On 16 November 2008, while birding near Tranquille, 18 km west of the centre of Kamloops, British Columbia, I stopped at a dense patch of shrubs to pish-out birds that may be hidden or roosting in the tangles. The vegetation consisted mainly of black hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*) with some Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*) and other small shrubs (Figure 1). Soon a male Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), three Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), and two immature White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophyrs*) responded as did a small bright yellow warbler. I realized that the bird was something quite different so I hastily made field notes because I wanted to get some photographs. My notes were as follows: “looked like imm, all yellow breast and belly with heavy black streaking at side, yellow around eye, greenish, brownish back, and white on outer tail feathers as flew.” I quickly took a few photographs to document the occurrence (Figure 2) when suddenly a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) flew into the bushes where the warbler and other birds were perching. The hawk remained in the tangles for about five minutes before leaving without prey.

When I returned home I initially identified the bird as a male Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*). I contacted Rick Howie who confirmed it as a Prairie Warbler and posted the sighting to various bird groups. Later images were examined by Wayne Campbell who aged the bird as a first autumn male. He sent copies to Kimball Garrett for additional comment. Kimball wrote: *As I believe you also suggested, the bird appears to be a hatch-year (“first fall”) male. I believe that an adult male is ruled out by the whitish tones to the arcs above and below the eye and the limited black in the moustachial stripe. Hatch-year birds, of course, vastly outnumber adults among fall vagrants anyway. Females, particularly first fall birds, would not show the bold black areas on the face and lateral breast stripes and in general would have more subdued patterning.*
As always, true “ageing and sexing” is possible only with close in-hand examination or, ideally, examination of gonads and skull ossification, but this does seem like a fairly clear hatch-year male.

The following day, on 17 November, the hawthorn patch was checked but the warbler was not found. On 18 November the bird was again observed in the same patch of shrubs within metres of where it was first found (UTM coordinates NAD 10U 677205E 5621930N). It was observed for about an hour feeding on tiny flies, occasionally leaping into the air to catch them (R. Howie pers. comm.). Several additional photographs were obtained (Figure 3). The warbler was last seen on 19 November (R. Howie pers. comm.).

The Prairie Warbler breeds in southern Ontario and throughout the eastern United States and winters in southern Florida, the Bahamas, and Caribbean islands (Nolan et al. 1999). In western North America the Prairie Warbler is a casual visitor. In California it is a regular transient from mid-August to November (Small 1994, Dunn and Garrett 1997). In Oregon it has been recorded on at least 15 occasions, and again, mainly in the autumn from 3 September to 24 October (Nehls in Marshall et al. 2003). In Washington state there is just one winter record (Wahl et al. 2005).

In British Columbia, the Prairie Warbler has previously been recorded along the coast in spring (an adult male on 29 May 1995 at Chesterman Beach near Tofino; A. Dorst pers. comm.), autumn (an immature male at Triangle Island on 8 September 1995; Bowling 1996; BC Photo 1937), and winter (an adult from 18 December 1993 to 25 January 1994 at Masset; Siddle 1994). A summer record of an adult male on 17 June 1977 on Mount Kobau, even though well-described, was listed as hypothetical by Cannings et al. (1987) because it was seen only by a single observer and subsequently, after further examination, was considered hypothetical for British Columbia (Campbell et al. 2001).

This is the first confirmed record for the interior of British Columbia. Elsewhere in western North America vagrant occurrences of Prairie Warbler are few in interior locations compared to numerous coastal records (Dunn and Garrett 1997).

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I want to thank Kimball Garrett (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA), Wayne Campbell (Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies, Victoria, BC), and Rick Howie (Kamloops, BC) for examining numerous digital images and confirming the bird’s identification and age. R. Wayne Campbell, Adrian Dorst, and Mitch Meredith provided records for other British Columbia occurrences and Rick Howie additional information on the precise location, departure date, and behavioural activities for the Tranquille bird.

Literature Cited

Bowling, J. 1996. Autumn migration: August
FIRST OCCURRENCE OF THE EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE (STREPTOPELIA DECAOCTO) IN THE WEST KOOTENAY REGION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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The Eurasian Collared-Dove (Streptopelia decaocto) is thought to range originally throughout India. This species expanded into Asia Minor and then into the Balkans in the 16th century. Its range was confined to Africa and Asia until the 19th century. In a mere 60 years this species expanded across Europe. Introduced to the Bahamas in the 1970s, the Eurasian Collared-Dove escaped from captivity in Nassau in 1974, migrated to Florida in 1982 and today is expanding quickly throughout the eastern and central United States and has reached the west coast in California (Romagosa and McEneaney 1999, Romagosa 2002). Range expansion continues to be documented throughout North America and predictions indicate this species will be found in most regions of North America in the near future (Smith 1987).

In Canada, the Eurasian Collared-Dove has currently been recorded in all provinces and territories. Sightings in Saskatchewan occurred as early as 2002 and there are now scattered sightings of Eurasian Collared-Dove in Nunavut and Alaska. In British Columbia, the Eurasian Collared-Dove has been recorded through every month of the year. Occurrences are widespread, and include Bella Coola, Boundary Bay, Carmanah Point, Cawston, Delta, Fort St. James, Francois Lake, Hazelton, Kamloops, Keremeos, Ladner, Langford, McLeese Lake, Nanaimo, Pitt Meadows, Port Coquitlam, Queen Charlotte Islands, Saanich, Sayward, Sechelt, Sooke, Sunshine Valley, Surrey, Swan Lake (Victoria), Tatla Lake, Tofino, Ucluelet, Vancouver, Vernon, and Victoria (source: Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies databases).

The species is present year-round in the Cawston area where it breeds, and has recently been found breeding in the Lower Mainland region of the province.

About the Author
Since moving to British Columbia from Ontario in 1971 with a passion for birds, Jan has contributed greatly to our knowledge of bird life in the Harrison Hot Springs, Shuswap Lake, and Kamloops areas.