

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: 9 January 2014

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)
See attached appendix for e-Bird extracts – 20 visits in 2013 by Nicola Naturalists and Alan Burger	Casual surveys by car and on foot	Mostly <10% per visit	Along public roads through private ranchland and Indian Reserves. Routes covered: Pennask Lake Road Minnie Lake Rd (Douglas Creek Rd) Douglas Lake Rd (from Hwy 5A past Douglas Lake to Chapperon Lake).
Rick Howie made 18 trips into the IBA during 2013.	Some were casual birding while enroute while others were intended as investigative field trips. 8 trips were taken from Feb 8 - May 7 and 10 trips were made from Sep. 10-Dec. 12. See attached summary.	<5% per visit	Public roads including Hwy 5a south to Nicola lake and Merritt occasionally, Goose Lake Rd, Knutsford, foot transects through Beresford area.

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>).

Nicola Naturalist Society data and those from Alan Burger are all on e-Bird (see appendix)

R. Howie observations are not on E-bird.

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

Sandhill Cranes were observed:

18 April 2013 296 near Englishman Bridge (minimum estimate from photos provided to Nicola Naturalists)

21 April 2013 2300 estimated on ground and in flight near Englishman Bridge (probably >2,500 birds)

22 April 2013 114 in the same area and near Douglas Lake Ranch HQ

28 April 2013 3 on Douglas Lake Ranch

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:

None that I'm aware of (Alan). Ditto from Rick Howie

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.

Some changes in ownership but no changes in management at the southern end of the IBA. Quilchena Ranch was bought by Douglas Lake Ranch. Not sure if deal was completed in late 2013 or early 2014. The Nature Conservancy of Canada is negotiating a leasing arrangement with a large landowner and will await a public announcement before mentioning the location (Rick).

A large mining company has purchased land in the area just south of Kamloops and is in the planning stages for a large open pit mine. If it proceeds, there will be significant changes to the grasslands and mixed forest in the area west of Knutsford and hwy 5a.

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

No major changes to the grasslands and hayfields. The ponds created by Ducks Unlimited at the junction of Pennask Lake Road and Minnie Lake Road (Flume Ponds) were nearly entirely drained when viewed on 9 November 2013. This is an important breeding site for waterfowl. The cause of the drainage is not clear (a Douglas Lake employee said it wasn't their work and thought a beaver dam had given way).

Construction of a third BC Hydro power line from the substation (junction Lauder Road & Douglas Lake Rd) towards the south and west is underway. This new line runs parallel to the two existing power lines. Having a third power line might have a marginal increase in risk of collisions to birds, but since there are already numerous power cables and pylons along this route the change is probably negligible.

Single family dwellings continue to spread slowly in the Knutsford area, with parcel sizes varying. Habitats away from the house footprints have not changed significantly, but any proliferation of horses and livestock kept by inexperienced range managers will result in degraded grasslands. Such areas are currently visible. (Rick)

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

No evidence of major changes or threats in the south. The potential Ajax mine is a major threat in the Knutsford area. Other drilling exploration is planned for areas east of Hwy 5a in the Knutsford area. If mines were developed in both of those areas, there would be a significant loss of grassland habitat just south of Kamloops.

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

No change at the southern end. No diminishment at the north end.

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

No change at the southern end. Anti-mine protests have been active at the north end. Burrowing Owl releases continue in the Knutsford, Beresford and other areas to the south within the IBA.

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!

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

Probably best to leave things as they are. No recommendations at this time (Rick).

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.]*

At southern end (Nicola Naturalists) – about 40 hours

At northern end, 40-50 hours. (Howie)

10. May we include this report in our Annual Report Compendium, which is posted to the BC Nature website? Y 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).

