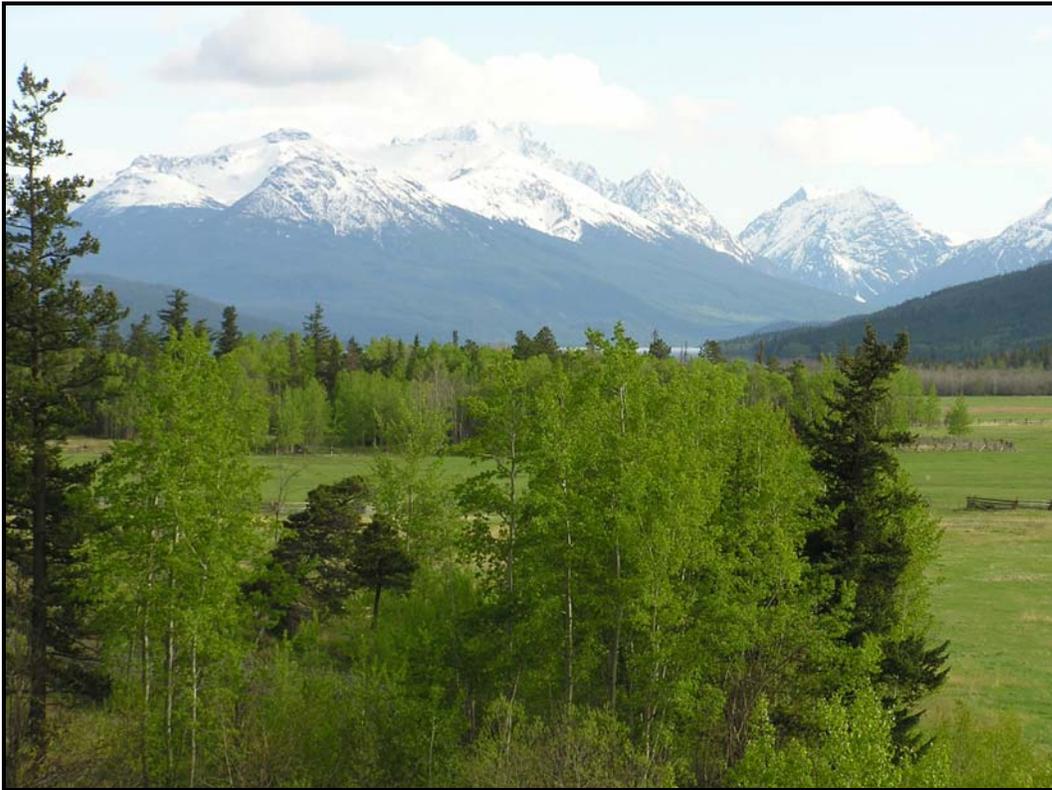




Aspen Park Consulting

4898 Spurraway Road
Kamloops BC V2H 1M6

Spring Birds of the Tatlayoko Lake Area



**prepared
by**

Rick Howie RP Bio

**May
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Tel. (250) 578-7542

Cell (250) 371-2551

Fax (250) 578-7543

E-mail: r.howie@shaw.ca

environmental services for sustainable development

Executive Summary

On 9 days during the periods of 24-28 May and 13-16 June, 2006, exploratory bird surveys were conducted in the Homathko River watershed in order to develop baseline data that will assist in defining the ecological values of Nature Conservancy (NCC) of Canada properties located in the watershed.

113 species were found and 865 observations of 1388 individuals were made. Surveys were not limited to properties owned by the NCC but did include all such properties. All details of the observations are contained in an Excel spreadsheet which is available separately from this summary report.

In addition to the wide-ranging observations, a Breeding Bird Survey was conducted in 2006 in order to continue the 16 year history of such formal surveys along the west side of the Tatlayoko valley. A summary of all of those surveys is contained in this report. They were conducted from 1989 – 2006 with dates ranging between 16 June and 09 July (mean 27 June). A total of 91 species were recorded over the years with an average of 43.5 species per survey (range 32-53). The average number of birds found on each survey was 325 (range 235-425).

The results of the 2006 surveys suggest that properties owned by the NCC host a good representation of species typical of the area. In particular, the strategic location of the Tatlayoko Ranch property makes it attractive to migrant species moving both north and south through the valley. This property, along with the Lincoln Creek Ranch provides a complex of typical valley-bottom habitats along with their associated bird species. The Skinner Creek properties fill other important niches with their representation of mid-level plateau forests and wetland habitats.

As the database for these properties increases over the years, their importance will only become more evident and the foresight shown by their purchase will continue to be rewarded through the benefits to not only birds but other local wildlife.

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Foreword

The Nature Conservancy of Canada has purchased properties in the upper Homathko River drainage with a goal of managing them as working ranches in a manner that protects and stewards the natural resources of the properties. One of the initial steps is to accumulate an inventory of those resources on the properties and in the general area in order to assist in developing future conservation goals.

Aspen Park Consulting was asked to conduct surveys of birds in the general area during the spring and early summer period in order to develop a sense of the species present. This information will be used in conjunction with data gathered during a bird banding project to be conducted during the fall migration period. It was agreed that except for conducting a standardized breeding bird census route, the general approach would be the exploration of a range of habitat types without conducting replicable survey techniques. The aim was to become familiar with broad use patterns and habitats with replicable techniques to be implemented in future years.

1.0 Description of Study Area

The north end of Tatlayoko Lake is 165 km southwest of Williams Lake and lies in a valley between the Niut Mountain Range to the west and the Potato Range to the east. The drainage is in the Central Interior Ecoprovince and is a transitional area between the Central Chilcotin Ranges ecoregion and the Chilcotin Plateau ecoregion.

The headwaters of the Homathko River start in the north end of the Niut Range, running eastward and then generally south for 30+ kilometres before entering the north end of Tatlayoko Lake. From the outlet of the lake some 23 kilometres to the south, the river drains to Bute Inlet on the coast near Johnstone Strait. Once having descended from its alpine origins, the river flows through the Interior Douglas Fir dry warm (IDFdw) BEC zone which occurs in an area of rapid climatic change in leeward areas of the coast mountains.

1.1 Tatlayoko Ranch

The largest property owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada is known as the Tatlayoko Ranch located at the north end of Tatlayoko Lake at the inlet of the Homathko River. The ranch property straddles both sides of the river and consists of 380 ha. of hay lands, Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menzeisii*) forest and riparian streamside and floodplain vegetation. Black Cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*) is the dominant large deciduous species in the river floodplain at the lake inlet. The elevation of the property is 860 metres above sea level with the centre at the approximate zone 10 UTM coordinates of 402900E, 5723600N. It is located in the IDFdw BEC zone.



Photo 1. Tatlayoko Ranch June 2006



Photo 2. Looking south to Tatlayoko Ranch from Mueller property

1.2 Lincoln Creek Ranch

Located just north of the Tatlayoko Ranch, this 145 ha. property borders Lincoln Creek which is a tributary of the Homathko River from the east. It comprises a keystone parcel necessary to secure an east-west corridor across the head of Tatlayoko Lake. Lincoln Creek, flows from Lincoln Pass, connecting the conservation mosaic at the south end of the Valley to the excellent wildlife habitat offered by Skinner Meadow. Lincoln Creek Ranch also contains approximately 24 ha. of old-growth Interior Douglas Fir and approximately 8 ha. of riparian forest. It provides habitat for cougar (*Felis concolor*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and many smaller species. It contains important uplands adjacent to the Homathko River system and is located in the IDFdw BEC zone.

1.3 Skinner Meadows

The meadows are located along Skinner Creek northeast of the Homathko River drainage at an elevation of 1190 metres a.s.l. Skinner Meadows sits in an ecologically strategic location in the Central Interior Ecoprovince in a transition zone between the Central Chilcotin Ranges ecoregion and the Chilcotin Plateau ecoregion. The area is generally within the Chilcotin variant of the Interior Douglas Fir dry cool sub zone (IDFdk4) BEC zone. Four different biogeoclimatic zones occur within about a 5-km radius of this property. The combined advantage of geography, climate and different ecological zones, therefore, contributes to the great biological diversity at this site, enabling it to support several different ecosystem types. The property itself consists of a complex of wet meadows and associated grasslands, moraines, small streams, and associated riparian vegetation, as well as aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) groves, spruce (*Picea glauca x engelmannii*) bogs and Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) forests. The property contains what may be the largest natural wet meadow in the Homathko River drainage basin. Clearing forests for agriculture purposes has also increased the size of the meadows. Forests on the property are dominated by Lodgepole Pine with a hybrid-Spruce sub-canopy and Soapberry (*Sheperdia canadensis*), Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*), Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) and Scrub Birch (*Betula glandulosa*) in the understory. Trembling aspen dominates the forest margins while a variety native grasses are predominantly in the understory. This ecologically diverse property covers the greater portion of the Skinner Creek basin. Grizzly Bear and Moose (*Alces alces*) use the property extensively as a corridor between the Chilko Valley and Tatlayoko Valley. The property also provides habitat for significant numbers of Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Cougar, Black Bear, Mule Deer, and bird species of riparian and meadow habitats. A key location on the property is the corral development near the west end located at 406620E, 5732950N.

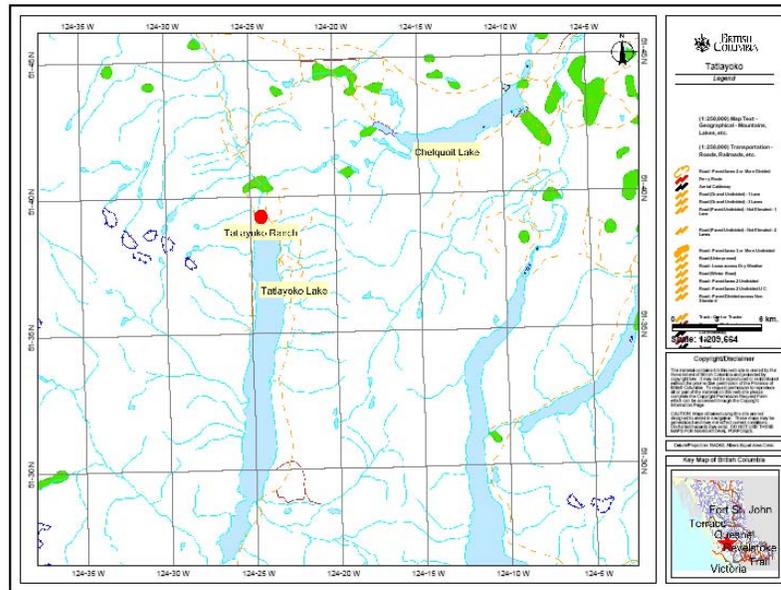


Fig 1. General Tatlayoko study area

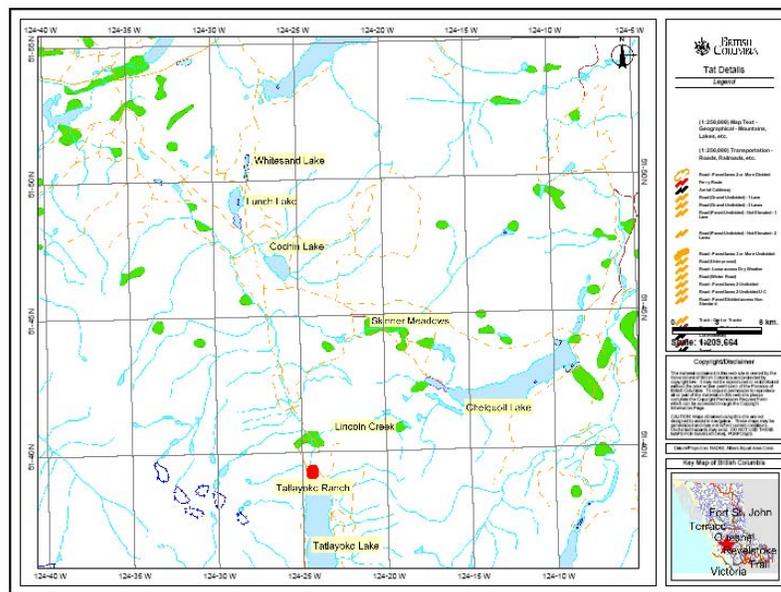


Fig. 2. Additional study area locations

2.0 Weather and Climate Data

The following information was obtained from Environment Canada data for the Tatlayoko Lake weather station which was located just north of the Tatlayoko Ranch property.

