Okanagan Valley
Led by Dick Cannings and Chris Charlesworth, handled by Avocet Tours
www.avocettours.ca

Dates: Sunday 19 – Tuesday 21 August 2012

Cost: $700.00 per person, plus 12% HST
(for single room supplement add $100)

Min & max #s: 12 participants (minimum 5)

Transport: 12-passenger van, plus a 7-passenger van if there are more than 8 participants

Accommodation: Tour price includes 2 nights of hotel accommodation in Osoyoos and Vernon.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch (both picnic style) are included; suppers not included.

Bookings: handled by Avocet Tours, 725 Richards Road, Kelowna, BC, V1X 2X5, Canada; Phone (250) 718-0335; book online at: http://www.avocettours.ca/tours/2012-naoc-tour.php

The Okanagan Valley is simply the best place to bird in Canada. It is matched by very few locations anywhere on the continent for resident bird diversity, with 200 species on its breeding bird list. Habitats range from sagebrush deserts to lush lakeside marshes, ponderosa pine parkland to alpine meadows. We can expect to see over 160 species on this 3-day tour that will travel in a loop starting and ending in Vancouver. Trip leaders Dick Cannings and Chris Charlesworth are the birding experts in the Okanagan, and also have years of experience birding in British Columbia as a whole.

August 19: leave UBC at 0600, drive east to Hunter Creek for a picnic breakfast in coastal forests, looking for Band-tailed Pigeons, Steller’s Jays, Bewick’s Wren and Black-throated Gray Warbler. Then onto the Crowsnest Highway at Hope and climb into the north Cascade mountains of Manning Park. A stop at Sumallo Grove could produce Harlequin Duck, Black Swift, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, American Dipper, Varied Thrush and other rainforest birds. We will then drive to treeline for a picnic lunch in the alpine meadows, looking for Sooty Grouse, Spruce
Grouse, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Clark’s Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Townsend’s Solitaire, and Pine Grosbeak. After lunch we will continue east to the Similkameen Valley where we’ll look in the dry grasslands and ponderosa pine forests for Dusky Grouse, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Pygmy Nuthatch, Cassin’s Finch and other species typical of these habitats. We will have supper in Osoyoos then venture out for night birding in search of Western Screech-Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Common Poorwill. Overnight in Osoyoos.

**August 20:** A full day of birding from one end of the Okanagan to the other. First thing in the morning we will visit to the north end of Osoyoos Lake, looking for Chukar, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, White-throated Swift, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, and Lazuli Bunting. Then we’ll drive through more ponderosa pine forests to the sagebrush bowl of White Lake to search for species such as Gray Partridge, Western Bluebird, Sage Thrasher and Brewer’s Sparrow. A picnic lunch at Vaseux Lake could produce the species mentioned above at Osoyoos Lake as well as a variety of waterfowl. In the afternoon we’ll drive north to Vernon, where grasslands and ponds should produce Swainson’s Hawk, Clay-colored Sparrow and good numbers of ducks and grebes. Overnight Vernon.

**August 21:** Return to Vancouver via the ranchlands of the Nicola Valley (mostly through the Douglas Lake Ranch, the largest ranch in Canada) and the high forests of the Coquihalla, with ample opportunities for birding along the way. Arrive at UBC at about 4 pm.