

A SUMMARY OF FIELD NOTES ON BIRDS OBSERVED IN KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK FROM
JANUARY 1, 1981 TO DECEMBER 31, 1981

By Larry Halverson

As in 1980 most of these observations were made on a casual basis. However, they do include the results from the breeding bird survey Route No. 116 conducted in Kootenay. This was the first year for this survey. A separate report describing the stop habitats and observations is filed with the Canadian Wildlife Service.

A total of 84 species were observed.

Some worth noting include:

Red-necked Grebe - positively identified
Redhead - First recorded sighting
Rough-legged Hawk - positively identified
Great Gray Owl - Road Kill.

Common Loon

May 12 - Dare Pond - 1

Red-necked Grebe

May 12 - Dare Pond - 3 positively identified, which removes it from the hypothetical status

Horned Grebe

May 13 - Sora Pond - 1 pair

Mallard

April 3 - Kootenay River Flats - 3 pair
May 1 - Settler's Beaver Ponds - 2 pair
May 4 - Sora Pond - 1 pair
May 12 - Dare Pond
May 13 - Kootenay Pond #2 - 5
May 24 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - 1 pair
Oct. 26 - Sora Pond - 12 ♀, 3 ♂
Oct. 27 - Kootenay Pond - 2 ♀, 1 ♂

Pintail

April 3 - Kootenay River Flats - 1 ♂ with mallards

Green-winged Teal

May 4 - Sora Pond - 1 ♂, 2 ♀ preening
May 12 - Dare Pond
May 13 - Sora Pond

Blue-winged Teal

May 4 - Sora Pond - 1 ♂
May 12 - Dare Pond - 20
May 13 - Kootenay Pond #2 - 7
May 24 - Vermilion Crossing - 1 pair

American Widgeon

Oct. 26 - Sora Pond - ♀

Ring-necked Duck

May 4 - Sora Pond - 4 ♂, 1 ♀
 May 13 - W. Kootenay Fire Raod - 5 ♂, 3 ♀
 May 13 - Sora Pond - 2 pair

Lesser Scaup

Oct. 7 - Sora Pond - 5 ♀, 1 ♂

Common Goldeneye

May 4 - Kootenay Pond - 1 ♂, immature

Barron's Goldeneye

May 4 - Kootenay Pond - 1 pair (♂ swimming after ♀)
 May 13 - Kootenay Pond #2 - 6

Bufflehead

May 4 - Kootenay Pond - 2 pair
 May 12 - Dare Pond - 1 pair
 May 13 - Sora Pond - 1 pair
 Oct. 26 - Sora Pond - 3 ♂, 2 ♀
 Oct. 26 - Kootenay Pond - 4 ♂

Redhead

Oct. 7 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - 1 ♂ head rounded, Golden eye-blue bill,
 Breast dark brown. First recorded for Kootenay National Park
 sighting

Common Merganser

Oct. 27 - Dog Lake - 7 ♀ south end feeding

Red-tailed Hawk

March 27 - Nixon Creek Trail - 1 light phase soaring
 April 3 - McLeod Meadows - 1
 May 4 - Sinclair Pass - 1 perched
 May 4 - Crook's Meadows - 1 light phase screaming
 May 4 - Sora Pond - 1 light phase
 July 9 - Kootenay River Picnic Site - 1
 July 9 - Dolly Varden - 1
 July 20 - Crook's Meadows - 1

Rough-legged Hawk

Sept 29 - Kootenay River Flats - 1 feeding, hovering over road allowance.
 (Light phase - white rump patch, dark wing spots and chest band).
 This sighting removes this species from hypothetical to rare.

Bald Eagle

Oct. 27 - Dog Lake - 1 adult soaring low over north end (Brook trout spawning)

American Kestrel

May 1 - Valley View Trail - 1 perched on top of Douglas Fir

Blue Grouse

June ? - Nipika - 1 ♀ with 3 chicks

Spruce Grouse

Nov. 5 - Paint Pots - 1 ♂ picking gravel from trail

Ruffed Grouse

March 18 - Redstreak Campground - 1
 April 30 - Redstreak - heard
 May 1 - Settler's Beaver Pond - 4 heard
 May 4 - Sora Pond - 1 drumming
 Oct. 26 - E. Kootenay Fire Road - ♀

White-tailed Ptarmigan

Aug. 21 - Floe Lake - flock

American Coot

May 4 - Sora Pond - 3
 May 12 - Dare Pond - 8
 May 13 - Sora Pond - few
 Oct. 7 - Sora Pond - few

Killdeer

May 4 - Sora Pond - 2
 May 13 - Sora Pond - 2
 July 9 - Kootenay River Flats - 1

Spotted Sandpiper

May 24 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - 2

Northern Phalarope

May 12 - Dare Pond - 1 pair

Bonaparte's Gull

Oct. 26 - Dare Pond - 1 winter plumage

Rock Dove

April 23 - Marble Canyon Campground Hwy. - 1 with gray band on right leg.

