucca associations in the southeast and the central mountains, and in Joshua tree (*Y. brevifolia*) forests from Wickenburg region northwest (Phillips *et al.* 1964a). This species is less common in piñon pine forests in the northern part of the state and in beargrass (*Nolina* sp.) and yucca habitats in southwestern Arizona, to the Colorado River (Phillips *et al.* 1964a). A recent breeding-bird atlas showed that this species is breeding throughout state, but is absent from areas directly bordering the Colorado River and from some portions of eastern-central and northeastern Arizona (Flood 2002).

In New Mexico, the Scott's Oriole is almost completely confined to the Lower and Upper Sonoran Zones; thus, this species is found up the Rio Grande Valley infrequently as far as Albuquerque, and in Pecos Valley to about Santa Rosa; most common on and adjacent to desert foothills and mountains in the south and southwestern parts of the state, particularly in southern Hidalgo County (Flood 2002). The Scott's Oriole is found locally north into the vicinity of the San Juan Valley, in the Sandia Mountains, and Canadian Basin; occasionally farther north and eastward to the mountains of the southeast; but is largely absent from the Mogollon highlands of western-central New Mexico, and is only a casual vagrant on the eastern plains (Ligon 1961, Hubbard 1978c).

In Texas, The Scott's Oriole is an uncommon to common breeder west of the Pecos River and is fairly common to scarce on the southwestern Edwards Plateau, but rare and localized on southeastern portion of plateau and is probably most common in Brewster County (Oberholser 1974c, Texas Bird Records Committee 1995). This species has been recently confirmed breeding east to Jones and Kendall Counties (Flood 2002).

In Mexico, the Scott's Oriole is generally found at the higher end of elevational distribution in southern portions of the species range (Howell and Webb 2010). This species is fairly common to common in the southern Baja California and in the interior and on adjacent slopes from eastern Sonora, Chihuahua, central and western Coahuila south through much of the interior states to north and central Michoacán, Puebla, and extreme northwestern Oaxaca (Wilbur 1987, Howell and Webb 2010, Jaramillo and Burke 1999). The Scott's Oriole also breeds in northern Baja California (Howell and Webb 2010, Jaramillo and Burke 1999), and probably breeds locally in western-central Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998).

The Winter Range of the Scott's Oriole is found mainly in Mexico, from central Baja California (occasionally in the northern Baja) south, from the mountains of southeastern Sonora south along the Pacific slope to central Sinaloa, from central Durango, southern Coahuila, and southwestern Nuevo León south through the remainder of the Mexican breeding range, and fairly common to uncommon south to the Sierra Madre del Sur of central and eastern Guerrero and western and central Oaxaca (Wilbur 1987, Howell and Webb 2010, Russell and Monson 1998). This species is a rare, but regular in winter visitor on the western edge of the southern California deserts, particularly in wooded canyons such as Palm Springs, Morongo Valley, and Anza-Borrego State Park (Garrett and Dunn 1981, Small 1994). The Scott's Oriole is seen rarely along the south coast area in the winter as far north as Santa Barbara County and as far west as the Channel Islands (Garrett and Dunn 1981, Small 1994). In Arizona, this species is irregular from the Baboquivari Mountains west to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Phillips *et al.* 1964a) with individuals occasionally overwintering in Texas (Wauer 1985) and in New Mexico (Hubbard 1978c).

Vagrants have been found from many surrounding states. A female was collected in April 1977 in Morton County, Kansas (Thompson and Ely 1992), and several summer and spring sight records in Hall and McPherson Counties, in Nebraska (Jaramillo and Burke 1999). An immature (Alternate I) male was banded, released, and observed in Duluth, in Minnesota, from May 23–mid-June 1974 (Sundquist 1975). A bird visited a feeder in Adams County, in Wisconsin, from January–February 1996 (Jaramillo and Burke 1999). Canada's first record of this species was an adult male that was photographed near Thunder Bay, in northern Ontario at Silver Islet Landing, on November 9, 1975 (Denis 1976). This species is an extremely rare wanderer in central California and on Channel Islands (Small 1994); and there is a single record for Farallon Islands (DeSante 1983). Slightly out of range in northern California there are about a dozen records in spring, fall, and winter, and also reported in northern Nevada at this time (Jaramillo and Burke 1999). In Utah, the Scott's Oriole has strayed to the Salt Lake City region; in Colorado, this species appears rarely in the Denver area (Jaramillo and Burke 1999). Although the Scott's Oriole is common in southwestern Texas, this species is accidental in other portions

of the state, having occurred north to Buffalo Lake, south of Amarillo, east to Brazoria County, and south to Cameron County (Oberholser 1974c, Rappole and Blacklock 1985, Texas Bird Records Committee 1995, Jaramillo and Burke 1999). There are several records from Louisiana, mainly in the south, all from fall, winter, or spring (Lowery 1974, Jaramillo and Burke 1999). The Scott's Oriole has also recorded in central Idaho (American Ornithologists' Union 1998a).

The Scott's Oriole is prone to vagrancy, particularly north and northeast of its breeding range (Jaramillo and Burke 1999). Along the west coast, north of California, there are 2 accepted records for Oregon by the Oregon Bird Records Committee; with the first an adult female found and photographed at Fields, in Harney County, from June 4-7, 1991 and a sub-adult bird was found and photographed at Mt. Vernon and John Day, Grant County from April 18-May 18, 1999 (OFO 2016). There are 2 accepted records for Washington State by the Washington Bird Records Committee; with the first adult male found and photographed at Chehalis, in Lewis County, from February 11-April 13, 1980 and a male was found at Selah, in Yakima County, from April 12-17, 2007 (WBRC 2016).

It is highly likely that this species will be confirmed in British Columbia in the future either as a spring migrant in April when vagrancy records seems to occur most often or during the winter at a feeder. This species is possible anywhere in the province.

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