

DISPENSING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE: DECADES WITH ALBERT PEVE IN HENSLUNG COVE, LANGARA ISLAND, HAIDA GWAI

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Langara (formerly North) Island and adjacent Cox and Lucy islands are located at the northwest corner of Graham Island, the northernmost of the two larger islands of the Haida Gwaii archipelago (known for a time as the Queen Charlotte Islands), British Columbia. Visits to the Island by many naturalists, oologists and ornithologists for a few days or weeks began in the early

20th century, lured primarily by the prospect of collecting specimens of Peale's Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus pealei*) and eggs of the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). Among the early visitors was a man named Albert Peve, who was drawn to the Island not by its nesting birds, but as a place of solitude. He arrived on Langara Island at the beginning of World War I and settled on the east shore of Henslung Cove, the larger and more westerly of the two coves on the southeast end of Langara Island (Figure 1). He remained there for nearly 40 years. Although Peve

was not a naturalist, he lived close to nature and observed it over the years — so necessary for survival under the harsh conditions. He left a few specimens of birds but no written legacy; his contribution to the understanding of the natural history of the area was through his willingness and perhaps necessity to assist and share his local knowledge with many visiting naturalists.

Emigrating to Canada, and Haida Gwaii

Albert Peve was the name given on his death certificate, but he also was referred to as A.J. Peve,¹ Pavie,¹¹ Armand Peavy,³ Mr. Peve,¹⁸ Armand Peve,^{24,40} Al Peevey,¹³ Pavic,^{26,33} and Pevey.¹⁴ According to the U.S. Census Board, Peve was born in Illinois on 22 February 1875. It is not known with certainty when he arrived on Langara Island, but apparently it was "before or during WWI", according to Charles Guiguet,²⁴ who met him during collecting trips to Langara Island in the mid-1940s and in 1952. Peve's absence from the 1900 U.S. census suggests he had already moved to Canada, and eventually to the Queen Charlotte Islands and Naden Harbour. This is confirmed by a local news item published in the *Queen Charlotte Islander*, which noted Peve undertook a round trip between Naden Harbour and Masset in 1914 to meet a man from Victoria who accompanied him on the return trip the following day.¹ Was Peve employed at the crab cannery that operated in Naden Harbour at that time,⁴² as he sought an appropriate site to set down roots? If so, his move to Langara Island occurred

