

BC IBA Annual Report Form

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IBA Name: Douglas Lake Plateau

Caretaker Name: Alan Burger (Nicola Naturalist Society); Rick Howie (Kamloops Naturalists)

Date: 5 February 2013

Summary of Site Visits:

Date(s)	Description of Monitoring (e.g. Casual, Coastal Waterbird Survey, BBA, CBC, etc.)	Area of IBA Covered (%)	Notes (location monitored, how IBA navigated, etc)
03 Feb 2012	Casual (RRH), Knutsford area	<1%	Local search for Snowy Owls and other wintering species. 4 hrs
16 Feb 2012	Casual (RRH)	<1%	Search for wintering species along Hwy 5a from Kamloops to Nicola Lake. 6 hrs
18 Feb 2012	Casual (RRH) Kamloops to Nicola Lake, Spahomin, Peterhope Lake	2%	Search for wintering species. 6 hrs
6 Mar 2012	Casual (RRH). Kamloops to Nicola Lake	<1%	Winter bird search along hwy 5a. 4 hrs
10 Mar 2012	Casual (RRH) Kamloops to Nicola Lake	<1%	Winter & early migrant bird search along hwy 5a. 5 hrs.
16 Apr 2012	Casual (RRH) Knutsford, Jacko Lake area	<1%	Miscellaneous sightings while doing work on proposed Ajax mine site. 4 hrs
17 Apr 2012	Casual (AEB + Nicola Naturalist Group)	5%	10:30 – 15:30; Road loop covering Pennask Rd, Minnie Lk Rd & Douglas Lk Rd. Birding and looking for cranes
19 April 2012	Casual (AEB)	5%	08:00 – 10:00 Hwy 5A Nicola Lake to Kamloops
22 Apr 2012	STGR lek search (RRH) Napier Lake area	<1%	Lek searches west of Napier Lake and casual birding along Long Lake Road. 5 hrs
24 April 2012	Casual (RRH) Goose Lake area	<1%	Miscellaneous sightings while doing other work. 1 hr
6 May 2012	BCBBA (AEB + Nicola Naturalist Group) Data in BCBBA	5%	09:00 – 13:00 Lundbom Lake area
9 May 2012	Casual (Margaret & Glen Carlson)	5%	Approx. 3 hours. Road loop covering Pennask Rd, Minnie Lk Rd & Douglas Lk Rd. Birding and looking for cranes
14 May 2012	BCBBA (RRH, AEB, Krista Englund + Nicola Naturalist Group) Data in BCBBA	8%	09:15-13:00; Roads covering Pennask Rd, Minnie Lk Rd & Douglas Lk Rd. & towards Chapperon Lake. Birding.
21 May 2012	Casual (RRH) Birding along Hwy 5a enroute to Merritt.	1%	Visited some specific sites like Separation lake but mostly roadside observations after that. 3 hrs.
27 May 2012	Casual (KNC) Birding Big Day	2%	Kamloops Naturalists engaged in a Big Day birding contest with some teams exploring the IBA but details and observations were not recorded with specifics. A recreational pursuit as opposed to monitoring.
30 May 2012	Casual – BC Field Ornithologists field trip (Les Gyug, AEB, + group)	5%	09:00 – 15:00. Roads – Nicola Cutoff; Douglas Lake Rd & N of Douglas Lake

	Data in BCBBA		
02 June 2012	Surveys for Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) on Philip property (RRH)	<1%	Part of survey to establish species list for property. 2 hrs
17 June 2012	BCBBA point counts (RRH) Jacko Lake area	<1%	Also casual birding while doing work on Ajax mine site 6 hrs
22 June 2012	BCBBA point counts plus NCC surveys on Philip property (RRH)	<1%	Casual birding, point counts plus intensive habitat searches. 12 hrs
24 June 2012	BCBBA (AEB + Nicola Naturalist Group) Data in BCBBA	5%	08:00 – 14:30 Quilchena Creek Road
29 June 2012	BCBBA counts + NCC surveys on Philip property (RRH)	<1%	Point counts + intensive habitat searches. 12 hrs
02 July 2012	BCBBA counts + NCC surveys on Philip property (RRH)	<1%	Point counts + intensive habitat searches. 10 hrs
3-5 July 2012	BCBBA (AEB) Data in BCBBA	15%	09:00 on 3 July to 16:00 on 5 July multiple squares including Stump Lk, Glimpse Lk, Douglas Lk, Chapperon Lk. Minnie Lk Rd.
16 July 2012	BCBBA (AEB) Data in BCBBA	3%	0745 – 12:30. Stump Lake area
18 July 2012	Casual (RRH) Jacko Lake area and Ajax Mine site	<1%	Bird sightings while doing other survey work. 4 hrs
02 Aug 2012	NCC surveys on Philip property and Jackson Ranch (RRH, A. Harcombe, B. Pryce)	<1%	5 hrs
09 Aug 2012	NCC surveys on Philip property, casual obs on Ajax mine site (RRH)	<1%	6 hrs
18 Aug 2012	BCBBA (AEB) Data in BCBBA	3%	06:20 – 09:40 Lauder Road
26 Aug 2012	Casual on Ajax mine site (RRH)	<1%	4 hrs
30 Aug 2012	Casual (RRH) while driving Hwy 5a to Merritt	<1%	1.5 hrs
16 Sep 2012	Casual (AEB + Nicola Naturalist Group)	10%	08:30 – 15:00. Roads – Douglas Lk Rd to Chapperon Lk, Minnie Lk Rd & Pennask Lk Rd.
23 Sep 2012	NCC surveys on Philip property (RRH)	<1%	Intensive habitat searches + casual birding elsewhere in vicinity. 6 hrs
09 Oct 2012	Casual (RRH) while driving Kamloops to Merritt along Hwy 5a	<1%	1.5 hrs
21 Oct 2012	Casual (RRH) Knutsford area	<1%	Rose Hill, Separation Lake. 3 hrs
17 Nov 2012	Casual (RRH) Knutsford area	<1%	2 hrs
23 Nov 2012	Casual Ajax Mine area (RRH)	<1%	Misc observation while doing other work. 6 hrs