TATLAYOKO LAKE *														
BRITISH COLUMBIA														
Latitude: 51° 40' N	Longitude: 124° 24' W			Elevation: 870.00 m										
Climate ID: 1088010	WMO ID:			TC ID:										
* This station meets <u>WMO standards</u> for temperature and precipitation.														
Temperature:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year	Code
Daily Average (°C)	-6.8	-3.4	0.5	4.5	8.5	11.3	13.8	13.8	10.1	5	-1.9	-6.3	4.1	A
Standard Deviation	3.4	3.1	1.8	1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.2	3.1	3.8	0.8	A
Daily Maximum (°C)	-1.8	2.3	6.8	11.7	16.3	19	22.3	22.5	18.5	11.7	2.7	-1.5	10.9	A
Daily Minimum (°C)	-11.7	-9.1	-5.8	-2.7	0.6	3.6	5.3	5.1	1.6	-1.7	-6.4	-11.1	-2.7	A
Extreme Maximum (°C)	15.6	17.8	19.4	29.4	33.5	32.8	37.8	33.9	32.2	27.8	18.3	15		
Date (yyyy/dd)	1943/09+	1954/07	1930/27	1934/23	1983/29	1969/09	1941/15+	1939/09+	1944/09+	1936/09	1962/03	1980/15		
Extreme Minimum (°C)	-43.3	-37.2	-32.8	-21.1	-10	-5	-3	-4	-9.5	-27	-39	-40.6		
Date (yyyy/dd)	1950/24	1936/07	1955/04	1936/01	1985/11	1984/01	1985/01	1992/23	1983/29	1984/31	1985/27	1968/30		
Precipitation:														
Rainfall (mm)	16.2	11	12.1	11.2	26.2	35.5	36.6	34.5	27.2	46.5	33	22.2	312.1	A
Snowfall (cm)	25.8	18.4	13.1	5.6	1.1	0	0	0	0.5	3.5	26	27.8	121.9	A
Precipitation (mm)	42	29.4	25.3	16.8	27.3	35.5	36.6	34.5	27.7	50	59.1	50	434.1	A
Average Snow Depth (cm)					0	0	0	0	0	0				C
Median Snow Depth (cm)					0	0	0	0	0	0				C
Snow Depth at Month-end (cm)				0	0	0	0	0	0	0				C
Extreme Daily Rainfall (mm)	54.6	33	29.5	37	30.5	31	52.6	36.6	51.3	49	68.1	57.7		
Date (yyyy/dd)	1987/10	1930/04	1935/13	1983/24	1972/15	1995/18	1962/16	1937/13	1957/05	1981/30	1975/03	1976/15		
Extreme Daily Snowfall (cm)	44.5	48	25	17.8	16	1	0.8	0	5.3	14.6	39	35		
Date (yyyy/dd)	1953/08	1979/24	1997/11	1950/16	1952/03	1933/08	1962/16	1928/01+	1972/22	1990/24	1990/23	1993/03		
Extreme Daily Precipitation (mm)	54.6	48	40.6	37	30.5	31	53.3	36.6	51.3	49	68.1	57.7		
Date (yyyy/dd)	1987/10	1979/24	1963/20	1983/24	1972/15	1995/18	1962/16	1937/13	1957/05	1981/30	1975/03	1976/15		
Extreme Snow Depth (cm)	57	60	55	11	0	0	0	0	0	3	72	31		
Date (yyyy/dd)	1997/01	1982/18+	1982/01+	1982/03	1981/01+	1981/01+	1981/01+	1980/01+	1981/01+	1984/30+	1990/24	1981/10+		

The valley is on the lee side of the coast mountain ranges and is therefore relatively dry compared to mountainous areas to the west. The total annual precipitation averages 43.4 cm. with an average annual rainfall of 31.2 cm. Winter snow depths have reached 72 cm. Summer temperature extremes have peaked at nearly 38⁰ C and winter minimums have plunged to -43⁰ C in decades past. The valley is relatively narrow and conditions change rapidly with increases in elevation to the east and west but data was not available to contrast locations such as Skinner Meadows which are located 360 metres above the weather station. Peak elevations in the Potato Range are 2180 m. and in the Niut Range, the peaks reach 2700 metres with the expected drop in average temperatures and increase in precipitation over the valley floor.

3.0 Terms and Abbreviations

The following terms and abbreviations will be encountered throughout the text.

Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC)

At the broader regional level, vegetation, soils and topography are used to infer the regional climate and identify geographic areas that have relatively uniform climate. These areas are referred to as biogeoclimatic units. Areas of the landscape that have uniform areas of vegetation, soils and topography at the local level are classified into site units.

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)

This is a standardized survey technique whereby a pre-determined route 40 kilometres in length is divided into 50 stops and birds are recorded in a standardized fashion as described under “methods.”
UTM Coordinates

All coordinate locations in the text and in the database of sightings use NAD83 as the datum reference.

4.0 Toponymy

Geographic locations referred to in the text will attempt to use gazetted feature names wherever possible, but it is necessary to refer to private property sites or other non-gazetted locations.

Charlie Creek

Flowing eastward from the Niut range, this creek joins the Homathko River upstream of the Homathko Crossing at approximately 400400E, 5733600N.

Chilko (Choelquoit) Road

This is the main road from Tatla Lake that terminates at Chilko Lake. Some locals refer to it as the Chelquoit Road named after the lake that it passes enroute to Chilko.

Cochin Lake

Located east of the Homathko River and north of the road junction to Chilko Lake at 401031E, 5737910N.

Dam Lake

The first in a chain of lakes in the upper Lincoln Creek drainage that have been dammed for irrigation control.



Photo 3. Dam Lake 25 May 2006

Homathko Crossing

The main Tatlayoko Road crosses the Homathko River here at 400616E, 5731207N.

Homathko River

This is the primary drainage of the study area.



Photo 4. Homathko River

Lagoon

The lagoon refers to a wetland feature at the southeast corner of Tatlayoko Ranch at the head of the lake. It is located at 403600E, 5722755N and is fed by an unnamed stream that emanates from the Potato Range to the east.

Lincoln Creek

The headwaters of this creek originate at the northern end of the Potato Range and flow through a series of small lakes before descending from the east to the Homathko River approximately 3 kilometres north of Tatlayoko Lake.

Lincoln Creek Pass Trail

This route begins as a narrow road climbing eastwards from the Tatlayoko Road. It eventually narrows further to a trail used by hikers and equestrians to cross over Lincoln Creek pass. It is accessible through the Lincoln Creek Ranch property.

Lincoln Creek Ranch

This 145 ha. property is situated immediately north of other NCC holdings at the head of Tatlayoko Lake. The entrance to the headquarters is located along the Tatlayoko Road at approximately 402900E, 5725700N.

Lot 1357

The Skinner Creek property is a 46 ha. lot identified as 1357 located to the west of the Skinner Meadow property. The centre of the property is approximately 405200E, 5732800N.

Lunch Lake

Located east of the Homathko River and north of the road junction to Chilko Lake at 397658E, 5741677N.

Mare's Creek Ranch

This ranch is located east of the Tatlayoko Ranch and is owned by Eliza Mitchell. Only one geographic location was visited and this was a pond located near 403648E, 5723490N

Moore Lake

Located within Lot 1357 at 405050E, 5732450N.

Niut Range

Rugged mountain range to the west of the Homathko valley.

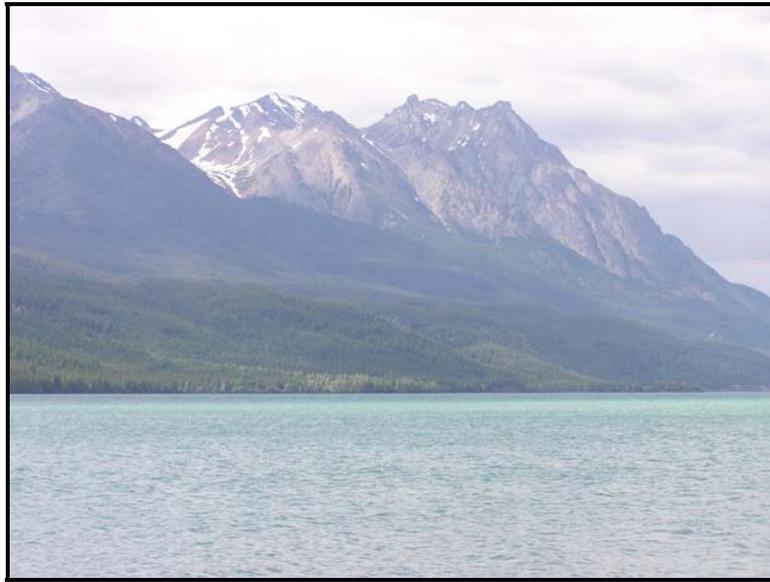


Photo 5. Niut Range above Tatlayoko Lake.

Potato Range

A long range of more gentle relief peaks to the east of the Homathko valley. Named after the presence of the Indian Potato plant (*Claytonia lanceolata*).



Photo 6. Potato Range.

Shaughnessy Residence

This is the private home of Peter and Roma Shaughnessy along the Tatlayoko Road located at 402110E, 5726736N. Peter is the caretaker for the NCC properties.

Skinner Creek

This creek starts in the plateau country near Little Meadow Mountain (409560E, 5738560N) and flows generally westward until joining the Homathko River about 6 kilometres north of Tatlayoko Lake

Skinner Meadows

These naturally wet meadows are located along Skinner Creek northwest of Choelquoit Lake. The name is not gazetted but locally well known. The centre of the area is approximately 407000E, 5733300N. The NCC own/lease 320 ha. in this vicinity.

Snoring Horse Ranch Road

The intersection of this road and the Tatlayoko Road is located at 400166E, 5733488N. The road runs westward and provides access to a number of trails that penetrate the Charlie Creek drainage.



Photo 7. Looking east from bench along Snoring Horse Ranch road
14 June 2006

Tatlayoko Community Park

This is the site of an old lumber milling operation that is now a local park on the east side of Tatlayoko Lake about 2 kilometres from the north end.



Photo 8. Beach at Tatlayoko community park - 25 May, 2006

Tatlayoko Road

This refers to the main road along the Homathko River valley bottom from its departure from the Chilko Road.



Photo 9. Tatlayoko Road near junction with Chilko Road. 13 June 2006

Whitesand Lake

Located east of the Homathko River and north of the road junction to Chilko Lake at 398844E, 5743507N.



Photo 10. Whitesand Lake. 23 May 2006

Westside Cattle Trail

This route is a non-maintained road that starts from the Mueller property and runs along a bench above the west side of the Homathko River. It descends to Tatlayoko Lake at the north end and parallels the lakeshore for some distance southwards. It is used to drive cattle to trailheads leading to alpine grazing areas.



Photo 11. Westside cattle trail. 28 June, 2006

5.0 Methods

The area was visited during the periods of 24-28 May and 13-16 June, 2006. During the initial week, R. Howie was accompanied by Andrew Harcombe of the Nature Conservancy of Canada who provided orientation as well as additional bird observations.

Most of the surveys consisted of visiting NCC properties as well as other sites in the drainage commencing near daybreak and continuing throughout the day until early evening. On some days, survey activities were reduced somewhat in the early afternoon and intensified again in the evening, finishing just before dark. Survey activities were largely exploratory in nature, consisting of walking the sites and recording all birds seen or heard in different habitats. Random observations of birds were also made when driving. Stops were made along the quieter roads and short walks made for varying periods of time in order to sample the habitats present.

A formal BBS route was conducted on 16 June in order to continue a 16 year history conducted by Charlie and Ruth Travers. The methodology consists of driving a 40 km. route and stopping on 50 occasions to conduct 3 minute point count surveys. The stops are 0.8 km apart and all birds heard or seen within 400 metres during the 3 minute period are recorded. Call playback or other methods to elicit bird response may not be used during these surveys. Routes commence at approximately 0430 hrs with the intent of completing the surveys within 4 hours.

The locations for all observations were recorded with a hand-held Garmin GPSmap76C gps unit and entered into an Excel spreadsheet which is provided as a separate file.

All bird names and taxonomic order follow the American Ornithologists Union 1957 Checklist of Birds of North America, 45th supplement 2005.

6.0 Survey Results

Field surveys were undertaken on 9 days during the period from May 24 – June 16. There were 865 observations totaling 1388 individual birds of 113 species (Table 1). Details of each sighting including location coordinates are found in a separate Excel spreadsheet. * denotes observation within NCC property.