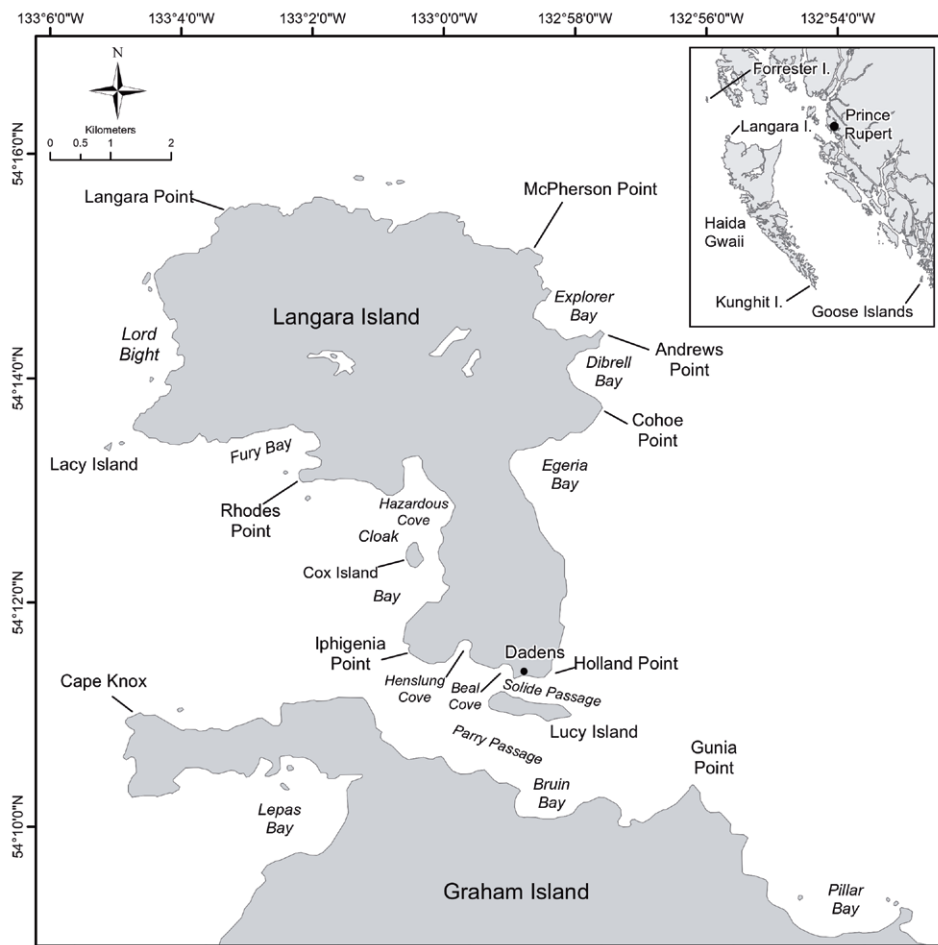


FIGURE 1. Map of Langara Island, Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands), British Columbia, showing the site of Peve's cabin and garden in Henslung Cove. Map prepared by Mapmonsters GIS Ltd, Victoria, BC.

following the beginning of WWI, by which time a fish cannery had been established in Henslung Cove.⁴²

The Canadian federal voters' lists from 1930 to 1980 revealed Peve was not registered when he lived on the Queen Charlotte Islands, but his name appeared on the 1953, 1957 and 1958 lists for Hopkins Landing, British Columbia. Peve was forced to leave after apparently suffering a stroke in Henslung Cove in 1952, according to field notes recorded by Frank Beebe.²⁹ A party from the Provincial Museum in Victoria, consisting of Beebe, Guiguet and G. Clifford Carl had been on Langara Island for about a week, staying at the Co-op Fishing Camp in Henslung Bay. The trio planned to photograph family groups of Ancient Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) on the night of 31 May/1 June as the precocial chicks clambered from their burrows down to the ocean. Beebe wrote in his field notes: "We were all set to go up the hill here on Langara [to the murrelet colony on Iphigenia Point] when word came in that Armand Peve, a real old timer at the bay and only permanent resident of this place had 'gone nuts' during the night sometime. Charlie [Guiguet] and the fellow who looks after the camp went over to see about it. Apparently [*sic*] the old fellow had taken a stroke. He had done some damage to his shack. Masset was radio-telephoned and the police sent here. Meantime Charlie sort of camped with the old fellow. So we didn't get out at all until after noon."^(see note A) Peve died in the Pender Harbour hospital on 31 March 1958.

Solitude in Henslung Cove

Peve lived alone, but as Dalzell (p. 22) noted, "... he was too busy [to be lonely] trapping, doing a bit of fishing and acting as a lineman on the emergency telephone line which ran

from Henslung to the light-station [at Langara Point]."¹³ He was referred to as the best known resident of Henslung Cove, and his cabin was visited by fishermen, especially during inclement weather. A photograph shows Peve in his garden (Figure 2), taken in 1939 by Edgar H. Crawford, a well-known logging operator and one of Peve's regular visitors.¹³ Crawford played a leading role in the formation of the North Island Trollers Co-operative, and organized its first exploratory meeting, which was held on the beach in front of Peve's cabin on 15 June 1935.^{13,31} Following incorporation of the Co-operative on 13 August 1935, a general meeting was held at the same site two days later.³¹

Decades of living alone in Henslung Cove undoubtedly brought Peve into frequent contact with the Haida people, particularly in summer with the early settlement of Dadens just around the corner adjacent to Beal Cove. His survival may have depended upon this association, but nothing was written on the subject. Peve's other life-lines were the people in charge of the light-station and the short-lived salmon cannery (photo *in* Simpson, p. 8⁴²) that operated in Henslung Cove in 1918-19 and the floating stores and ice rooms ("fish-camps"), which were eventually operated by personnel of the North Island Trollers Association until it was



FIGURE 2. Albert Peve in his garden in Henslung Cove, Langara Island, 1939. Photo by Edward Crawford. From Dalzell¹³, courtesy of Port Clements Historical Society.

amalgamated with the Prince Rupert Fisherman's Cooperative Association in 1938.³¹ The fish-camp in Henslung Cove (photo *in* Phillips, p. 46³¹) was busy with fishermen delivering their catches and stocking up on groceries and other commodities. Many of the fishermen probably traded stories with Peve.¹³