On 8 October 2013 Rick Howie arranged a meeting with Ian Barnett (Nature Conservancy of Canada) to discuss strategies to approach ranchers in the Douglas Lake Plateau IBA about creating an awareness of the IBA status as well as obtaining permission and support for monitoring of birds in the IBA. Howie, Burger and Barnett met briefly over lunch and agreed that a follow up meeting should be arranged with Dave Haywood-Farmer for additional advice. This meeting has not been held yet. Howie has a personal concern (not verified) that some large land owners may become uncooperative once they learn that the IBA has been created without consultation. Understanding of the legal status and implications is likely low amongst most if not all ranchers.

Appendix – Dates of e-Bird data for the Douglas Lake Plateau IBA in 2013

Nicola Naturalist Society e-Bird account:

2013-04-18 09:22	Douglas Lake Ranch - English Bridge
2013-04-21 09:30	Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-04-22 08:30	Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-04-28 09:45	Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-06-02 10:00	Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-06-02 13:15	Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
2013-09-22 10:40	Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-09-29 00:00	Separation Lake, Knutsford
2013-09-29 00:00	Hwy 5A Napier Lk to Separation Lk
2013-09-29 10:15	Highway 5A Nicola Lk to Napier Lk
2013-09-29 10:20	Guichon Ranch - Beaver Ranch Flats
2013-09-29 11:00	Stump Lake

Alan Burger e-Bird account:

2013-04-07 11:50	Guichon Ranch - Beaver Ranch Flats
2013-04-22 08:30	Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-05-15 21:40	Douglas Lake Plateau IBA

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2013-05-22 10:00	Guichon Ranch - Beaver Ranch Flats
2013-05-26 21:40	Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-05-26 23:50	Douglas Lake Road near village
2013-05-30 14:00	Separation Lake, Knutsford
2013-06-02 10:00	Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-06-02 13:15	Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
2013-06-15 21:45	Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
2013-06-16 21:30	Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-07-15 17:00	Douglas Lake Plateau IBA
2013-07-20 11:30	Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
2013-07-20 12:30	Pennask Lake Rd--flume ponds
2013-07-20 13:00	Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-10-08 10:15	Hwy 5A Nicola Lk to Napier Lk
2013-10-08 10:20	Guichon Ranch - Beaver Ranch Flats
2013-10-08 11:20	Knutsford
2013-10-08 16:15	Separation Lake, Knutsford
2013-11-09 10:30	Pennask Lake Road 1
2013-11-09 11:37	Pennask Lake Rd--flume ponds

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2013-11-09 12:30 Minnie Lake Road (Douglas Cr Rd)
 2013-11-09 13:30 Douglas Lake
 2013-11-09 14:00 Douglas Lake Ranch
 2013-11-09 15:05 Douglas Lake Road - Hwy 5A to Lake

Field Trips by R. Howie

2013 - 02 - 08 Knutsford - Rose Hill area
 2013 - 02 - 10 Knutsford to Stump Lake along Hwy 5a
 2013 - 03 - 10 Knutsford to Napier Lake along Hwy 5a
 2013 - 04 - 09 Knutsford to Quilchena along Hwy 5a
 2013 - 04 - 11 Knutsford to Quilchena & Courtney Lake along Hwy 5a
 2013 - 04 - 17 Knutsford to Quilchena along Hwy 5a
 2013 - 05 - 05 Knutsford to Goose Lake area
 2013 - 05 - 07 Knutsford to Quilchena along Hwy 5a
 2013 - 09 - 10 Knutsford - Goose Lake area
 2013 - 10 - 01 South of Separation Lake on foot through grasslands - private land
 2013 - 10 - 02 Separation Lake & grasslands to the south on foot - private land
 2013 - 10 - 03 Southeast of Separation Lake on foot - private land
 2013 - 10 - 13 Knutsford - Separation Lake area
 2013 - 10 - 16 Separation Lake - Rose Hill Rd area
 2013 - 11 - 03 Knutsford to Stump Lake along Hwy 5a
 2013 - 11 - 10 Knutsford - Separation Lake & Beresford areas - some private land
 2013 - 11 - 17 Knutsford, Beresford to Walker Lake
 2013 - 12 - 12 Knutsford _ Separation Lake area

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