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 1 Birds Observed in Tatlayoko Area 24 May – 16 June, 2006</p>			
Common Name	<i>Latin Name</i>	# Observations	# Individuals
Canada Goose*	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	14	146
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	5	10
Mallard*	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	6	35
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	1	4
Northern Shoveler*	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	2	3
Green-winged Teal*	<i>Anas crecca</i>	1	1
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	2	4
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	4	105
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	1	35
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	3	11
Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	9	36
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	3	35
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	1	1
Ruffed Grouse*	<i>Bonassa umbellus</i>	19	29
Dusky Grouse	<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>	1	1
Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	1	22
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	1	2
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	1	1
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	1	2
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	1	1
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	6	9
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	5	5
Northern Harrier*	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	3	3
Sharpshinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	1	1
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentiles</i>	3	4

Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	2	2
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	2	2
American Kestrel*	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	2	2
Virginia Rail*	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	2	2
Sora*	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	4	9

Table 1 cont'd Birds Observed in Tatlayoko Area 24 May –16 June, 2006			
Common Name	Latin Name	# Observations	# Individuals
Sandhill Crane*	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	2	2
Killdeer*	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	8	14
Spotted Sandpiper*	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	5	7
Greater Yellowlegs*	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	1	1
Wilson's Snipe*	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	9	11
Wilson's Phalarope*	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	2	3
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	1	1
Gull sp.	<i>Larus sp.</i>	1	6
Black Tern*	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	1	2
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	1	1
Great Horned Owl*	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	1	4
Black Swift*	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	1	4
Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Stellula calliope</i>	4	5
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	8	26
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	1	1
Lewis's Woodpecker*	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	1	1
Red-naped Sapsucker*	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>	21	25
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	5	5
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	2	2
Northern Flicker*	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	28	34
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	1	1
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	1	1
Western Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	9	11
Alder Flycatcher*	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	4	5
Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>	8	13
Dusky Flycatcher*	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	19	24
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	1	1
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	2	2
Cassin's Vireo	<i>Vireo cassinii</i>	4	7
Warbling Vireo*	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	37	63

Table 1 cont'd
 Birds Observed in Tatlayoko Area
 24 May – 16 June, 2006

Common Name	Latin Name	# Observations	# Individuals
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	5	7
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	2	3
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	1	3
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	2	3
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	27	52
Common Raven*	<i>Corvus corax</i>	14	20
Tree Swallow*	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	21	55
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	1	2
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	2	10
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	2	11
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	3	5
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	6	14
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapilla</i>	3	7
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>	20	55
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	19	40
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1	1
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	1	3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	2	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet*	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	18	34
Mountain Bluebird*	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	9	11
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	3	3
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	21	42
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	26	42
American Robin*	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	71	139
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	10	20
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	5	12
Orange-crowned Warbler*	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	11	16
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	1	1
Yellow Warbler*	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	16	28
Yellow-rumped Warbler*	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	23	55
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	9	15

Table 1 cont'd
 Birds Observed in Tatlayoko Area
 24 May – 16 June, 2006

Common Name	Latin Name	# Observations	# Individuals
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	3	3
Northern Waterthrush*	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	22	32
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Oporornis tolmei</i>	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	5	5
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	9	12
Western Tanager*	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	26	35
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	7	10
Chipping Sparrow*	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	30	47
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	5	6
Savannah Sparrow*	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	9	17
Song Sparrow*	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	19	25
Lincoln's Sparrow*	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	6	6
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	4	4
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	17	29
Lazuli Bunting*	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	2	2
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	14	37
Western Meadowlark*	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	11	15
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus Carolinas</i>	1	4
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	10	21
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	9	27
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	1	2
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	3	12

7.0 Annotated Species Accounts

The following accounts provide some comments regarding the sightings and likely status of the species. Denoting the bird as a summer resident implies the potential for breeding but does not mean that proof of breeding was obtained. Confirmation of breeding is noted where observed. Migrant means that birds are likely in both spring and fall unless otherwise noted. The fall migration banding report will confirm presence during that period.

Breeding bird surveys conducted by local residents Charlie and Ruth Travers plus one conducted by R. Howie were analyzed to provide data regarding frequency of occurrence on those surveys. There have been a total of 17 surveys conducted.

Canada Goose	migrant, breeder	habitat association – wetlands, ponds, lakes, pastures
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Widely scattered in pastures or on suitable ponds for nesting. The two largest aggregations were 22 and 48 non-breeding birds at the lagoon near the head of Tatlayoko Lake. 28 on fields at the Tatlayoko Ranch were likely part of the larger group seen at the lagoon such that the 3 largest aggregations represented some repeat sightings of the same birds that split into various sub-groups during their pasture foraging activities.

A group of 14 unpaired individuals were seen at Skinner meadows and small numbers of birds were seen in pastures along the Homathko River drainage. Other locations where paired and likely breeding birds were seen included Dam Lake on Lincoln Creek and White Sand Lake. Recorded on 6 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

American Wigeon	migrant, breeder	habitat association – wetlands, ponds
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Birds were observed in small numbers and most frequently in the Homathko drainage at small wetlands near pastures. 2 observations were made at Skinner Meadows. Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Mallard	migrant, breeder	habitat association – wetlands, ponds, lakes
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The largest flock of non-breeders consisted of 8 birds observed at Skinner Meadows on May 24. Most migrants had likely passed through the area by the time surveys began. A pair was observed on Moore Lake along Skinner Creek. Most observations were on small wetlands in the Homathko River drainage. Breeding was confirmed on 28 May when 2 broods of 8 and 11 young were observed there. Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Blue-winged Teal	migrant	habitat association – wetlands, ponds
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A single bird at Skinner Meadows on 24 May was likely a migrant and would not remain to breed. Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Northern Shoveler	migrant	habitat association – wetlands, ponds, lakes
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4 birds on Skinner Meadows on 24 May was the only observation. Birds were not there on subsequent visits and were likely migrants. Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Green-winged Teal	migrant, breeder	habitat association – wetlands, ponds
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A single bird at Skinner Meadows on 24 May and 2 birds on the Tatlayoko Ranch on 25 May were the only observations.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Ring-necked Duck	migrant	habitat association – wetlands, ponds
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A single bird on Moore Lake on 26 May and 3 birds on a pond on Mare's Creek Ranch in the Homathko River drainage were the only observations. Perhaps the Moore Lake bird had an unobserved mate but the lower elevation birds were probably unpaired.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Lesser Scaup	migrant	habitat association – lakes, ponds
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53 birds were noted on White Sand Lake on 24 May and 45 were present there on 13 June. There birds were unpaired migrants or non-breeders that may spend part of the summer in the area. 5 birds on Moore Lake on 26 May were also possible migrants. The status of 2 birds on Lunch Lake on 13 June is uncertain.

Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Surf Scoter	migrant	habitat association – lakes
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A single bird on Tatlayoko Lake on 26 May was undoubtedly a migrant

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Bufflehead	migrant	habitat association – lakes, ponds
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5 birds were on White Sand Lake on 24 May and possibly the same birds again on 13 June. These were likely non-breeders that may loaf in the area for sometime. A single bird on a pond in the Skinner Creek drainage on 26 May could also have been a migrant.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Barrow's Goldeneye	migrant, breeder	habitat association – lakes, ponds, Douglas Fir forests
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A flock of 18 birds on the lagoon on 25 May and another group of 7 birds near the Tatlayoko Community Park on the same day as well as 4 birds on the pond on the Mare's Creek Ranch on 28 May were likely all migrants. A single bird flying over older growth Douglas Fir along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake on 25 May could have been a breeding bird going to a nesting cavity. Single birds observed on small ponds on various dates through 14 June may represent breeding birds.

Recorded on 6 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Common Merganser	migrant, breeder	habitat association – lakes, rivers
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A flock of 15 birds at the head of Tatlayoko Lake on 26 May and a group of 18 there on 13 June could represent non-breeding birds. 2 birds were observed foraging along the Homathko River near the Mueller property on 27 May. Cottonwood trees at the head of the lake or along the river could provide suitable breeding habitat.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Red-breasted Merganser	migrant	habitat association – lakes
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A single bird near the head of Tatlayoko Lake on 26 May was the only record.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Ruffed Grouse	resident, breeder	habitat association –Douglas fir/aspen, lodgepole pine/aspen, alder/willow/red-osier dogwood, cottonwood/willow/riparian, mixed woods
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Ruffed Grouse were widespread and commonly encountered along the Homathko River drainage and Tatlayoko Lake as well as along side valleys such as Skinner Creek. Habitat associations varied from mixed alder (*Alnus sp.*) and willow (*Salix sp.*) shrub communities through mixed forests of Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menzeisii*) or Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) and Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Birds were also seen in riparian areas of Black Cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) with associated shrubs such as Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), willow and alder.

Breeding was confirmed on 16 June when a female and 4 young were observed feeding along the main valley road north of Crazy Creek. The general habitat was Douglas Fir forest with willows lining damp areas along the road and pastures nearby.

Recorded on 6 of 17 breeding bird surveys.



Photo 12. Male Ruffed Grouse drumming

Dusky Grouse	resident	habitat association – Douglas Fir forest
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A single bird was observed on 25 May in old growth Douglas Fir east of Tatlayoko Lake by A. Harcombe. This species was formerly known as Blue Grouse but was recently split into 2 species. The Sooty Grouse is the bird of the west coast and coastal mountains while the Dusky Grouse is the interior species. Zones of separation for these 2 species in the valleys penetrating from the coast are not well-known.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Pacific Loon	migrant	habitat association – lakes
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A flock of 22 birds were observed near the head of Tatlayoko Lake on 26 May. The valley appears to provide a previously undocumented route to northern breeding grounds from wintering areas along the south coast.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Common Loon	migrant, breeder	habitat association – lakes
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One observation of 2 birds together on Tatlayoko Lake on 13 June may have represented a pair but breeding was not confirmed.
Recorded on 8 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Pied-billed Grebe	migrant, breeder	habitat association – lakes, ponds
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A single observation on 28 May when 1 bird was observed on a small pond on Mares Creek Ranch. The surrounding habitat is Douglas Fir, aspen and pasture.
Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Horned Grebe	migrant	habitat association – lakes, ponds
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2 birds were observed on 26 May on a pond south of Skinner Creek Road. Their breeding status is uncertain.
Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Red-necked Grebe	migrant	habitat association – lakes
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One bird was observed near the north end of Tatlayoko Lake on 26 May. It was undoubtedly a migrant utilizing the lake as a resting site.
Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Osprey	summer breeder	habitat association – lakes, open upland for nesting
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Although observed on 6 occasions near the head of Tatlayoko Lake and north for several kilometres, it is possible that all sightings were of one pair of birds. An active nest was located near the northwest corner of the lake on a snag in an old clearcut about 1 km from the lake.
Recorded on 5 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Bald Eagle	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – lakes, wetlands pastures, open country
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Most of the 5 observations from 25 May – 14 June were of birds at or near Tatlayoko Lake. 2 adults at Dam Lake were attending an active nest but no young were observed.
Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Northern Harrier	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – pastures, open country, wetlands
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2 observations were at Skinner meadows on 24 May and 14 June and a single bird was hunting over wetlands near the head of Tatlayoko Lake on 26 May.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Sharpshinned Hawk	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – coniferous or mixed forest
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A single bird was observed on 27 May in mixed conifers/aspens along the west side road south of Mueller's property.

Recorded on 2 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Northern Goshawk	resident	habitat association – mixed coniferous forest
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Single birds were recorded along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake on two occasions. One bird was south of Driftwood on 25 May and the other was near Chesi Creek on 14 June. Two very territorial birds were suspected of nesting in the Charlie Creek drainage on 14 June. R. Howie suspects he was very close to an active nest based on the behavior of 2 adult birds. The forest was an open, older stand of Douglas Fir with some aspen associated.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Red-tailed Hawk	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – mixed coniferous/deciduous forest, open fields
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Two observations of single birds were made on 15 June along the Homathko River about 2 kilometres south of Cochin Lake. It is possible that both observations were of the same bird as it hunted hay pastures along the river.

Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Golden Eagle	resident? summer breeder	habitat association – steep, broken slopes, alpine meadows, non-forested areas
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On 25 May, a single bird was soaring high over the north end of the Potato Range south of Skinner Creek. Another observation was made on 14 June of a single bird flying above fields along the Homathko River about 1kilometre upstream of Lincoln Creek. For birds that range as widely as Golden Eagles, hunting both the valley bottom and adjacent Potato Range ridges would be feasible for a single bird or pair.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

American Kestrel	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – open fir forest, open fields and lightly forested margins
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A single male was recorded at Tatlayoko Ranch and a second bird was observed along the Lunch Lake Road on 24 May.

Recorded on 6 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Virginia Rail	summer breeder	habitat association – sedge/grass wetlands
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Single birds were seen and heard on 24 May and 14 June at Skinner Meadows in the marsh near the corrals. Quite possibly it was the same bird each time. The habitat seemed suitable for nesting.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Sora	summer breeder	habitat association – sedge/grass wetlands, pond
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6 birds at Skinner Meadows on 24 May could have been migrants as only one was heard there on 14 June. Others may have been present but just remained quiet or had dispersed somewhat from the 24 May location. Single birds were seen at 2 locations in the Skinner Creek drainage on 26 May. 1 was at Moore Lake.

Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Sandhill Crane	summer breeder	habitat association – wet meadows, shrubby upland margins, pastures
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A single bird was heard in upland meadows just south of Moore Lake on 26 May. A second bird was seen in the Skinner Meadows area on 15 June by Peter Shaughnessy. This suggests the possibility of one or two pairs nesting in the middle Skinner Creek drainage.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Killdeer	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – shallow wetland margins, pastures, open, dry fields
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Birds were observed on 8 occasions between 24 May and 16 June in a variety of habitats. Locations included White Sand Lake, the east side of Tatlayoko Lake at the community park and in pastures along the Homathko River drainage.

Recorded on 12 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Spotted Sandpiper	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – lake, pond margins
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Birds were observed on 5 occasions between 24 May and 16 June. Locations included Dam and White Sand lakes as well as the shore of Tatlayoko Lake and small ponds in the Homathko River valley.

Recorded on 2 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Greater Yellowlegs	migrant, possible breeder	habitat association – sedge/grass wetland
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A single bird was seen at the Skinner Meadows pond near the corrals on 14 June. It was not seen or heard on territory during earlier visits but the date seems a bit early for southbound migrants.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Wilson's Snipe	summer breeder	habitat association – wet meadows, damp pastures
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The 9 observations between 24 May and 15 June included repeat observations of at least one territorial bird near the yurt on Tatlayoko Ranch property. It was heard winnowing on most days during the times when surveyors were staying at the facility. Other locations along the Homathko River valley include the Snoring Horse Ranch road, the Shaughnessy property and other damp pastures adjacent to the main road. 2 birds were heard at Skinner meadows on 24 May.

Recorded on 16 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Wilson's Phalarope	summer breeder	habitat association – sedge/grass wetlands
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Birds observed at Skinner Meadows on 24 May and 16 June suggest the possibility of nesting in the area.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Red-necked Phalarope	migrant	habitat association – lake
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A single bird on Tatlayoko Lake on 26 May was a migrant that utilized the lake as a resting site during its flight.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Gull sp.	migrants	habitat association – lake
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6 birds were observed flying south down the west side of Tatlayoko Lake on 25 May. They were too distant to enable identification but they were mid to large sized larids.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Black Tern	migrant	habitat association – wetlands
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Two birds at Skinner Meadows on 24 May were likely migrants as they were not subsequently seen in the area.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Mourning Dove	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – mixed fir forest
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A single bird was seen on 25 May along the upper road south of Driftwood, east side of Tatlayoko Lake. Possibly small numbers of doves breed in the drier open woods, or the bird was simply a migrant to areas north along the Homathko River drainage where open fir forests seem suitable for breeding. Campbell et al (1990) do not indicate breeding for this area.

Recorded on 4 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Great Horned Owl	resident, breeds	habitat association – mixed forests, clearings, riparian woods
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One adult and 3 fledged young were observed on 15 June in the cutblock at the northwest corner of Tatlayoko Lake near the southwest boundary of the Tatlayoko Ranch property. The birds were hunting a shrub/grass opening inland of the lake. This species uses a wide range of habitats and is likely well-distributed in the general area.

Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.



Photo 13. Great Horned Owl fledgling. 15 June, 2006

Black Swift	migrant	habitat association – damp canyons, cliffs for breeding
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4 birds were observed flying high over Tatlayoko Ranch on 15 June. There does not seem to be any suitable breeding habitat in the lower portions of the Homathko drainage. It is not known whether birds breed in rock crevices in the nearby Niut Range and forage closer to the valley bottom. Campbell et al (1990) do not indicate breeding in the general area. Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Calliope Hummingbird	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – shrubby wetland margins, mixed dry forests
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This species appears to be fairly widespread in the study area, resident for the summer and a likely breeder. Two birds were visiting feeders at the Shaughnessy residence on 25 May and a single bird was seen in the uplands south of Moore Lake on 26 May. A single bird was seen in mixed Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), rose (*Rosa sp.*) and aspen along a pasture margin at the Lincoln Creek Ranch on 14 June, and another was observed on an open hillside with Spruce (*Picea sp.*), aspen, rose and willow along the Tatlayoko Lake Road on 15 June. Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Rufous Hummingbird	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – mixed dry forests, riparian willow groves
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Birds were well-distributed along the lower elevations of the Homathko River valley from 25 May through 15 June. The largest numbers were observed at feeders operated by local residents. Up to 3 birds were at the Shaughnessy residence on 24-25 May with the surrounding habitats of fir and aspen forests adjacent to open pastures. Up to 10 birds were seen at the Travers residence on the north shore of Cochin Lake on 26 May and 13 June. The surrounding forest was a mixture of Douglas Fir and Lodgepole Pine. 6 were attending a feeder at the Snoring Horse ranch on 14 June.

Single birds were observed on 27-28 May at the Mueller property and the Mare’s Creek Ranch with various associations of Douglas Fir, aspen, willow, spruce and smaller shrubs such as rose. On 15 June, a single bird was observed along the Homathko River in a mixed association of Tea-leaved willow (*Salix planifolia*) and Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*). Recorded on 5 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Belted Kingfisher	migrant, summer breeder?	habitat association – creeks, rivers lakes, ponds
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A single bird was seen on 25 May near the lagoon at the head of Tatlayoko Lake. The aquatic systems throughout the study area are fish bearing and would provide a food source for Kingfishers, but few suitable nesting habitats were observed. However, surveys for such specialized habitats were not undertaken and cutbanks along roads or other open faces may well exist. Recorded on 3 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Lewis's Woodpecker	vagrant	habitat association – cottonwood stands, open fir stands adjacent to open areas
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On 24 May, a single bird was found by A. Harcombe on the Tatlayoko Ranch near the yurt. It was photographed by R. Howie. Likely the same bird was seen at least a week later about 600m south of this site by Peter Shaughnessy. Lewis's Woodpeckers have not been reported for the immediate area but there is a record for Kleena Kleene for 12 May, 1965 (Campbell et al, 1990). There are regular occurrences closer to William's Lake.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Red-naped Sapsucker	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association –
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Red-naped sapsuckers were widespread and commonly observed on 21 occasions between 24 May and 16 June. Birds were seen in Douglas Fir and aspen groves along the Homathko River drainage as well as in aspens and mixed conifers in the Skinner Creek watershed. This sapsucker was also recorded at 4 locations along the breeding bird survey route on the east side of Tatlayoko Lake and along the main valley road. Campbell et al (1990) does not indicate records for this species in the Tatlayoko area but shows breeding in the Anahim Lake area. The lack of records likely reflects the lack of observers who submitted records to the database for the Birds of BC as opposed to a lack of birds during that period.

Recorded on 16 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Downy Woodpecker	resident	habitat association – mixed conifers, aspen stands
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Birds were observed on 4 occasions and most frequently in the Homathko River drainage. A single bird was seen near Skinner Meadows on 24 May in Douglas Fir/Lodgepole Pine habitat. This species is likely widespread and more common than the few records indicate.

Recorded on 7 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Hairy Woodpecker	resident	habitat association – mixed conifers
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Only 2 observations were made of this species. One attended a feeder at the Shaughnessy residence in mixed Douglas/aspen habitat on 24 May and another was seen in older firs on the Tatlayoko Ranch on 28 May. This is likely a more common species than the few records indicate.

Recorded on 12 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Northern Flicker	migrant, summer breeder	habitat association – mixed woods and open areas, riparian habitats
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Flickers were widely distributed along the Homathko River and Tatlayoko Lake drainages as well as in the Skinner Creek drainage. This was the most frequently encountered and most abundant woodpecker observed with 28 sightings of 34 individuals. Habitat types ranged from Douglas Fir forests of varying ages, aspen groves, fields and margins of open areas, riparian willow thickets and mixed assemblages of spruce, aspen and fir with shrubby understories.

Birds were observed from 24 May through 16 June with 24 of the sightings being in the Homathko River drainage and along the main valley road. On 15 June, 1 bird was observed along the main road near Tatla Hill and on 16 June, 1 bird was seen along the road to Chilko Lake in Lodgepole Pine habitat.

Recorded on 17 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Pileated Woodpecker	resident	habitat association – conifer forests with a component of large diameter trees
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On 15 June, a single bird was observed along the main road near Cochin Lake. The habitat was mainly Lodgepole Pine with a few large Douglas Fir veterans scattered throughout.

Recorded on 10 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Olive-sided Flycatcher	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – mixed coniferous forests with some older, taller trees
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One individual was recorded along the main valley road just south of Mueller’s property on 24 May. It was in mixed fir and aspens and may have been a migrant only at this elevation. Breeding may occur at higher elevations.

Recorded on 12 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Western Wood Pewee	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – open deciduous and mixed coniferous woods
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Birds were recorded between 24 May and 15 June on 9 occasions. Locations ranged from the Homathko River drainage, Skinner Creek and Skinner Meadows area and the eastern margin of Tatlayoko Lake. Habitats ranged from Douglas Fir forests through Lodgepole Pine, aspen and deciduous riparian areas. Locations included the Tatlayoko Ranch, Lincoln Creek Ranch and lot 1357 south of Moore Lake.

Recorded on 11 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Alder Flycatcher	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – willow/alder riparian
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On 15-16 June, birds were recorded along the Homathko River on the Tatlayoko Ranch property. They were singing from willow and alder thickets. Campbell et al (1990) indicates a summer occurrence for the north end of Chilko Lake area but distribution for this species and the closely-related Willow Flycatcher in the Homathko drainage are unclear. No Willow Flycatchers were encountered.

Recorded on 3 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Hammond's Flycatcher	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – coniferous forests, mixed conifer/deciduous patches, shrubby riparian
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Birds were recorded on 8 occasions from 24 May through 16 June. Locations ranged from the Homathko drainage, the east side of Tatlayoko Lake and the Skinner Creek drainage. Early season birds in shrub patches may have been migrants but later observations of territorial birds in coniferous habitats were likely breeders. This was the second most common flycatcher encountered along with Western Wood Pewee.

Recorded on 12 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Dusky Flycatcher	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – Douglas Fir, aspen and mixed Lodgepole Pine/fir/aspen stands
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This species was widespread in the drier Douglas Fir and mixed coniferous forests. It was recorded from 24 May through 16 June on 19 occasions and was the most common Flycatcher encountered. Locations ranged from the Homathko River valley and Tatlayoko Ranch up through the Skinner Creek drainage and along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake.

Recorded on 15 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – coniferous forests, damp, shady deciduous sites
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A single bird was recorded on 25 May in a small creek drainage on the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake south of Driftwood. The forest was generally mixed age Douglas Fir with some aspen in the creek gully. Campbell et al (1990) indicate a paucity of records for this area but indicate a sighting at Kleena Kleene on 20 May, 1961.

Recorded on 4 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Western Kingbird	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – open coniferous forest margins and field edges, road corridors
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A single bird was recorded on 25 May near Lincoln Creek along the main valley road. On 14 June, a single bird was seen at the Snoring Horse Ranch. Birds have been recorded in summer at Chilko Lake and Kleena Kleene (Campbell et al, 1990) which suggests that this species occurs this far west on a regular basis but perhaps in low numbers.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Cassin's Vireo	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – mixed coniferous or coniferous/deciduous forests
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7 birds were recorded between 25 May and 16 June. All birds were in mixed age Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine or a mix of conifers and aspens. Most individuals were seen from 25-27 May in the Homathko drainage and may have been migrants. One bird on 16 June in Lodgepole Pine along the

Chilko Lake road was likely on breeding territory. Most birds were seen along the west side road downstream of Mueller's property.

Recorded on 10 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Warbling Vireo	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – coniferous forests with aspen patches, deciduous groves
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This was a common and abundant vireo recorded on 37 occasions from 24 May through 16 June. The 63 individuals observed make this the second most abundant passerine seen next to American Robins. Mixed coniferous forest habitats are used but the presence of aspen in large or small numbers is a consistent site attribute.

Many individuals were noted along the Homathko River valley and the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake north to Whitesand Lake. Birds were also found in the Skinner Creek drainage

Recorded on 5 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Red-eyed Vireo	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – mixed coniferous/deciduous forests
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The 5 sightings were all made along the Homathko River valley on 15 June. Most birds were observed in the alder/willow riparian zone along the Homathko River or in mixed conifer/cottonwood patches along the same drainage. One bird was in a mix of aspens and Douglas Fir. A deciduous component is typical of the habitat used by this species in southerly latitudes.

Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Gray Jay	resident	habitat association – Lodgepole Pine, Douglas Fir, mixed conifers
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A single bird was noted near the community landfill south of Cochin Lake on 28 May. The habitat was Lodgepole Pine. On 14 June, 2 birds were noted in older Douglas Fir forest near the rocky knoll south of the Snoring Horse Ranch road.

