

**LASKEEK BAY RESEARCH**

**15**

**LASKEEK BAY CONSERVATION SOCIETY  
SCIENTIFIC REPORT, 2006 and 2007**

**Edited by**

**ANTHONY J. GASTON**

**Cover design: Tony Gaston**

**Picture: humpback whale off Reef Island, May 2007  
(©Timothy J.F. Lash: lash@canada.com)**

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*Box 867, Queen Charlotte City, B.C. V0T 1S0, Canada*

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## **LASKEEK BAY CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

**The Laskeek Bay Conservation Society** is a volunteer group based in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The society is committed to increasing the appreciation and understanding of the natural environment through:

**Sensitive biological research that is not harmful to wildlife or its natural habitat**

**Interpretation and educational opportunities for residents of and visitors to the Queen Charlotte Islands**

Since 1990, the Society has operated a field research station at East Limestone Island and is carrying out a diverse long-term monitoring, research and interpretation programme in the surrounding islands and waters of Laskeek Bay. We actively involve volunteers from our island communities, many other locations in British Columbia, as well as from overseas. For further information contact:

Laskeek Bay Conservation Society  
Box 867, Queen Charlotte City, British Columbia, Canada V0T 1S0  
Phone/fax (250) 559-2345; E-mail <laskeek@laskeekbay.org>

## **BACKGROUND**

### **The goals and objectives of the Society are:**

- 1. To undertake and support research and long term monitoring of wildlife populations of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Haida Gwaii, especially the Laskeek Bay area.*
- 2. To provide opportunities for non-scientists, especially students and local residents of Haida Gwaii, to participate as volunteers in our field programs, and to offer training to impart necessary field research skills.*
- 3. To promote better understanding of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Haida Gwaii, especially the Laskeek Bay area, by providing information to youth, local residents, and to the public in general in the form of publications, meetings, and exhibits.*
- 4. To promote the conservation of native species and to develop public awareness of the changes caused by introduced species to Haida Gwaii.*
- 5. To support and assist other programs aimed at providing better knowledge, management and conservation of ecosystems on Haida Gwaii.*

## INTRODUCTION

The scientific work of the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society has been carried out each summer on East Limestone Island and adjacent islands, and in the waters of Laskeek Bay since 1990. Much of the work has been conducted in collaboration with researchers and management agencies having ongoing interests in the ecology and conservation of Haida Gwaii. The research programme is coordinated and directed by a Scientific Advisory Committee that works closely with the Society's Board of Directors to develop research that is relevant to the conservation needs of Haida Gwaii and consistent with the goals of the Society.

Research activities include population monitoring of marine birds and marine mammals and ecological research on intertidal invertebrates, plants, and forest birds. The Society is a participant in the Research Group on Introduced Species, an umbrella organization devoted to studies of exotic species in Haida Gwaii and their impact on indigenous ecosystems. Research in Laskeek Bay focuses especially on the impacts of introduced mammals, including deer, raccoons and squirrels.

Our research programme is designed to provide long-term information on the biology and ecology of Haida Gwaii ecosystems. Ongoing monitoring, using simple, standard techniques that enable year-to-year comparisons to be made, and allowing the direct participation of volunteers, is the cornerstone of the Society's approach. By monitoring a variety of indicator species in ocean, inter-tidal and terrestrial ecosystems, we can obtain an overall measure of their health. Because marine waters may be subject to cyclical or directional changes operating at the scale of decades, such observations become most valuable when they are tracked consistently over many years. Such long-term monitoring is becoming increasingly important in the context of global climate change.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Coast Sustainability Trust
- South Moresby Forest Replacement Account
- BC Gaming Commission
- Gwaii Trust (Project Limestone)
- Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada
- World Wildlife Fund and N. M. Davis Corporation
- Science Horizons Program, Environment Canada
- School District #50 & the Community Links Program
- Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site
- Blue Water Adventures (t-shirt purchases and donations)
- Maple Leaf Adventures (t-shirt purchases and donations)

Thanks also to the following individuals and groups who gave generously of their time and services to the Society:

- LBCS Directors for their time and efforts in keeping the Society running year after year;
- Dr. Tony Gaston for his valuable advice and guidance throughout the field season;
- Graeme Ellis (Pacific Biological Station) for providing a camera and film to document whales;
- This year's crew of local and international volunteers for all their enthusiasm, hard work, good humor and good company;
- Project Limestone teachers and students for their dedication to the project and for teaching us just as much as we teach them;
- South Moresby Air Charters for the pick up/drop off of volunteers/staff all season long;
- Jeremie Hyatt and the *m/v Wanderlust* for transporting gear at camp start-up and take-down;
- The *m/v Gwaii Haanas* for help with freight delivery;
- The *s/v Anvil Cove*, *s/v Island Roamer* and *s/v Maple Leaf* for bringing such lively and interesting visitors and for their endless promotion of LBCS.

**SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 2006**

Dr. Anthony Gaston (Chair, marine birds, plants)  
*Environment Canada, National Wildlife Research Centre, Carleton University, Ottawa  
K1A 0H3*

Kathy Heise (marine mammals)  
*Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, 6270 University Blvd.,  
Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4*

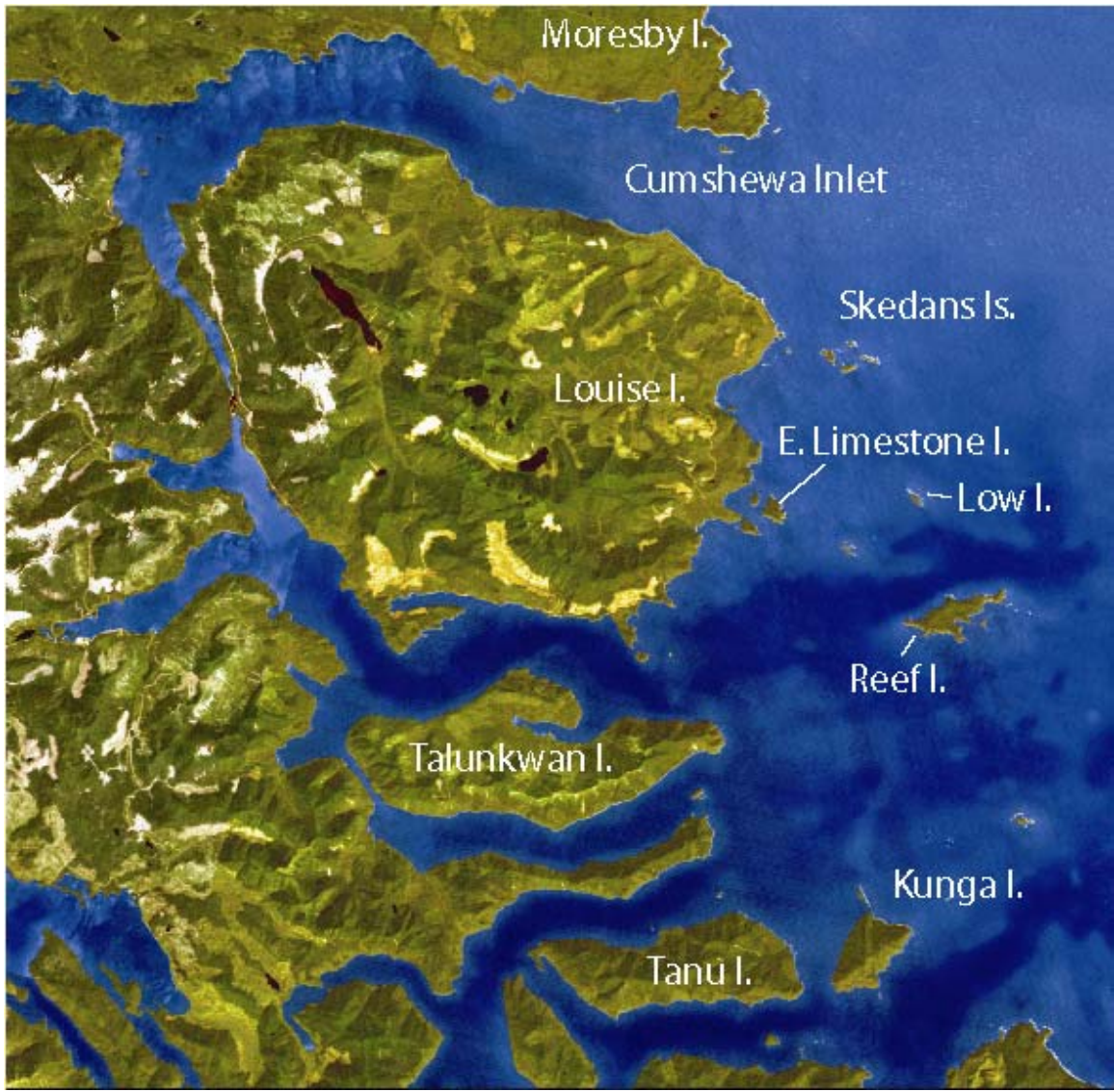
Dr. J. Mark Hipfner (marine birds)  
*Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific Wildlife Research Centre, Delta, BC,*

Dr. Jean-Louis Martin (introduced species, terrestrial birds)  
*Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, CEPE, Route de Mende, BP 5051-34033,  
Montpellier-Cedex, France (currently National Wildlife Research Centre, Carleton  
University, Ottawa)*

Joanna Smith (plants, insects)  
*University of Washington, Seattle, Washington USA*

## CONTENTS

<b>East Limestone Island field camp: report on the 2006 field season</b> <i>Jen Rock and Jake Pattison</i> .....	<b>1-13</b>
<b>East Limestone Island field camp: report on the 2006 field season</b> <i>Jen Rock and Jake Pattison</i> .....	<b>15-30</b>
<b>Pigeon Guillemot nest box use at East Limestone Island, 2001-2006</b> <i>Jen Rock</i> .....	<b>31-33</b>
<b>Black Oystercatcher banding in Laskeek Bay, 1992-2006</b> <i>Jen Rock</i> .....	<b>35-37</b>
<b>Changes in numbers and breeding biology of Ancient Murrelets at East Limestone Island, 1990-2006</b> <i>Tony Gaston</i> .....	<b>39-54</b>
<b>Observations on a Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i> nest on Reef Island, Haida Gwaii</b> <i>Siobhan McPherson</i> .....	<b>55-66</b>
<b>East Limestone Island Ancient Murrelet colony survey, June 2006</b> <i>Moira Lemon</i> .....	<b>67-86</b>
<b>Predation by raccoons on Ancient Murrelets</b> <i>Jen Rock</i> .....	<b>87-91</b>



**Laskeek Bay**