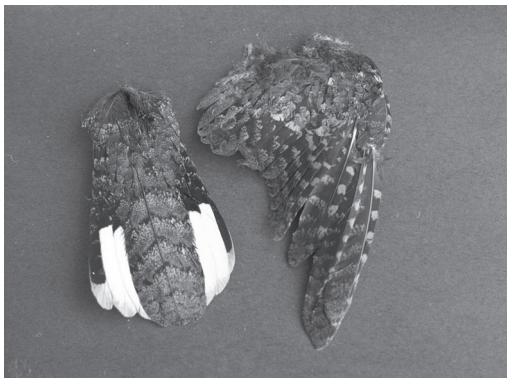


## WHIP-POOR-WILL (*CAPRIMULGUS VOCIFERUS*): A NEW SPECIES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

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On 5 November 2001 a dead Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) was discovered by William E. McIntyre at Amphitrite Point, near Ucluelet, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The following day I examined the carcass and estimated, by the state of decomposition, that the bird, a male, had died a week earlier, about 30 October. The carcass was photographed and the image was catalogued in the photofile for British Columbia wildlife records as BC Photo 3275 (see Campbell and Stirling 1971) and the wings and tail were salvaged for subspecific identification (Figure 1). This constitutes the first record for British Columbia.



**Figure 1.** Wing and tail salvaged from a Whip-poor-will found dead at Amphitrite Point, BC. 5 November 2001 (Adrian Dorst). BC Photo 3275.

The American Ornithologists' Union (1998) divides the Whip-poor-will into two groups: Eastern Whip-poor-will (*vociferus* group), with one subspecies and the Western Whip-poor-will (*arizonae* group), of which this specimen belongs, with five subspecies. The eastern subspecies is generally

showing declines in populations due to degradation of habitat (Cink 2002), while the western subspecies is expanding its range northward and northwestward from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras where it is resident.

Over the past 25 years the western subspecies has expanded its range into Nevada, central New Mexico, California, and southern Colorado (Andrews and Righter 1992) but there are no definite breeding records (Johnson 1994). Since its arrival in California in 1968 (Jones 1971) the western subspecies of the Whip-poor-will is now considered a "rare and local summer visitor" in the state (Small 1994).

There is only one historical extralimital record for the Pacific coast region north of California (Campbell et al. 2001, Oregon Field Ornithologists 2006, Washington Ornithological Society 2006). A Whip-poor-will was reported at West Petersburg, Kupreanof Island, southeast Alaska, on 22 November 1972 (Roberson 1980).

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### ***About the Author***

In 1970, Adrian Dorst moved to British Columbia from Ontario, and lived briefly on the Queen Charlotte Islands before settling in Tofino in 1972. Aside from two years spent on Cortes Island in the mid-1970s, he has lived there ever since. He has participated in formal bird surveys, authored books (e.g., *Birds of Pacific Rim National Park* by Hatler et al.), and was a major contributor to the four-volume set on *The Birds of British Columbia*.

Adrian has been actively involved in conservation activities especially as they relate to preservation of old-growth forest habitat on the coast. This was mostly accomplished through his photography in books, magazines and for environmental organizations, details of which can be found at [www.adriandorst.com](http://www.adriandorst.com).

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*“To appreciate fully any countryside, you have to live with it through all the changes in the seasons.”*

Elinore Graham