Recorded on 5 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Steller's Jay	resident	habitat association – shady conifer & mixed forests
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3 birds were reported at the Shaughnessy residence on 16 October. They indicate that there were "lots" in the vicinity this fall.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Clark's Nutcracker	resident	habitat association – Douglas Fir forests
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On 25 May, 2 birds were observed in large Douglas Firs along the road up Lincoln Creek. A single bird was also in firs along the Skinner Creek road on 26 May.
Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

American Crow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – mixed conifers, aspens, pastures
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This species was widely recorded from 24 May -16 June. Locations include numerous sites along the Homathko River valley, the Cochin Lake area, the Skinner Creek drainage and the east side of Tatlayoko Lake. Birds were observed on the Tatlayoko Ranch and Lincoln Creek Ranch properties. Habitats included Douglas Fir forests of varying ages, farm fields, shrubby roadside clearings, Lodgepole Pine forests and aspen groves.
Recorded on 17 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Common Raven	resident	habitat association – mixed conifers, Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine, grass/sedge meadows, pastures
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Ravens were observed in many locations throughout the study area from 24 May – 16 June. Birds were seen regularly in the Homathko River valley as well as in the Lincoln Creek drainage and along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake. Observations were made near Cochin Lake, the community landfill and at Skinner Meadows as well as along the road to Chilko Lake. Habitats varied from Douglas Fir forests, Lodgepole Pine forests, open pastures, alder/spruce/lodgepole associations and grass/sedge meadow complexes.
Recorded on 15 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Tree Swallow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – wetlands, open fields, margins of mixed deciduous/coniferous woods, grass/sedge meadows
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Tree Swallows were widely-recorded along the Homathko River valley from 24 May – 16 June. Numerous sightings were made at the Tatlayoko Ranch, but birds were also seen at Lincoln Creek Ranch and Mares Creek Ranch. Birds were also seen upstream of the Skinner Creek confluence and in the Skinner Meadows area.
Recorded on 16 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Violet-green Swallow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – open fields, willow riparian
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Only 2 birds were seen during all field trips and these were on 15 June along the Homathko River.
Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – wetlands, open areas
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This species was seen on 24 May and 15 June at a gravel pit face near the bridge crossing over the Homathko River. The birds were in association with Bank Swallows but no nest sites were observed. The general habitat was mixed conifers/Black Cottonwood. Birds likely forage elsewhere in the valley and may fly some distance from nest sites.

Recorded on 8 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Bank Swallow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – wetlands
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The largest aggregation of Bank Swallows was observed at a gravel pit face near the Homathko River bridge on 24 May when 10 birds were seen. A single bird was observed at the lagoon on Tatlayoko Ranch on 26 May. Habitats at both sites included mixed conifers/Black Cottonwoods as well as open fields and aquatic sites nearby.

Recorded on 8 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Cliff Swallow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – wetlands, open sites
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A single bird was observed at Skinner Meadows on 24 May and could have been a migrant as suitable nesting sites seemed scarce. Birds were seen in the Homathko River valley on 14 June at Lincoln Creek Ranch and upstream of the Skinner Creek confluence on 16 June. Numbers were small despite there being ample buildings in the Homathko valley that may provide adequate nesting sites. Perhaps the relative lack of small ponds/lakes mitigates larger numbers. Birds were seen from 24 May – 16 June.

Recorded on 13 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Barn Swallow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – wetlands, open fields, margins of fir forests, grass/sedge meadows
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Two birds were observed at Skinner Meadows on 24 May but the general lack of suitable nesting sites suggests that they may have been migrants. All other observations were scattered along the Homathko River valley where small numbers of birds were seen. One bird was seen along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake south of Driftwood where again, nesting habitat seemed scarce. Birds were seen between 24 May and 16 June.

Recorded on 8 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Black-capped Chickadee	resident	habitat association – open coniferous forest, mixed deciduous/coniferous stands, deciduous riparian
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Birds were observed on only 3 occasions from 24 May through 16 June and all sightings were in the Homathko River valley. One bird was attending a feeder at the Shaughnessy residence on 24 May.

The surprisingly few sightings may have been due to a lack of observation time in suitable mixed wood habitats.

Recorded on 13 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Mountain Chickadee	resident	habitat association – Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine, mixed conifers, mixed aspen/fir
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Mountain Chickadees were widespread and observed on 20 occasions from 24 May – 16 June. Locations included numerous spots along the Homathko River valley, Whitesand Lake, the Lincoln Creek and Skinner Creek drainages, the east side of Tatlayoko Lake and the road to Chilko Lake. Habitats were generally coniferous forests of Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine or mixed coniferous assemblages. Aspens and Scouler’s Willow (*Salix scouleriana*) were present along with Douglas Fir at some sites. This was the most common chickadee encountered.

Recorded on 16 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Red-breasted Nuthatch	resident	habitat association – Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine, aspen/spruce
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Red-breasted Nuthatches were widely-encountered although most observations were in coniferous forests along the Homathko River valley. They were observed on 19 occasions from 24 May – 16 June. Locations included the Homathko River valley, Lunch Lake, Skinner Creek drainage and the Chilko Lake road. Birds were found in mixed age stands including several observations in older fir forests along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake.

Recorded on 13 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Winter Wren	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – damper sites within coniferous forests
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A single bird was heard on 25 May in older growth Douglas Fir forests along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake. This species may be more common in damper sites that were inadequately sampled during the survey period.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Marsh Wren	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – wetlands
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A single bird was seen on 24 May at Whitesand Lake. Typical wetlands with emergent vegetation seemed scarce in the study area and it is expected that this species will be localized and in small numbers.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Golden-crowned Kinglet	resident	habitat association – coniferous forests
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On 14 June, a single bird was encountered along the benchlands west of the Homathko River. On 16 June, one bird was found in older fir forests along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake. This species is likely more common than the observations indicate.

Recorded on 2 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – conifers, shrubby riparian, deciduous and mixed conifer/deciduous
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Ruby-crowned Kinglets were widely-encountered on 18 occasions from 24 May – 16 June throughout the study area. Most observations were made along the Homathko River valley but birds were also seen at Whitesand Lake, along the Skinner Creek drainage as high as Moore Lake, the road to Chilko Lake and along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake. Habitats used were diverse and included Douglas Fir forests, aspen groves, willow/alder riparian areas, Lodgepole Pine, mixed coniferous/deciduous and mixed coniferous forests.

Recorded on 5 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Mountain Bluebird	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – pastures, meadows, openings in conifers, aspens
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Bluebirds were observed in scattered locations from 24 May through 16 June. Most were seen along the Homathko River valley but birds were seen at Skinner Meadows on 24 May and 14 June as well as at the community park on the eastern shore of Tatlayoko Lake on 24 May. Habitats were generally openings in Douglas Fir forests, pastures, shrubby or grassy meadows and aspens near cleared habitats. These latter habitats would supply nesting cavities.

Recorded on 7 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Townsend's Solitaire	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – dry coniferous forests
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Birds were observed from 14-16 June in the Homathko River valley. On 14 June, 1 bird was observed in conifers along the benchlands west of the river and on 16 June, 1 bird was heard along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake just north of the turnoff to the Bracewell Lodge.

Recorded on 15 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Swainson's Thrush	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine, aspen/conifer, cottonwood and shrubby riparian
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This thrush was widespread in coniferous habitats and was observed on 21 occasions from 24 May – 16 June. There were numerous sightings along the Homathko River valley and side benchlands including Tatlayoko Ranch and Lincoln Creek Ranch properties. Other locations included the Skinner Creek and Charlie Creek drainages as well as along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake. Habitats included Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine, spruce/aspen, Black Cottonwood riparian and willow/alder riparian areas. Recorded on 17 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Hermit Thrush	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – conifers, mixed conifer/aspen
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This was a widespread thrush observed from the Homathko River valley up to the Skinner Meadows elevation. Birds were seen from 27 May – 16 June along the benchlands west of the Homathko River, in the Charlie Creek drainage, along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake, along the Chilko Lake road and at Skinner Meadows. Habitats used included a range of Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine and pine/fir mixed forests as well as lodgepole/aspen sites and spruce/willow riparian associations.

On 27 May, an adult was found incubating 4 eggs in a ground nest under a Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) at 912 metres a.s.l. along the “Cattle Trail” on the west side of the Homathko River. (401925E 5724915N). On 15 June, the same nest held 3 small downy young. Incubation is variously reported as being 11-13 days, suggesting that egg laying may have commenced as early as 23 May. Recorded on 14 of 17 breeding bird surveys.



Photo 14. Hermit Thrush nest . 27 May 2006, Homathko River valley



Photo 15. Hermit Thrush nestlings. 15 June 2006, Homathko River valley

American Robin	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – conifers, deciduous, mixed conifer/deciduous, fields, meadows, riparian, aspens
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This was the most widely-encountered and abundant thrush, being observed on 71 occasions from 24 May – 16 June. Locations ranged from the Homathko River valley, the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake, the Skinner Creek drainage up to Skinner Meadows, Cochin Lake and the Whitesand and Lunch lakes area. Habitats used included virtually all major types including Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine, mixed conifers, shrub and cottonwood riparian, fields/pastures, aspen groves and grass/sedge meadows.

On 24 May, a nest was located on a log building 2.5 metres above ground on the Tatlayoko Ranch property (403037E 5724343N) approximately 863 metres a.s.l. Recorded on 17 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

European Starling	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – fields, open agricultural areas, road margins
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Birds were observed from 25 May – 16 June and mostly in the Homathko River valley associated with human-altered habitats. 2 birds seen at the Tatlayoko Lake community park on 25 May were in a grassy, altered site amongst the surrounding coniferous forest. Recorded on 13 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Cedar Waxwing	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – open shrubby riparian areas, mixed conifer/deciduous riparian, forest margins
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Observations were limited to the 15-16 June period in the Homathko River valley and the northeastern end of Tatlayoko Lake. Habitats used included alder/willow riparian sites, spruce/aspen/willow patches, mixed conifer/Black Cottonwoods with a shrubby understory and the margins of extensive conifer forests. Birds had likely arrived in the area during late May or early June.

Recorded on 4 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Orange-crowned Warbler	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – mixed coniferous/deciduous woods, shrubby riparian, mixed age conifers
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Birds were observed from 24 May – 16 June with most observations in the Homathko River valley. On 26 May, 1 bird was observed in the Skinner Creek drainage and on 16 June, 1 bird was seen along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake. This warbler will utilize a wide variety of habitats in migration and for breeding and was variously seen in alder/willow wetlands, conifer/Black Cottonwood riparian sites, mixed age Douglas Fir forests and conifer/aspen habitats. Shrubs were common understory components in many locations. This was the fourth most common warbler encountered.

Recorded on 15 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Nashville Warbler	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – conifer/deciduous shrub
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On 16 June, 1 bird was heard at stop # 10 on the BBS route along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake. Campbell et al (2001) indicate that records for the western Chilcotin are sparse but note a summer occurrence in the vicinity of the north end of Chilko Lake.

Recorded on 2 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Yellow Warbler	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – shrubby riparian, mixed conifer/deciduous, shrubby margins of open areas
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Yellow Warblers were observed from 24 May – 16 June with the bulk of the sightings being in the Homathko River valley. One bird was observed on 24 May at Skinner Meadows and could have been a migrant at that elevation. Birds were also observed along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake on 16 June.

The majority of habitats utilized were mixed willow/alder or willow riparian sites, shrubby wetland margins, shrubby understory/cottonwood riparian or conifer/aspen/shrub sites.

Recorded on 13 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Yellow-rumped Warbler	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – conifer/deciduous, shrubby riparian, Lodgepole Pine, Doug. Fir
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This was the most common and abundant warbler noted in the study area. Birds were observed from 24 May - 16 June in virtually all major habitat types. Locations included numerous sites in the Homathko River valley, the Skinner Creek drainage up to Skinner Meadows, the Chilko Lake road and the eastern slopes above Tatlayoko Lake. Birds were seen in mixed ages of Douglas Fir, aspen, willow, aspens and Lodgepole Pine. Tatlayoko Ranch property and Lot 1357 are included in the sighting locations.

Recorded on 17 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Townsend's Warbler	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – Douglas Fir
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Birds were observed from 25 May – 16 June along the Homathko River valley and in tributary drainages. On 25 May, birds were seen in Douglas Firs in the Lincoln Creek drainage and at Dam Lake as well as along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake at the turnoff to Bracewell's Lodge. On 14 June, various individuals were seen along the Snoring Horse Ranch road, the Charlie Creek drainage and along the benchland road on the west side of the Homathko River.

Habitat preference seemed to be mixed age or older growth Douglas Fir but occasionally birds were seen in assemblages of fir and aspen.

Recorded on 2 of 17 breeding bird surveys.