Dispensing local knowledge

Oologist Solomon J. Darcus (Figure 3), who had spent 1919-20 observing birds and collecting eggs in the Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan,³⁸ met Peve during his first visit to Langara Island, in 1926, to lay the ground work for an extended search for the egg of the Marbled Murrelet, which was planned for the following year.^B The two men wasted no time visiting a nearby seabird colony (Figure 4), apparently on Cox Island. For "a few days" in June of that year, Darcus was joined by naturalist and friend, the Rev. C.J. Young (Figure 5),^C who was living in Ontario at the time. Young noted that "With the exception of the lighthouse keeper, his wife and assistant there is only one man living on [Langara] island",⁴⁴ a reference to Peve. Recognizing Peve's knowledge of Langara Island and surrounding area, Darcus arranged for him to accompany them as they briefly explored Langara and

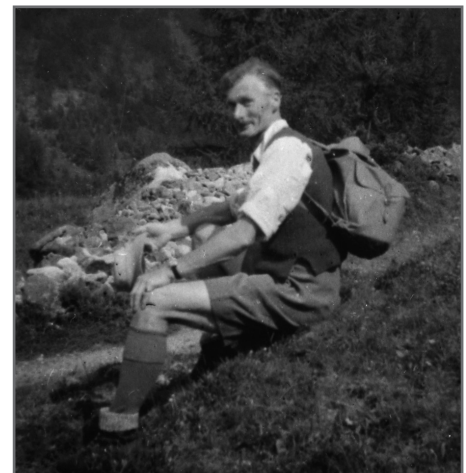


FIGURE 3. Solomon John Darcus and hiking gear, Canyon Ranch in the southern Okanagan valley, 1926. Courtesy of Penticton Museum & Archives (PMA 3243).



FIGURE 4. Albert Peve and Ancient Murrelet, Cox Island, Haida Gwaii, June 1926. Photograph by the late S.J. Darcus.

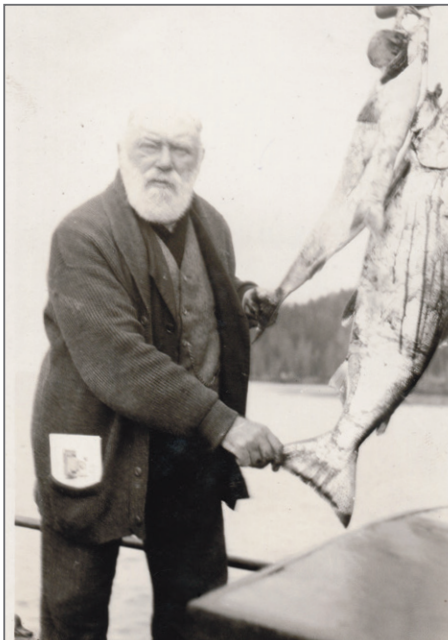


FIGURE 5. Rev. C.J. Young joined S.J. Darcus on Langara Island in mid-June 1926. Inscribed on the back of this photo: "C.J.Y.'s catch of salmon, Langara Island, 25th ... June, 1926." Photograph by S.J. Darcus.

Cox islands in 1926 and to assist his party the following year. Field notes for 1927 noted that Darcus, accompanied this time by Wesley E. Burtch, a friend from Kelowna, and occasionally by an assistant keeper from the lighthouse, worked out of a base camp at McPherson Point from 10 April to 8 July 1927. They undertook seven trips to the south end of the Island, usually on foot but occasionally in a row boat, and on all but one trip they were joined by

Peve. They stayed overnight at Peve's cabin at least once and used his row boat. Darcus described the first trip to the south coast of Langara Island in his field notes:¹⁴

Tuesday 19 [April 1927] – Left the cabin at McPherson's Point to walk to Parry Pass[age] at south end of island. We followed the shore line and in places the walking was very rough over conglomerate rocks. The morning was clear and sunny after a stiff frost the fresh water pools being frozen over. The ground in the woods is snow covered ... arrived at the Pass at 1pm after a five hour walk. Sky becoming clouded in the afternoon, renewed acquaintance with Albert Peve with whom I had spent a few days here last June, in the afternoon all three of us walked over the high coastline to visit the Peale's Falcons eyries. Saw both the birds at the one over Parry Pass, but did not examine the eyrie. We also saw both the falcons at the next nesting site about a mile round the coast but do not think they have eggs yet ... Walked back through the woods to Peve's Cabin at 5pm.

Although Darcus was primarily interested in collecting eggs of the Marbled Murrelet, eggs of Peale's Falcon were second on his list, but

apparently there was competition. On 28 April, the day after they arrived again on the south end of the Island, Darcus and Burtch climbed to the top of Cox Island, but finding the falcon's nest empty, they concluded that it had "been robbed as there were no eggs and no sign of the birds." That evening they rowed across Parry Passage to Graham Island to visit a Peale's Falcon's eyrie but found footprints in the sand that led in that direction and they did not venture as far as the nesting cliff near Cape Knox. Darcus wrote, "I believe that Albert Peve who lives at the Pass has taken the eggs from all the Peale's Falcon's eyries down here as we have seen his foot prints to all of them." Nothing was proven and though Darcus apparently planned to collect the falcons' eggs himself, nothing further was recorded about falcon eggs in his field notes.