Morning Dove

April 23 - Numa Flats - 1 walking Hwy. edge.

May 13 - Kootenay Pond - 1

Barred Owl

July 8 - Compound - Heard only

Great Gray Owl

Aug. 11 - Hwy. near Dare Fire Road - road kill

Common Nighthawk

July - Aug. - Redstreak - common during evenings

Belted Kingfisher

Oct. 27 - Kootenay Pond - 1 ♂ fishing

Common Flicker (Red-Shafted)

Mar. 10 - Redstreak Campground - 1 ♂ feeding

April 1 - Redstreak - 2

April 27 - Redstreak - 1

May 1 - Settler's Beaver Pond - heard only

May 4 - Kootenay River Flats - heard only

May 4 - Kootenay Pond - heard only

May 4 - Sora Pond - 1 ♂

May 4 - Continental Divide - heard only

May 13 Sora Pond - 1 pair nesting in Douglas Fir snag

July 9 - Kootenay Valley Picnic site - airport, 9

July 20 - Kootenay River Flats - 1

Pileated Woodpecker

Mar. 10 - Redstreak Campground - 1 flying and calling
April 30 - Redstreak - 1
May 4 - Crook's Meadow - 1 flying

Hairy Woodpecker

Mar. 10 - Redstreak Campground - 1 ♀ feeding in Lodge Pole Pine
Mar. 18 - Redstreak - 1 ♂ feeding

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker

July 16 - Redstreak-Admin. area - 3
Dec. 3 - Redstreak Benches - 1 ♀ feeding in Lodge Pole Pine

Northern Three-toed Woodpecker

Oct. 26 - Dare Pond - 1 ♂ feeding in dead spruce

Hammond's Flycatcher

June 15 - Sinclair Canyon - heard 1
June 15 - Runaway lane - heard 1
June 15 - Kimpton Creek Trail head - heard 1
July 9 - Airport - heard 1

} ID not 100%

Violet-green Swallow

May 1 - Compound - 1 soaring
May 4 - Sora Pond - few soaring
May 24 - Vermilion Crossing Pond

Rough-winged Swallow

May 4 - Kootenay River Flats - 3 (2 chasing each other)
May 4 - Sora Pond - Soaring
June 15 - Aquacourt - 2
July 9 - Kootenay River Flats - 3

Barn Swallow

May 4 - West Gate - 1
May 4 - Kootenay Crossing - few flying
June 15 - West Gate 1
July 9 - McLeod Meadows - 3

Cliff Swallow

July - Kootenay Crossing Bridge - Nesting Colony

Gray Jay

Jan. 6 - Compound 2
 Jan. 6 - Crook's Meadow - 5
 Jan. 6 - Kootenay Crossing - 2 feeding on Bear Berries
 Mar. 10 - Redstreak Campground - 3
 May 4 - Kootenay Pond - 1
 Oct. 26 - Dare Pond - 3

Steller's Jay

Mar. 10 - Redstreak Campground - 1 in Lodge Pole Pine

Black-billed Magpie

Jan. 6 - Hector Gorge - 1

Common Raven

Jan. 6 - Banff/Windermere Parkway (Westgate to Hector Gorge) - 5
 Mar. 10 - Redstreak Campground - heard
 May 4 - Kootenay Pond - 1 flying
 May 24 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - 1 feeding on fish
 June 15 - Sinclair Canyon - 3

Clark's Nutcracker

Jan. 6 - Crook's Meadow - 1
 March 10 - Redstreak Campground - heard only
 March 18 - Redstreak Campground - heard only
 May 1 - Settler's Road Jct. - 1
 July 28 - Sinclair Ridge - 1

Black-capped Chickadee

Feb. 9 - Redstreak - singing
 June 15 - Sinclair Canyon - 3
 July 20 - Settler's Beaver Ponds

Mountain Chickadee

April 27 - Redstreak - 1

Boreal Chickadee

Oct. 26 - Dare Pond - Small flock in Spruce

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Mar. 10 - Redstreak Campground - 6 feeding in Douglas Fir, Buzzing sound