Photo 16. Townsend's Warbler. 25 May 2006 east side Tatlayoko Lake

American Redstart	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – coniferous/deciduous riparian
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6 birds were observed along the Homathko River on 14-15 June in mixed riparian habitats. Various combinations of spruce, cottonwood, aspen and a mixture of shrubs in the understory characterized the sites used by this warbler. Douglas Fir was present at one site. All locations were downstream of the Homathko bridge crossing. This warbler may be more common than these few sightings indicate.

Recorded on 7 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Northern Waterthrush	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – damp riparian or mixed conifer/deciduous sites
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This was the second most abundant warbler encountered in the Homathko River valley. All sightings were made between 24 May and 16 June in the Homathko valley or the lower portions of Lincoln and Skinner Creek drainages. Habitats tended to be damper associations of willow/alder, aspens, Lodgepole Pine/aspen, shrub/cottonwood or mixed conifers with a wet understory.

Recorded on 17 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

MacGillivray’s Warbler	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – alder/willow riparian
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A single bird was observed on 15 June along the Homathko River on the Tatlayoko Ranch property. Recorded on 11 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Common Yellowthroat	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – wetlands
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4 birds were seen between 24 May and 16 June in the Homathko River and Skinner Creek drainages as high as Skinner Meadows. Some were found in alder/willow riparian sites while others were using grass/sedge meadows.

Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Wilson’s Warbler	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – alder/willow riparian, upland shrub areas, forest margins & edge habitats
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Observations occurred between 24 May and 16 June in the Homathko River valley and along the Skinner Creek drainage up to Skinner Meadows. Habitats included Douglas Fir/aspen sites, willow/alder riparian areas, scrub birch and shrubby forest margins in upland settings.

Recorded on 10 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Western Tanager	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – Douglas Fir, mixed coniferous/deciduous riparian
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Tanagers were frequently encountered and widespread in the drier Douglas Fir forests. Observations were made between 25 May and 16 June in locations such as the benchlands west of the Homathko River, several sites along the main valley road, the Lincoln and Skinner Creek drainages and extensively along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake. Douglas Fir forests of varying ages were the dominant habitat being used but some birds were seen in aspens and mixed coniferous/deciduous riparian sites. Willow riparian areas were used as well.
Recorded on 15 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Spotted Towhee	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – shrubby sites in Douglas Fir and riparian areas
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All observations were made in the Homathko River valley between 24 May and 16 June except for 2 birds seen on 25 May along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake south of Driftwood. Birds used a variety of shrubby sites including alder/willow riparian areas and shrubby field margins near Douglas Fir forests. Mixed coniferous/cottonwood riparian areas with a shrubby understory were also favoured.

Records in Campbell et al (2001) are sparse for the western Chilcotin but they indicate summer occurrences near the northern end of Chilko Lake.
Recorded on 2 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Chipping Sparrow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – drier, open sites in fir and Lodgepole Pine forests, field margins, road edges
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Birds were widely and frequently recorded between 24 May and 16 June along the eastern side of Tatlayoko Lake, the Homathko River valley, near Dam Lake, the Skinner Creek drainage up to Skinner Meadows, Cochin Lake and Lunch Lake areas. Habitats included drier, open sites in Douglas Fir and Lodgepole Pine forests, road edges, fields, forest margins and aspen groves.
Recorded on 17 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Vesper Sparrow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – grassy openings
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Vesper Sparrows are generally birds of open grasslands or openings on the margins of dry forests. On 26 May, 2 birds were seen on a grassy south-facing slope in the Skinner Creek drainage and on 14 June, 1 was observed in grass habitat at Skinner Meadows. All other observations were in grassy fields in the lower elevations along the Homathko River valley.

On 14 June, an adult was observed carrying food, presumably to a nest which was not located. The habitat was a pasture located at 401827E 5725653N.
Recorded on 11 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Savannah Sparrow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – grassy sites early seral openings, hayfields, pastures
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Birds were observed from 24 May – 16 June along the Homathko River valley, near Moore Lake and at Skinner Meadows. All birds in the lower valley were in association with pastures or hayfields. While Skinner Meadows is subject to summer haying, the vegetation is presumed to be a native association of grasses and sedges. Birds were present on the Tatlayoko Ranch property during May but were not seen during later periods although likely breeding birds were seen in hayfields north along the valley floor.

Recorded on 15 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Song Sparrow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association –damper shrub wetlands, riparian sites and pasture margins, meadows
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Song Sparrows were widely recorded from the Homathko River valley and upslope in the Skinner Creek drainage to Skinner Meadows. Shrubby field margins and wet areas on the Tatlayoko and Lincoln Creek Ranch properties, the Mueller property and at Mare’s Creek Ranch were well used, along with shrubby riparian sites along the Homathko River. Birds were also found in willow/alder/red-osier dogwood associations and shrubby wetlands and open pastures in Lodgepole Pine forests in the Skinner Creek drainage. Damper associations of spruce and aspen were also used. Recorded on 8 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Lincoln’s Sparrow	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – shrubby margins of wetlands
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Birds were observed on 6 occasions from 24 May – 15 June, but 4 of the observations were repeat sightings of the same bird on the Tatlayoko Ranch property. On 25 May, 1 bird was seen at Dam Lake, appropriately in the Lincoln Creek drainage. One bird was observed at the Snoring Horse Ranch on 14 June. Campbell et al (2001) indicate a gap in records for this area but do show summer records for Anahim Lake and an area east of Chilko Lake. The lack of observers submitting sightings is likely the reason for the gap in coverage.

Recorded on 0 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

White-crowned Sparrow	migrant, summer resident?	habitat association –open, shrubby areas
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4 birds were recorded from 24-28 May in various locations. On 24 May, 1 bird was observed in scrub birch along the road to Skinner Meadows from the Chilko Lake Road. On 26 May, 1 bird was seen near Moore Lake in the Skinner Creek drainage. One bird was observed on the Tatlayoko Ranch on 27 May and at Mare’s Creek Ranch on 28 May.

Campbell et al (2001) indicate breeding records for this species at Nimpo Lake so it is possible that the White-crowned Sparrow may breed at higher elevations in the Tatlayoko drainage.

Recorded on 11 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Dark-eyed Junco	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – wetlands
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Observations of Dark-eyed Juncos were commonly made over a wide area from 24 May - 16 June. Birds were seen throughout the Homathko River valley in locations such as the Tatlayoko Ranch, Snoring Horse Ranch, Mare’s Creek Ranch and along the benchlands on the west side of the Homathko River. Observations were also made at various locations in the Skinner Creek drainage and near Moore Lake. Birds were recorded along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake and at Whitesand Lake.

Birds occupied a wide variety of habitats including Douglas Fir forests from young to older stands, Lodgepole Pine forests, alder swamps, fields and forest margins as well as aspen groves and patches of scrub birch.

Recorded on 17 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Lazuli Bunting	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – shrubby forest margins and field edges
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A single Lazuli Bunting was recorded on 14 June and again on 16 June near the entrance to the Lincoln Creek Ranch along the main valley road. It appeared to be a territorial male but no female was located. The habitat seemed suitable for breeding.

Campbell et al (2001) indicate that the Lazuli Bunting has been expanding its range into the central interior since the 1950s. Summer records exist for the Kleena Kleene area without proof of breeding. Further efforts should be made to document the status of this species in the area.

Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Red-winged Blackbird	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – wetlands, fields
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Red-winged Blackbirds were recorded widely in the study area from 24 May – 16 June. Locations included the Tatlayoko Ranch and other sites in the Homathko River Valley, Skinner Meadows and Moore Lake, Whitesand Lake and Cochin Lake. Numbers were small, suggesting that the major migration had occurred prior to the initiation of the surveys. Campbell et al (2001) do not indicate any records for this region of the Cariboo, but this likely reflects a lack of submission of sight records by the few regular observers in the area.

6 birds were seen at Skinner Meadows on 24 May and 14 June. From 1-3 birds were seen at the Tatlayoko Ranch property on 24-25 May and 14 June. On 28 May, 4 birds were near a small lake on the Mare’s Creek Ranch and 2 birds were at Whitesand Lake on 13 June.

Recorded on 5 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Western Meadowlark	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – fields, pastures
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All sightings of meadowlarks were made in the Homathko River valley in fields or pastures associated with farming. Observations occurred from 24 May – 16 June and included repeat sightings of birds on the Tatlayoko Ranch property. Apart from the Mare’s Creek Ranch sighting on 28 May, all other sightings were of the same 1-3 birds on the Tatlayoko Ranch.

Campbell et al (2001) indicates that records are fewer in the western Chilcotin but breeding records exist for Tatla Lake (1969). The potential for breeding to occur in the Homathko valley seems high. Recorded on 12 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Rusty Blackbird	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – shrubby wetlands in Lodgepole Pine
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On 16 June, 4 birds were observed flying through Lodgepole Pine habitat along the road to Chilko Lake roughly 2 kilometres east of the junction with the Tatlayoko Valley road. Recorded on 1 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Brown-headed Cowbird	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – mixed conifers, pastures, riparian, aspens
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Cowbirds were widely observed between 24 May and 16 June from the Homathko River up to Moore Lake elevations. Habitats ranged from pastures, Douglas Fir and Lodgepole Pine forests, willow/alder riparian sites, aspen groves and mixed conifer/cottonwood riparian areas. Birds were also observed frequenting feeders at the Shaughnessy and Travers residences. Recorded on 6 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Purple Finch	migrant, summer resident	habitat association – shrubby riparian, mixed conifer/deciduous stands, Lodgepole Pine
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This species was observed widely in the Homathko River valley from 24 May – 16 June. 2 birds were observed in willow/alder riparian habitat on the Tatlayoko Ranch on 24 May and 6 birds were attending a feeder at the Shaughnessy residence in mixed fir and aspen habitat on 25 May. 3 birds were seen at the Snoring Horse Ranch on 14 June.

4 birds were attending a feeder in Lodgepole Pine forest at Cochin Lake on 27 May and a single bird was there again on 13 June where they are reported to be regular (C. Travers, pers. com.) Recorded on 4 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Pine Siskin	resident	habitat association – Douglas Fir
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2 birds were observed on 16 June along the east side of Tatlayoko Lake in Douglas Fir forest. Populations fluctuate significantly and the lack of observations suggest that numbers in the Tatlayoko valley may have been in a low period of the cycle in 2006. Recorded on 10 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

Evening Grosbeak	resident	habitat association – wetlands
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All sightings were made in the Homathko River valley between 24 May and 15 June. Up to 9 birds were attending a feeder at the Shaughnessy residence on 25 May which accounted for most of the birds seen. 2 birds were seen along the Homathko River farther north on 15 June in a mixture of Lodgepole Pine, Spruce and willow/alder riparian habitats. Recorded on 2 of 17 breeding bird surveys.

8.0 Biogeoclimatic Associations

Table 2 indicates the Biogeoclimatic sub zones where the various species were recorded. It should be noted that birds may have been attracted to that zone due to habitats other than those used to typically describe the zone. For example, farm fields rather than fir forests in the IDFdw zone attract Vesper Sparrows, and wetlands rather than Lodgepole Pine forests attract phalaropes in the IDFdk4 zone. No time was spent surveying in the ESSF zone but a Golden Eagle was seen flying over this sub zone.

Further surveys will likely result in species being found in other BEC zones not recorded during the 2006 study.