V2012. Please attach any additional documents or photos and mail the completed form(s) to Krista Englund at #18-1141 Eagleridge Drive, Coquitlam BC, V3E 1K1. To fill this form out electronically, visit <http://bit.ly/IBA-forms> & email forms/photos to iba@bcnature.ca. Thank you!

02 Dec 2012	Casual (RRH) Knutsford area	<1%	Misc observations while driving and doing other work. 2 hrs
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1. Did you enter all of your bird observations into an online database, such as eBird, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas, etc? **Y** **N** If not, you are welcome to provide us a copy of your observations by completing the Bird Observations Form for each visit (available from <http://bit.ly/IBA-forms>).

Most Nicola Naturalist Society data was entered into the BC Breeding Bird Survey database for the spring and summer visits.

Howie data entered into BCBBA database as appropriate. Other data maintained in personal Access database or sent to NCC as appropriate for their property.

2. Were any IBA trigger species or other species of interest observed this year? **Y** **N** If yes, please summarize.

Sandhill Cranes observed on 16 Sep 2012: 117 near Chapperon Lake and 14 near Douglas Lake. This species also seen on 17 April - 95 flying overhead near Douglas Lake. Also seen 9 May – data not available. Other observations during spring and fall migration near Kamloops.

White pelicans on migration regularly seen on Nicola Lake and Douglas Lake: e.g., 17 April 2012 – 17 on Nicola Lake; 16 Sep – 26 at Nicola Lake, 14 at Douglas Lake.

3. Are you aware of any other datasets or monitoring programs underway for the IBA trigger species or other species of interest? **Y** **N** If yes, please list:

No

4. Has the land use, ownership and/or conservation status (e.g. management plans, protected areas) of the site changed since your last report? **Y** **N** If yes, please describe.

KGHM mining corporation has been purchasing land at the northern end of the IBA near Jacko Lake and Knutsford as they continue with their proposal for a large open pit copper mine adjacent to the southern boundary of Kamloops. If approved, this mine would alter a large area of open grasslands.

5. Has the habitat of the site changed since your last report? **Y** **N** If yes, please describe.

No obvious changes in the southern portion of the IBA. No significant changes to the northern portions. Logging may be occurring in portions of the mid-south parts of the IBA.

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6. a. Have any new or potential conservation threats arisen, or existing pressures worsened? Y N If yes, please describe what , when, where, etc.

A small portion of the southern end of the IBA has been affected by construction of a third powerline between the substation near the Lauder Road/Douglas Lake Road intersection towards Quilchena Creek area. Once the construction is completed the habitat is likely to be changed relatively little. The new powerlines run parallel to the existing lines and might increase risks of collisions to cranes and other birds.

If approved, threats from proposed Ajax Mine near Kamloops will include conversion of native grassland to open pit, rock dumps and tailings pile. Restoration may result in a grassland of mixed native and agronomic species as well as other habitat types targeted in the restoration plan. Approval and startup times are uncertain but perhaps 2+ year away and the results of reclamation will be unknown for some decades from now after reclamation is initiated and evaluation commences. Return to a functioning ecosystem is a very long term proposition. The mine footprint could exceed 2000 ha or about .013% of IBA

- b. Have any conservation threats lessened? Y N If yes, please describe what , when, where, etc.

No obvious reductions in threats at the southern part of the IBA. The same is probably true for the northern portion.

7. Have any conservation actions/activities been undertaken/initiated? Y N If yes, please describe.

Amphibian monitoring program run by Nicola Naturalist Society (Merritt) in collaboration with Biolinx Environmental Research (Victoria) and BC Frogwatch (Ministry of Environment) is doing night call surveys for Great Basin Spadefoots (*Spea intermontana*) in the IBA grasslands. Nocturnal birds also recorded on these surveys.

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has entered into conservation covenant agreements with several landowners in the northern portions of the IBA. I am not certain how many ha are involved but this can be obtained from NCC as needed.

Burrowing Owl introductions and monitoring are continuing in northern portion as well as southern parts of IBA.

8. What conservation actions do you feel would help improve conditions for the trigger species?

Communications with landowners about value of species and special ecological needs.

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9. How many hours did you (and your partners) spend on Caretaker related duties this year (e.g., travelling, monitoring, reporting, outreach, conservation, etc)? *[Note: This info helps us leverage funding for the IBA program.]*

Southern part of IBA (Nicola Naturalist Society) – about 55 hours in the field and 5 hours at meetings, summarizing data etc. R. Howie spent 121 hours on various surveys and casual birding initiatives. Members of Kamloops Naturalists club took some trips in IBA area but details were not recorded. Other time was spent by observers completing square surveys for the BCBBA but time would need to be obtained from that program and has not been completed yet. An additional 15-20 hours is likely for the northern portion of the IBA.

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? **Y X N**
11. Please include any other comments about the status of your IBA (e.g. assistance required from IBA partners, boundary or site summary changes required, comments about the report form, other species observed, etc).