

A SUMMARY OF FIELD NOTES ON BIRDS OBSERVED IN KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK FROM
JANUARY 1, 1980 to DECEMBER 31, 1980

By Larry Halverson

The following are miscellaneous observations made on a casual basis. Very little field work was done during the peak spring migration and no owling after dark was conducted.

A total of 67 species were observed.

Canada Goose

May 15 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - 1 pair

Mallard

April 16 - Sewage Lagoon - 1 pair

May 13 - Sewage Lagoon - 1 pair

August 28 - Sora Pond - 2 females

August 30 - Sora Pond - 11

Green-winged Teal

September 16 - Sora Pond - 3 female (ID not 100%)

October 11 - Sora Pond - 2

Blue-winged Teal

July 2 - Sewage Lagoon - 1 pair feeding

Northern Shoveler

August 28 - Sora Pond - 3

American Widgeon

July 3 - Sewage Lagoon - 1 pair and 2 young

August 28 - Sora Pond - 16

October 11 - Sora Pond - 3

Lesser Scaup

May 15 - Settler's Beaver Pond - 1 female

May 21 - Mt. Wardle Spring - possible nest, ID not 100%

Red-breasted Mergansers

April 23 - Sewage Lagoon - 2 female

Goshawk

May 15 - Settler's Beaver Pond - one chasing Kingfisher

Sharp-shinned Hawk

July 12 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - 1 pair (ID not 100%)

October 22 - Kootenay Crossing Mile 4 Dump - 1 adult chasing magpies

Red-tailed Hawk

May 21 - Cobb Lake Trail - 1 soaring
 August 23 - Hwy. 93 - 1 light phase flew up from meridian
 September 16 - Kootenay Crossing Pasture - one flying

Golden Eagle

January 8 - Berland Fire Road - 1 adult soaring
 June 13 - Kindersley Sinclair Pass - 1 soaring
 October 24 - Kootenay Crossing Mile 4 Dump - 2 and possibly 3 near
 elk carcass.

Osprey

May 15 - Settler's Beaver Pond - one fishing

American Kestrel

August 23 - Redstreak Benches - 1 on top of Douglas Fir
 September 16 - Kootenay Crossing Pasture - 2 flying

Spruce Grouse

August 23 - Tumbling Creek Trail - 1 male

Ruffed Grouse

May 15 - Settler's Beaver Pond - heard
 May 21 - Redstreak Creek - heard
 December 8 - Redstreak Administration Area - 1 female picking rocks on road
 December 11 - Administration Building - 1 female sitting in high cranberry
 bush eating berries

American Coot

August 28 - Sora Pond - 5 (3 immatures)
 September 16 - Sora Pond - 4 (3 immatures)

Spotted Sandpiper

July 12 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - one

Solitary Sandpiper

August 9 - Kootenay River Flats - 1 feeding
 August 21 - Sewage Lagoon - 1 feeding
 August 28 - Kootenay Pond - 2

Bonaparte's Gull

August 28 - Kootenay Pond - 1 immature

Common Nighthawk

Many seen feeding during summer evenings over Redstreak Campground

Belted Kingfisher

May 15 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - 1 pair chasing 2 others

August 30 - Sora Pond - 1 male

Common Flicker (Red-shafted)

April 22 - Con. Corps Bridge, Kootenay River - 1

May 13 - Redstreak Campground Theatre - one dead

August 9 - Kootenay River Flats - one on clay bank

September 16 - North of Nixon Creek - 2 along highway

Pileated Woodpecker

January 3 - Redstreak Campground - 1 female perched on top of D.F. - calling

April 22 - E. Kootenay Fire Road - mixed forest

August 21 - Sewage Lagoon - heard

October 23 - Redstreak Campground - one

Hairy Woodpecker

January 10 - Redstreak Benches - 1 female feeding on lodgepole pine.

May 13 - Redstreak Campground - 2 male (fighting)

October 23 - Redstreak Campground - 2 feeding

October 24 - Redstreak Campground - 1 male

Downy Woodpecker

January 10 - Redstreak Benches - 1 male (ID not 100%)

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker

January 2 - Redstreak Benches - 1 female feeding in lodgepole pine

January 10 - Redstreak Benches - 1 male and 2 female feeding on pine bark beetle

January 18 - Redstreak Benches - 1 male feeding

March 5 - Redstreak Campground - 1 male feeding, L.P.

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker

January 10 - Redstreak Benches - 1 female feeding on L.P. pine

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker continued

February 6 - Hector Gorge Fire Road - 1 female feeding on spruce

April 23 - Sewage Lagoon - 1 female feeding in dead L.P. pine

November 3 - Redstreak Campground - 1 female feeding on D.F. branch on ground

Eastern Kingbird

August 30 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - 1 perched on snag in pond

Flycatcher sp.