Table 2
Bird Associations With Biogeoclimatic Sub zones

Species	Biogeoclimatic Sub zone		
	IDFdw	IDFdk4	ESSFxv1
Canada Goose	*	*	
American Wigeon	*	*	
Mallard	*	*	
Blue-winged Teal		*	
Northern Shoveler		*	
Green-winged Teal	*	*	
Ring-necked Duck	*	*	
Lesser Scaup		*	
Surf Scoter	*		
Bufflehead		*	
Barrow's Goldeneye	*	*	
Common Merganser	*		
Red-breasted Merganser	*		
Ruffed Grouse	*		
Dusky Grouse	*		
Pacific Loon	*		
Common Loon	*		
Pied-billed Grebe	*		
Horned Grebe		*	
Red-necked Grebe	*		
Osprey	*		
Bald Eagle	*		
Northern Harrier		*	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*		
Northern Goshawk	*		
Red-tailed Hawk		*	
Golden Eagle	*		*
American Kestrel	*	*	
Virginia Rail		*	
Sora		*	
Sandhill Crane		*	
Killdeer	*	*	
Spotted Sandpiper	*	*	
Greater Yellowlegs		*	
Wilson's Snipe	*	*	

Table 2 cont'd
Bird Associations With Biogeoclimatic Sub zones

Species	Biogeoclimatic Sub zone		
	IDFdw	IDFdk4	ESSFxv1
Wilson's Phalarope		*	
Red-necked Phalarope	*		
Gull sp.	*		
Black Tern		*	
Mourning Dove	*		
Great Horned Owl	*		
Black Swift	*		
Calliope Hummingbird	*	*	
Rufous Hummingbird	*	*	
Belted Kingfisher	*		
Lewis's Woodpecker	*		
Red-naped Sapsucker	*	*	
Downy Woodpecker	*	*	
Hairy Woodpecker	*		
Northern Flicker	*	*	
Pileated Woodpecker		*	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*		
Western Wood Pewee	*	*	
Alder Flycatcher	*		
Hammond's Flycatcher	*		
Dusky Flycatcher	*	*	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	*		
Western Kingbird	*		
Cassin's Vireo	*	*	
Warbling Vireo	*	*	
Red-eyed Vireo	*	*	
Gray Jay	*	*	
Steller's Jay	*		
Clark's Nutcracker	*		
American Crow	*	*	
Common Raven	*	*	
Tree Swallow	*	*	
Violet-green Swallow		*	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	*		
Bank Swallow	*		

Table 2 cont'd
Bird Associations With Biogeoclimatic Sub zones

Species	Biogeoclimatic Sub zone		
	IDFdw	IDFdk4	ESSFxv1
Cliff Swallow	*	*	
Barn Swallow	*	*	
Black-capped Chickadee	*	*	
Mountain Chickadee	*	*	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	*	*	
Winter Wren	*		
Marsh Wren		*	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	*		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*	*	
Mountain Bluebird	*	*	
Townsend's Solitaire	*		
Swainson's Thrush	*	*	
Hermit Thrush	*	*	
American Robin	*	*	
European Starling	*		
Cedar Waxwing	*		
Orange-crowned Warbler	*	*	
Nashville Warbler	*		
Yellow Warbler	*	*	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*	*	
Townsend's Warbler	*		
American Redstart	*		
Northern Waterthrush	*		
MacGillivray's Warbler	*		
Common Yellowthroat	*	*	
Wilson's Warbler	*	*	
Western Tanager	*	*	
Spotted Towhee	*		
Chipping Sparrow	*	*	
Vesper Sparrow	*	*	
Savannah Sparrow	*	*	
Song Sparrow	*	*	
Lincoln's Sparrow	*		
White-crowned Sparrow	*	*	
Dark-eyed Junco	*	*	

Table 2 cont'd
Bird Associations With Biogeoclimatic Sub zones

Species	Biogeoclimatic Sub zone		
	IDFdw	IDFdk4	ESSFxv1
Lazuli Bunting	*		
Red-winged Blackbird	*	*	
Western Meadowlark	*		
Rusty Blackbird		*	
Brown-headed Cowbird	*	*	
Purple Finch	*	*	
Pine Siskin	*		
Evening Grosbeak	*	*	

9.0 Breeding Bird Surveys

Standardized “breeding bird surveys” have been widely used throughout the United States and Canada to monitor trends in bird numbers. The surveys are road based transect strips consisting of point surveys located every 0.8 km apart along a pre-determined route. Charlie and Ruth Travers from Cochin Lake conducted 16 surveys along the Tatlayoko Road from 1989 – 2005. Data for 2003 was not available and the survey may not have been undertaken that year. R. Howie conducted a survey on the same route in 2006.

A total of 91 Species were recorded on all surveys with an average of 43.5 species per survey (n =17, x= 32-53). A total of 5530 individuals were recorder for an average of 325 per survey (n = 17, x= 235-425). Table _ summarizes the general results.

Chart_ indicates a slight downward trend in the number of species recorded over the duration of the count. Chart _ indicates a stronger decline in the number of individuals recorded. Both of these trends may be due to the aging of all surveyors.

The most abundant 5 species in descending order were American Robin, Swainson’s Thrush, American Crow, Chipping Sparrow and Warbling Vireo.

Table 3
Summary of Tatlayoko BBS Results
1989 – 2006

Year	Date	Species	Individuals
1989	04 July	40	373
1990	28 June	40	316
1991	09 July	49	348
1992	04 July	53	425
1993	24 June	44	270
1994	02 July	45	397
1995	24 June	53	296
1996	26 June	47	337
1997	28 June	44	312
1998	29 June	46	388
1999	04 July	39	302
2000	26 June	32	273
2001	25 June	37	312
2002	28 June	35	248
2003	no data		
2004	05 July	41	274
2005	19 June	45	424
2006	16 June	51	233
Mean Survey Date	27 June		
Range (x)		32-53	235-425
Avg. # Species		43.5	
Avg. species/stop		0.86	
Total Individuals			5530
Avg. Individuals			325
Avg. individuals/stop			6.5

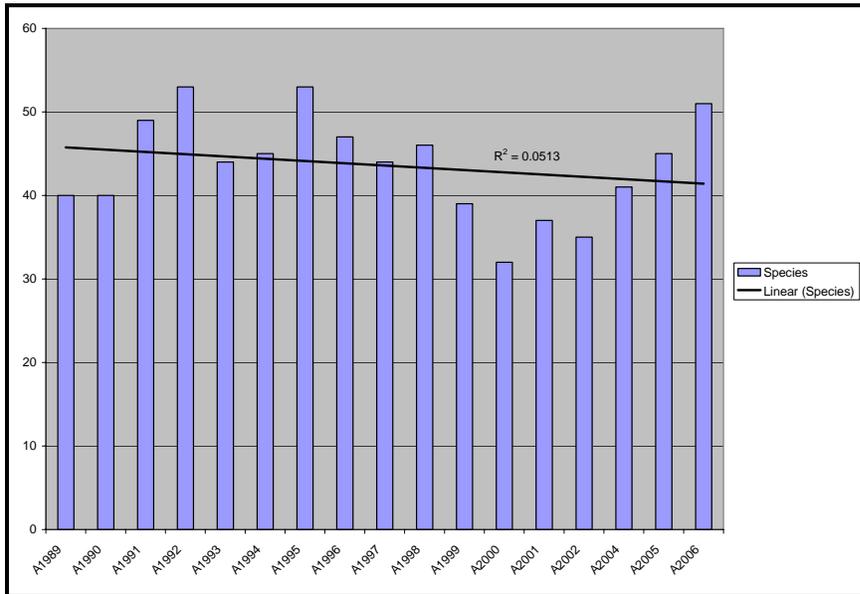


Chart 1 Number of species recorded on Tatlayoko BBS 1989 – 2006

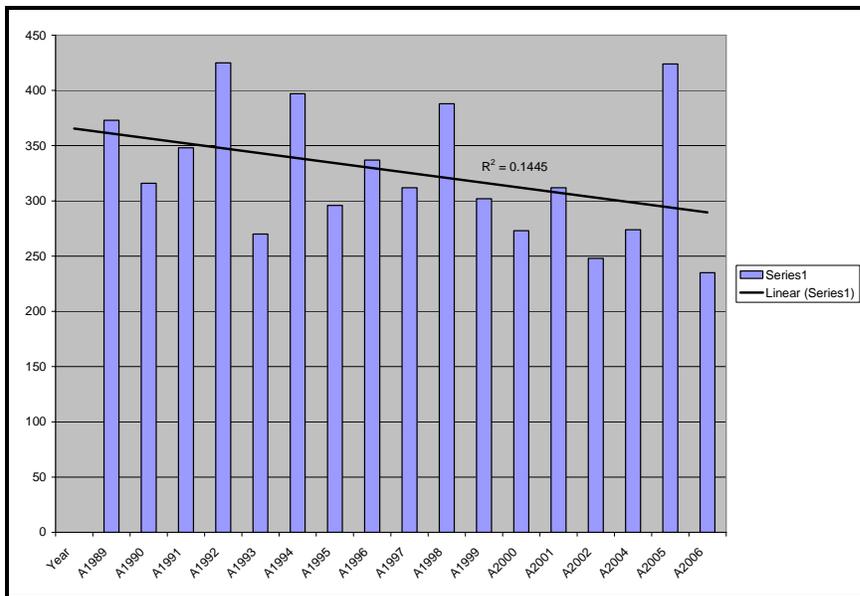


Chart 2 Number of individuals recorded on Tatlayoko BBS 1989 - 2006

Table 4
Individual Species Summaries
Tatlayoko BBS Route
1989-2006

Species	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	Total
Canada Goose				2	2			1			18				2		4	29
Mallard				1														1
Lesser Scaup														1				1
Barrow's Goldeneye		1		2	3		1		6				2					15
Ruffed Grouse		1	2	1			1				1						2	8
Common Loon	1		2			1	2			1		1	3		2			13
Osprey						1	1	1								1	1	5
Bald Eagle												1						1
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1				1											2
Red-tailed Hawk						1												1
American Kestrel						1	2		2	1	4			2				12
Sora								1										1
Killdeer	1	2		3	5	3	3	2		4		1	2			1	2	29
Solitary Sandpiper											1		1			2		4
Spotted Sandpiper							1										1	2
Wilson's Snipe	2	3	7	6	1	8	17	6	8	13	14	5	14	6	13	3		126
Herring Gull				4											3			7
Mourning Dove		1	1			3			1									6
Great Horned Owl				1														1
Black Swift						1												1
Rufous Hummingbird	2	1	1				2									1		7
Belted Kingfisher							2		1	1								4
Red-naped Sapsucker	1	2	3	7	2	3	3	4	3	4	2		1	1	3	6	4	49
Downy Woodpecker			1	1	1		1	1		1					1		1	8
Hairy Woodpecker	7	3	2	1	1	2		1	1	2	1	3		2				26
N. Flicker	11	14	7	10	4	8	5	14	16	8	5	3	5	8	11	9	9	147

Pileated Woodpecker	1		1	4	1	1	2			6	2		1		1			20
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	1	4	1	2		2	1	1	2			1			1		17
Western Wood Pewee		4	4	3	2	2	1	4	3	2	1					3		29
Alder Flycatcher		1														2	1	4
Willow Flycatcher	3						1			1				1				6
Hammond's Flycatcher			3	4	4	2	2	7		2		2	1	4	2	8	1	42
Dusky Flycatcher	1	10	3	3	9	3	2	5	6	11		4	2	5	4	13	3	84
Pacific-slope Flycatcher			1				2	1		1								5
Say's Phoebe														1				1
Cassin's Vireo			2	1		2	1	1	1	3	2			1	3	1		18
Warbling Vireo	7	15	14	13	8	12	16	17	6	32	18	24	30	17	18	32	22	301
Red-eyed Vireo																1		1
Gray Jay	1		1						6	3		1						12
American Crow	30	21	27	62	16	57	24	28	26	23	24	27	31	14	46	9	7	472
Common Raven	6			3	2	9	5	8	3	7	9	16	23	25	8	9	2	135
Tree Swallow	12	9	16	14	10	11	6	6	1	3	3	6		3	3	3	12	118
N. R. winged Swallow			6	8	6		3	1	2			1	7					34
Bank Swallow	8	6	20	12	4			5	4			3						62
Cliff Swallow		1	6	6	3		10	4	8	5	16		1	1	1		1	63
Barn Swallow	2		3	2			1				1			1	2		3	15
Black-capped Chickadee	8		5	6		8		2	1	8	3	2	8	8	4	6		69
Mountain Chickadee	1	10	11	5	10		3	1	9	4	8	6	3	2	14	25	4	116
Red-breasted Nuthatch	15	11	7		1	7	2		2			1	1	1	2	9	3	62
Rock Wren															1			1
Golden-crowned Kinglet																3	1	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	2	1	2	7	7	6	8	4	3	3	3	1	6		9	5	78
Western Bluebird				1														1
Mountain Bluebird		1	1		1						1	1	1				2	8
Townsend's Solitaire		4	5	4	1	2	5	1	3	2	1		1	6	4	1	2	42
Veery		1	4	3	1	3	1	3	4	5				1	1			27
Swainson's Thrush	55	25	53	54	30	58	33	55	57	51	39	39	25	39	21	52	10	696
Hermit Thrush	11	6	2	6	2	3	2	1	1	5			1		5	5	16	66

American Robin	44	52	34	58	32	54	30	55	45	61	43	47	58	42	45	47	34	781
Varied Thrush	7							1										8
European Starling	1	7		1	3	1	9	2	1	2	4	11	6				7	55
Cedar Waxwing				3				1								5	6	15
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	6	5	2	5	5	2	2	4	1	2			6	1	7	2	52
Nashville Warbler								1									1	2
Yellow Warbler	3		4	3	1	2	2	1	2	2			1	1		12	6	40
Yellow-rumped Warbler	16	11	8	21	19	20	16	20	10	24	3	12	21	9	17	37	11	275
Townsend's Warbler																12	1	13
American Redstart		1								4	2		1	1	1	8		18
Northern Waterthrush	17	8	4	8	11	6	7	11	7	7	8	5	4	5	4	8	3	123
MacGillivray's Warbler				4	1	1	1	1		3	2		3	2	1	2		21
Common Yellowthroat																	1	1
Wilson's Warbler	1		2	1	1	7		3	1				1			1	1	19
West. Tanager			2	5	3	5	6	8	7	15	7	5	9	4	6	16	12	110
Spotted Towhee			1														1	2
Chipping Sparrow	32	38	37	15	25	43	11	26	21	5	25	20	11	8	5	10	9	341
Vesper Sparrow		1	1	2	2	2	4		2		1	1			1		1	18
Savannah Sparrow	7	9	3	3	3	4	2	2	1	3	4			1	1	5	1	49
Song Sparrow	2							2		3	3	7			1	1	2	21
White-crowned Sparrow	6	8	1	4	1	3	4	1	2	1				1				32
Dark-eyed Junco	25	10	16	23	12	16	19	14	15	37	15	11	22	18	14	19	2	288
Lazuli Bunting																	1	1
Red-winged Blackbird									3	4					1	3	2	13
Western Meadowlark	3	3	2	4	5	1	2		4	2		2	1				1	30
Brewer's Blackbird						1		6	1		2							10
Rusty Blackbird																	4	4
Brown-headed Cowbird		2	1		7							2			1		1	14

Purple Finch				3		1	1									1	6
Red Crossbill		2														10	12
White-winged Crossbill	2									3							5
Pine Siskin	8			3		7	3			1		8	2	1	3	2	38
Evening Grosbeak				6			4										10

10.0 Species of Conservation Concern Found

Only 2 species listed as being of conservation concern were found during the 2006 surveys. The British Columbia Conservation Data Centre has assigned the Lewis's Woodpecker a red-listed status and the Sandhill Crane has been assigned as blue-listed.