Mar. 18 - Redstreak - Many singing - 1 excavating hole in lamp standard

April 27 - Redstreak - 1 hammering on hole in Douglas Fir

May 1 - Redstreak - 1 excavating hole

May 4 - Sora Pond - 1

American Dipper

April 30 - Iron Gates Canyon - 1 pair carrying nesting material

June 15 - Iron Gates - 2

June - Marble Canyon - 1 pair nesting below 6th bridge

Winter Wren

April 30 - Iron Gates Canyon - 1

Aug. 27 - Ochre Creek - 1

American Robin

Mar. 13 - Admin. Building - 1

April 3 - Kootenay Valley - Small numbers along road

April 27 - Sewage Lagoon - many

May 13 - Sora Pond

June 10 - Stanley Glacier Trail - nesting

June 15 - Banff/Windermere Parkway - 14

July 9 - Banff/Windermere Parkway - 23

Aug. 7 - Redstreak - 1 adult eating Buffalo Berries, 1 fledgeling

Varied Thrush

April 8 - Compound - 1 singing

May 1 - Settler's Beaver Pond - heard only

May 1 - Compound - 1 singing

May 24 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - heard only

June 15 - Runaway Lane - 1

June 15 - Sinclair Creek - 2

June 15 - Settlers Pond - 2

July 9 - Kootenay River Flats - 1

Hermit Thrush

June 15 - Repeater Stn. - 1 heard only

July 9 - Kootenay River Picnic Site - 1 heard only

Swainson's Thrush

June 15 - Sinclair Canyon - 1 heard only
 June 15 - Banff/Windermere-Kimpton Creek-Cobb Lake - 4
 July 9 - Kootenay River Picnic Site - 2
 July 9 - Banff/Windermere-Dolly Varden-Daer - 5

Mountain Blue Bird

June 2 - West Gate - 1 flying

Townsend's Solitaire

March 18 - Redstreak Campground - 1
 Nov. 24 - Admin. Building - 1

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Mar. 27 - Settler's Beaver Pond - 1 pair. (♂ singing)
 June 15 - Kimpton Creek Trail Head - 2
 June 15 - Olive Lake - 3
 June 15 - Kootenay View Point - 1
 July 9 - Settler's Road Jct. - 2
 July 9 - Nixon Creek - 1

Rubby-crowned Kinglet

April 30 - Redstreak - heard only
 May 12 - Dare Pond - heard only
 May 24 - Vermilion Crossing Pond - 1

Water Pipit

Aug. 28 - Wolverine Pass - flock

Bohemian Waxwings

Jan. 13 - West Gate - Flock feeding on Mountain Ash
 Dec. 3 - Redstreak Benches - 30 flying

Common Starling

Mar. 13 - McLeod Meadows - 1
 April 3 - Dolly Varden - 3
 April 27 - Redstreak - 2

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)

April 30 - Redstreak - singing
 May 1 - Redstreak - singing and eating Aspen Catkins
 May 4 - Sora Pond - 2 in Cattails
 May 12 - Dare Pond
 May 13 - Sora Pond
 July 16 - Redstreak - 2
 June 15 - Sinclair Pass - 4
 June 15 - Settler's Road Jct. - 2
 July 9 - Nixon Creek Trail Head - 5
 July 9 - Airport - 5

Townsend's Warbler

June 15 - Sinclair Creek Picnic Site - 4
 June 15 - Settler Road Jct. 4
 July 9 - Kootenay River Picnic Site - 1

Common Yellow Throat

July 20 - Crook's Meadow - 1

Red-winged Blackbird

May 4 - Sora Pond - 1 ♀

Brewer's Blackbird

June 15 - Settler's Road Jct. - 4

Western Tanager

July 16 - Redstreak - 1

Purple Finch

April 27 - Redstreak - 1 ♂

Pine Grosbeak

Jan. 5 - Admin. Building - 10(1 ♂, 9 ♀) feeding on High Brush Cranberry
 Jan. 14 - West Gate - 5 ♀ feeding
 Feb. 16 - Admin. Building - 2 ♀ killed (flew into window)

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

July 28 - Sinclair Ridge - flock

Pine Siskin

March 18 - Redstreak Benches - 1

April 30 - Redstreak Benches - heard only

June 15 - Sinclair Pass - 77 (Separate flocks)

Red Crossbill

April 3 - Admin. Building - 1 pair on top of Douglas Fir

April 17 - Admin. Building - 1 singing

May 4 - Admin. Building - Flock feeding in Douglas Fir and picking gravel

White-winged Crossbill

March 27 - McLeod Meadows - flock feeding in Spruce

April 27 - Redstreak - 27 feeding

Savannah Sparrow

May 4 - Kootenay River Flats - 1 feeding in grasses

Vesper Sparrow

July 20 - Kootenay River Flats - ID not 100%

Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)

Jan. 13 - Admin. Building - 2

Mar. 10 - Redstreak Campground - 1 in pines

Mar. 18 - Redstreak - small flock

Mar. 27 - Settler's Beaver Pond - singing

April 3 - Admin Building - flock - singing

April 27 - Redstreak - 2 ♂ "ticking"

May 4 - Kootenay River Flats - 1 singing

May 4 - Kootenay Crossing - 1 singing

June 10 - Stanley Glacier Trail - nesting along trail edge - 4 eggs

July 16 - Redstreak - immatures

Chipping Sparrow

May 11 - McLeod Meadows -8

July 9 - McLeod Meadows - 2

July 9 - Dare Fire Road Jct. - 3

July 20 - Kootenay River Flats

White-crowned Sparrow

- April 30 - Redstreak - Flock feeding
- July 9 - Kootenay River Flats - 1
- July 9 - Kootenay River Picnic Site - 1
- July 9 - Nixon Creek Trail Head - 1

Song Sparrow

- July 20 - Crook's Meadow - ID not 100%