August 21 - Sewage Lagoon - 2 Dusky or Hammond's feeding, dropping down from fence

Western Wood Peewee

August 23 - Settler's Beaver Pond - 1 (ID not 100%)

Violet-green Swallow

April 16 - Redwall Fault - soaring

April 22 - Kootenay River Con. Corps Bridge

Tree Swallow

May 15 - Settler's Beaver Pond - feeding

Rough-winged Swallow

August 9 - Kootenay River Flats - Flying over water

Barn Swallow

July 12 - Marble Canyon Theatre - nesting

August 23 - Aquacourt

Cliff Swallow

July 2 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - preening

August 30 - Sora Pond - many soaring over meadow

Boreal Chickadee

July 2 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - flock
 August 23 - Settler's Beaver Pond - 2 thick spruce forest

Red-breasted Nuthatch

January 2 - Redstreak Benches - with Mt. Chickadees in Douglas Fir forest
 January 3 - Redstreak Campground - one
 January 8 - Berland Fire Road
 May 13 - Sewage Lagoon - 1 investigating hole in aspen (possible nest site)
 August 21 - Sewage Lagoon - many - waters edge

Brown Creeper

January 3 - Redstreak Campground - 1 typical feeding behaviour on Douglas fir
 January 8 - Redstreak Benches - 1 feeding on same tree as Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker
 October 24 - Redstreak Campground
 November 3 - Redstreak Campground - 1 feeding on beetle-infested pine

Dipper

May 20 - McKay Creek - 2
 June 13 - Sinclair Creek Trail - 1

American Robin

March 5 - Administration Building - 1
 July 12 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - feeding along shore
 August 14 - Fireweed Trail - large flock
 September 16 - Kootenay Pond #2 - small flocks

Varied Thrush

August 30 - Settler's Beaver Pond - one thick spruce
 September 16 - Kootenay Pond #2 - 1 male on top of Douglas Fir
 November 3 - Redstreak Campground - one in D.F. forest

Mountain Bluebird

May 26 - Administration Building - 1 male

Townsend's Solitaire

February 5 - Administration Building - one
 March 4 - Administration Building - one
 December 29 - Valley View Picnic Area - one flying between tree tops.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

May 20 - McKay Creek - flocking with B.C. Chickadees
 July 12 - Marble Canyon Campground - 1 female

Bohemian Waxwings

March 5 - Redstreak Campground - 27 perched on top of Douglas Fir
 July 12 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - flock feeding on insects over water
 August 14 - Fireweed Trail - flock with immatures
 December 29 - Valley View Picnic Area - small flock on top of Douglas Fir

Cedar Waxwing

July 12 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - 1 adult

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)

May 13 - Redstreak Campground - 1 male singing
 May 21 - Redstreak Creek - mixed forest
 July 12 - Marble Canyon Campground - 1 male
 August 30 - Sora Pond - flock (fall plumage)

Townsend's Warbler

May 20 - McKay Creek - 1 male, thick spruce forest

Common Yellowthroat

July 2 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - 1 male

Brown-headed Cowbird

July 2 - Settler's Beaver Ponds

Evening Grosbeak

July 12 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - 1 male, light green bill

Pine Grosbeak

October 28 - Sinclair Creek - flock, spruce forest

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

June 13 - Sinclair-Kindersley Pass - few feeding along edges of snow patches

Pine Siskin

- July 12 - Marble Canyon Campground - flock feeding on caterpillars in
sub-alpine fir
 August 9 - Kootenay River Flats - flock feeding seed heads
 August 21 - Sewage Lagoon - large flock
 August 23 - Administration Building - large flock

White-winged Crossbill

- August 23 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - small flock, 1 pair preening on
top of Douglas Fir
 October 7 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - flock

Crossbill sp.

- November 3 - Redstreak Campground - flock feeding
 December 15 - Admin. area - flock feeding

Savannah Sparrow

- August 23 - Kootenay River Flats - 1 pair (grass habitat)

Dark-eyed Junco

- March 17 - Redstreak Campground
 April 23 - Sewage Lagoon - mixed forest
 May 13 - Redstreak Benches - buzzing sound
 July 12 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - eating a moth
 August 14 - Fireweed Trail
 August 23 - Kootenay Crossing Pasture
 December 18 - Administration Building - 1 on road

Chipping Sparrow

- May 16 - Valley View Trail - singing
 July 12 - Marble Canyon Campground - feeding on ground
 August 21 - Sewage Lagoon

Song Sparrow

- June 13 - Sinclair Creek Trail - 1 singing
 July 2 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - 1 singing on top of spruce
 August 23 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - pond edge in lower spruce branches

Snow Bunting

- October 22 - Mt. Harkin sign - flock along highway
 October 22 - Old Airport - flock
 October 22 - Kootenay Crossing Mile 4 Dump - large flock

Gray Jay

January 2 - Redstreak Benches - 3 in Douglas Fir forest
 January 11 - McKay Creek - 5 mixed forest
 March 5 - Redstreak Campground - 6
 May 13 - Redstreak Benches - 1
 July 2 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - 4
 July 12 - Marble Canyon

Steller's Jay

October 23 - Redstreak Campground - one flying
 November 3 - Redstreak Campground - one

Black-billed Magpie

March 5 - Redstreak Campground - heard
 October 21 - Kootenay Crossing Mile 4 Dump - many feeding on elk carcass

Common Raven

January 2 - Redstreak Benches - heard
 January 3 - Redstreak Campground - heard
 January 11 - West Gate - 1 flying 23 mph
 August 21 - Sewage Lagoon - heard
 August 23 - Old Air Strip
 August 30 - Sora Pond - 5
 October 21 - Kootenay Crossing Mile 4 Dump - large flock feeding on elk

Clark's Nutcracker

March 5 - Redstreak Campground - 2
 July 12 - Marble Canyon
 August 23 - Upper Tumbling Creek
 November 3 - Redstreak Campground - large flocks

Black-capped Chickadee

February 6 - Hector Gorge Fire Road
 March 5 - Redstreak Campground

Mt. Chickadee

January 2 - Redstreak Benches - with R.B. Nuthatch in Douglas Fir forest
 January 3 - Redstreak Campground - loose flock
 January 8 - Berland Fire Road - loose flock with R.B. Nuthatches
 March 5 - Redstreak Campground