

also in the north of the continent where trees in general are too small and thin to allow for excavation of a nest. Significantly, the Yellow-shafted Flicker, despite its large size, reaches farther north than any other North American woodpecker (see Godfrey 1966), except possibly the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*). We know little about its nesting habits in those regions.

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Another Record of the Flammulated Owl in Canada

The Flammulated Owl, *Otus flammeolus* (Kaup), breeds from the highlands of Guatemala north through the western mountains to southern British Columbia (Godfrey 1966). In British Columbia it is an extremely rare and local breeder. The only recorded nest in the province was found on June 12, 1962 at an elevation of 4000 feet, 20 miles west of Penticton. A female owl and eggshells were discovered after a ponderosa pine was felled by a logger. The nest hole was 40 to 50 feet high in the trunk (Atkinson 1963).

Other specimen records include a bird found dead on the shore of Okanagan Lake at Penticton, November 1902 (Brooks 1909) and one collected August 11, 1935 at Lac du Bois, 12 miles northwest of Kamloops (Williams and Spencer 1942).

The fourth record of the Flammulated Owl turned up recently while I was examining some bird records in my father's files. Photographic negatives taken on August 23, 1947 at Trout Creek Point, Summerland, British

Columbia, by S. R. Cannings, show a young owl perched on a branch and in the hand. Except for down remaining on the head and breast, the bird is completely fledged. Its length is estimated at 6 inches. The dark eyes and naked toes are obvious.

Notes taken at the time indicate the owl was sick and would not eat. It died the next day. Unfortunately, the importance of the bird was not recognized at the time and the specimen was not preserved. The combination of small size and dark eyes, however, convinced me the photographed bird was a Flammulated Owl, and subsequent correspondence with the National Museum, Ottawa, confirmed the identification (Godfrey, personal communication).

Prints of the photographs are on file at both the British Columbia Provincial Museum (Photoduplicate File No. 317) (Campbell and Stirling 1971) and the National Museum of Canada.

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Brown Thrasher on the Coast of British Columbia

The Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) ranges from southern Canada east of the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf States (A.O.U. 1957). In Canada it is a summer resident, breeding from southeastern Alberta, eastward across southern Canada to the Maritime provinces (Godfrey 1966). In British Columbia this Mimid was first recorded at Penticton where a bird was photographed in the fall of 1970 (Cannings 1972). Since that time there have been two coastal records of vagrants which are noteworthy.

On February 23, 1973, Dr. and Mrs. H. Tarr, 5996 Eagle Harbour Road, West Vancouver, identified what they thought to be a Brown Thrasher at their feeding station. Later, after realizing the significance of their observation, they notified J. Rodgers, columnist with *The Vancouver Sun* newspaper, who in turn contacted me. On the morning of March 10, W. C. Weber and I visited the Tarr's residence and waited for the thrasher to appear. Just before noon it emerged from a fencerow of blackberry brambles and flew to the feeder. Field notes were taken and nine 35-mm color slides were obtained to document the occurrence. Local naturalists were notified and during the next few weeks at least 43 people had seen the thrasher.

On March 10, black-and-white photographs were secured by newspaper photographer Deni Eagland, one of which appeared in *The Vancouver Sun* the following day. A different photograph has also appeared in the publication *American Birds* (Volume 26(3): 647; 1972). R. W. Phillips obtained more color slides on April 1, several of which show the adjacent surroundings, the feeding station, and Song and Fox Sparrows for size and color comparisons. Copies of all these photographs have been accessioned as PDF 200 in the photoduplicate file of British Columbia vertebrate records (see Campbell and Stirling 1971) in the British Columbia Provincial Museum in Victoria.

The Brown Thrasher visited the feeding station almost daily (for 66 days) and was last seen by Mrs. Tarr on April 29.

I am aware of one more record for British Columbia, that of a single bird seen by Adrian Dorst at the Comber's Resort, Long Beach, on the central west coast of Vancouver Island, on November 17, 1973. The bird was not photographed but highlights of his field notes, a copy of which are on file in the Provincial Museum, are as follows: "length as about that of a jay but more slender . . . rufous above, pale below with dark streaks on breast. I distinctly noted its slightly decurved bill and two light wingbars. The tail was long in relation to its body." The thrasher was seen by Dorst's wife later that day and then on several occasions on November 21.

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