The Lewis's Woodpecker was using Nature Conservancy property at Tatlayoko Ranch but the status of this species is uncertain. While it is likely that it was a vagrant as opposed to being a rare local breeder, it is of interest that the NCC property attracted the bird. The open forest coniferous forest structure and the open field margins are similar in structure to typical habitat for this species within its known range. The Black Cottonwood habitat at the south end of the Tatlayoko Ranch may attract this woodpecker but the area was not searched with sufficient intensity to prove use.

Sandhill Cranes are known breeders across the Chilcotin Plateau and it appears as if land owned by the NCC in the Skinner Meadows area forms part of the home range for at least one pair of birds.

11.0 Role of Ranch Properties

The bird conservation values of the properties owned by the NCC might initially be viewed in relation to the seasonal status of various bird species. The values are in terms of providing habitat for breeding and year round maintenance for resident species, habitat for migrant species only, habitat for migrant summer breeding species and habitat for wintering species that migrate from other locations.

In the aggregate, the properties owned in the Homathko River valley and those in the middle portions of the Skinner Creek drainage provide a sample of several major habitat types present in the general area. A detailed comparison of those habitats within NCC properties versus all habitats present in the area in order to determine the degree of representation was not undertaken as part of the current study.

The following lists of birds based on their expected seasonal occurrence and available habitat on NCC properties is somewhat speculative and relies not only on sightings by the author during the current study but on his knowledge of what may occur in the area and literature range descriptions. The lists will not include every possible species that occur in the area due to a lack of suitable habitat for some species within the NCC properties. Those species marked with a * were recorded in the general area in 2006.

11.1 Resident Species

The following 32 species are those considered to most likely occur on a year round basis within lands owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada in the Tatlayoko area. Individuals of some of these species may migrate from the area or populations will be subject to seasonal variations in numbers due to changes in food supply or other factors. Other species may only use the NCC properties for part of the year while spending other times in different habitats not available within the properties. The list should be considered as a minimum.

20 (62%) of the estimated resident species of the area were recorded within NCC properties during the 2006 survey period. Other species will undoubtedly be recorded within the properties over time.

Table 5
Resident Species
Nature Conservancy of Canada Properties
Tatlayoko Area

Species	2006
Ruffed grouse	*
Spruce Grouse	
Dusky Grouse	*
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*
Northern Goshawk	*
Merlin	
Great Horned Owl	*
Northern Pygmy Owl	
Great Gray Owl	
Boreal Owl	*
Northern Saw-whet Owl	
Downy Woodpecker	*
Hairy Woodpecker	*
Three-toed Woodpecker	
Black-backed Woodpecker	
Pileated Woodpecker	*
Gray Jay	*
Steller's Jay	*
Clark's Nutcracker	*
Common Raven	*
Black-capped Chickadee	*
Mountain Chickadee	*
Boreal Chickadee	*
Red-breasted Nuthatch	*
Brown Creeper	
American Dipper	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	*
Pine Grosbeak	
Red Crossbill	
White-winged Crossbill	
Pine Siskin	*
Evening Grosbeak	*

11.2 Summer Visitors

In addition to all of the resident birds, the following 80 species can be expected during the summer breeding season. They arrive during spring migration and depart during fall migration. Some may forage within or over the NCC properties but may not nest within the boundaries (eg. Rough-winged Swallow). Again, the list should be considered as a minimum.

Table 6 Summer Visitors Nature Conservancy of Canada Properties Tatlayoko Area	
Species	2006
Canada Goose	*
Mallard	*
Green-winged Teal	*
Barrow's Goldeneye	*
Common Merganser	*
Bald Eagle	*
Northern Harrier	*
Red-tailed Hawk	*
American Kestrel	*
Virginia Rail	*
Sora	*
Sandhill Crane	*
Killdeer	*
Spotted Sandpiper	*
Wilson's Snipe	*
Wilson's Phalarope	*
Black Swift	*
Vaux's Swift	
Calliope Hummingbird	*
Rufous Hummingbird	*
Belted Kingfisher	*
Red-naped Sapsucker	*
Northern Flicker	*
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*
Western Wood Pewee	*
Alder Flycatcher	*
Hammond's Flycatcher	*
Dusky Flycatcher	*
Cassin's Vireo	*

Table 6 cont'd
Summer Visitors
 Nature Conservancy of Canada Properties
 Tatlayoko Area

Species	2006
Warbling Vireo	*
Red-eyed Vireo	*
American Crow	*
Tree Swallow	*
Violet Green Swallow	*
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	*
Bank swallow	*
Cliff Swallow	*
Barn Swallow	*
Winter Wren	*
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*
Mountain Bluebird	*
Townsend's Solitaire	*
Hermit Thrush	*
Swainson's Thrush	*
Varied Thrush	*
American Robin	*
European Starling	*
Cedar Waxwing	*
Orange-crowned Warbler	*
Yellow Warbler	*
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*
Townsend's Warbler	*
American Redstart	*
Northern Waterthrush	*
MacGillivray's Warbler	*
Wilson's Warbler	*
Western Tanager	*
Spotted Towhee	*
Chipping Sparrow	*
Vesper Sparrow	*
Savannah Sparrow	*

Table 6 cont'd Summer Visitors Nature Conservancy of Canada Properties Tatlayoko Area	
Species	2006
Song Sparrow	*
Lincoln's Sparrow	*
Dark-eyed Junco	*
Lazuli Bunting	*
Redwinged Blackbird	*
Brewer's Blackbird	
Rusty Blackbird	*
Western Meadowlark	*
Brown-headed Cowbird	*
Purple Finch	*

78 (97%) of the expected summer visitors were recorded within NCC properties during the 2006 survey period.

11.3 Migratory Species

All of the summer resident species listed in the previous table are migratory and can be expected to occur during the spring and fall migration periods. In addition, other migrants that do not remain to breed in the Tatlayoko could pass through NCC properties. Such a list would include regular migrants and would increase with time as unpredictable vagrants are observed over a number of years of recording birds in the area. The following additional 38 species could occur during the migration period and those marked with an * include species seen during spring migration or observed during the fall banding station operation.

21 (55%) of these additional potential migrants were recorded within NCC properties during the 2006 surveys.

Table 7
 Additional Migrant Species
 Nature Conservancy of Canada Properties
 Tatlayoko Area

Species	2006
Trumpeter Swan	
Tundra Swan	
American Wigeon	*
Northern Shoveler	*
Northern Pintail	
Ring-necked Duck	*
Lesser Scaup	*
Bufflehead	*
Pied-billed Grebe	*
Horned Grebe	*
Great Blue Heron	
Peregrine Falcon	
Solitary Sandpiper	
Greater Yellowlegs	
Lesser Yellowlegs	
Pectoral Sandpiper	
Dunlin	*
Red-necked Phalarope	*
Herring Gull	
Mourning Dove	*

Table 7 cont'd
 Additional Migrant Species
 Nature Conservancy of Canada Properties
 Tatlayoko Area

Species	2006
Common Nighthawk	
Lewis's Woodpecker	*
Least Flycatcher	*
Western Kingbird	*
Northern Shrike	*
Marsh Wren	
Bohemian Waxwing	*
Tennessee Warbler	
Magnolia Warbler	*
Blackpoll Warbler	*
White-throated Sparrow	*
White-crowned Sparrow	*
Golden-crowned Sparrow	*
Yellow-headed Blackbird	*
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	
Cassin's Finch	
Common Redpoll	
Hoary Redpoll	

11.4 Winter Visitors

In addition to the resident birds that are present year round, a number of species could occur in the Tatlayoko area as visitors during the winter. Some of these may also be seen during migration. The following table lists 8 additional winter visitors that could use NCC properties and except for Bohemian Waxwing, are not included in any other category in previous tables.

Table 8 Potential Winter Visitors Nature Conservancy of Canada Properties Tatlayoko Area	
Species	
	Rough-legged Hawk
	Snowy Owl
	Northern Hawk Owl
	Bohemian Waxwing
	American Tree Sparrow
	Snow Bunting
	Common Redpoll
	Hoary Redpoll

11.5 Species of Conservation Concern

One important role often played by properties bought for conservation purposes is the provision of habitat for designated species at risk. In terms of birds, it appears as if NCC properties in the Tatlayoko area are providing this valuable function for the Sandhill Crane only. It is not clear just how the cranes are using the properties in the Skinner Meadows area, but the periodic presence of the birds there during the summer as reported by local NCC staff indicate the potential for breeding by one or two pairs.

Cranes do not necessarily show site fidelity for breeding in one particular wetland if there is a complex system available. Their fidelity is to the system and they may shift nesting locations over the years. Regardless of whether nesting is documented on NCC property, the provision of foraging habitat is an important function that this area will play in the conservation of this race of Sandhill Crane which nests across the Chilcotin Plateau.

12.0 Conclusions

Preliminary surveys suggest that properties owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada in the Tatlayoko valley and surroundings contain diverse habitats that provide benefits to a wide, representative cross section of the bird species that utilize the area. A very high percentage of the anticipated summer visitors to the area were recorded within NCC properties during the brief 2006 survey period and more than 50% of year round residents or additional migrants were also recorded within the properties. As sightings continue over the years, the list of species found within the NCC lands will undoubtedly increase.

The foregoing percentages reflect the diversity of species using the NCC properties. It is more challenging to determine the percentage of the local area populations of birds that utilize the properties. In part, this will relate to the volume of different habitats protected within NCC properties compared to volumes within a determined area outside of the properties. It is apparent that there is a spring migration corridor up the Tatlayoko Valley and NCC properties are strategically located to attract birds during that time period. Some species may not find suitable nesting habitat within the properties, but benefit from the ability to rest and forage during the stressful migration period.

While there are some wetlands within NCC properties, they are relatively small and likely have greater appeal to a diversity of wetland associated species as opposed to large numbers of birds such as waterfowl or shorebirds. Terrestrial habitats are more extensive and diverse and therefore benefit a larger number of species and individuals. However, it is this diversity of habitats that add to the value of the properties.

There appears to be limited opportunity to contribute to the conservation of bird species currently considered at risk in BC except for summer habitat for Sandhill Cranes.

13.0 Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to Andrew Harcombe for suggesting this project and providing funding from the Nature Conservancy of Canada. He provided orientation, guidance and bird observations to enhance the project considerably.

Peter and Roma Shaughnessy, caretakers for the NCC properties were invaluable in providing local guidance and bird information based on years of occupancy in the valley.

Fritz Mueller, former property caretaker for NCC, was very helpful in the provision of local knowledge, hospitality and allowing access through his property in order to facilitate surveys. Cedar Mueller and her husband Rod were friendly dinner hosts and freely gave of their local knowledge.

Charlie and Ruth Travers conducted breeding bird surveys along the Tatlayoko valley for 16 years and have amassed much knowledge of birds in the area. They were gracious hosts and assisted in field orientation and enthusiastic sharing of their knowledge.

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Respectfully submitted

R. Richard Howie RP Bio