Did Peve collect Peregrine Falcon eggs for someone else, possibly Allan Cyril Brooks, the well-known collector, painter and long-time resident of the Okanagan valley?^{26,28} The two men probably met in 1920 when Brooks visited Langara Island (Carter and Sealy 2010), but the only specimens on record that Peve collected for Brooks were seven birds taken in 1937 (see below). An online search (e.g., VertNet.org) for Peregrine Falcon eggs taken on Langara Island revealed several sets collected by Brooks in 1920 that were catalogued in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, but none was taken in 1927 during Darcus's second visit. Eggs that Peve may have taken in that or another year did not become part of the Brooks collection, and did not turn up separately in searches of other egg collections. Darcus still managed to collect several sets of falcon eggs, which are catalogued in the Western Foundation of

Vertebrate Zoology and the Royal Ontario Museum.

The quest for the Marbled Murrelet's egg generated even more competition. Darcus claimed to have collected the first eggs of this species on Cox Island, in 1927,¹⁵ but the discovery elicited considerable doubt, including that by Peve,¹⁸ who had accompanied Darcus to Cox Island the day the collections were made. It was eventually confirmed the eggs were laid by Ancient Murrelets,^{7,17} then an abundant nesting species on Cox Island.¹⁸

Darcus's association with Peve continued. On 4 June, Darcus, Burtch and Peve rowed across Parry Passage to Graham Island. Following an arduous trip on foot along the shoreline around Cape Knox, the trio returned to explore islets in Lepas Bay. A faded photograph taken by Darcus that day shows Burtch and Peve standing on the sandy beach of Lepas Bay with one of the islets in the background (Figure 6). Darcus wrote: "Visited one of the islands in Lepas Bay, there are a number of fresh burrows on this island and I think they are Rhinoceros Auklet's [*Cerorhinca monocerata*] burrows. One egg of Pigeon Guillemot [*Cephus columba*] found in one Cassin's Auklet's [*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*] burrow, pair of [Whimbrels *Numenius phaeopus*] seen. Walking back through the woods to the Pass we thus made a complete circuit of Cape Knox, taking seven hours."¹⁴ The trio returned on 6 June and visited another island in Lepas Bay, this time discovering nests of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) and Leach's Storm-Petrel (*O. leucorhoa*). These were deduced to be the first breeding records for Lepas Bay Islands and collectively the fifth breeding record for each species in British Columbia.⁸ Darcus briefly described that visit:

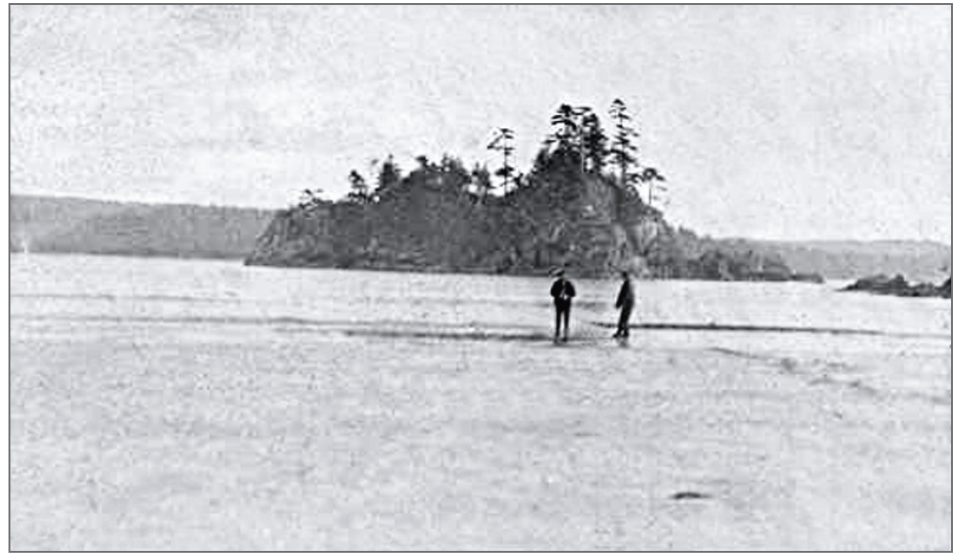


FIGURE 6. Photograph uncovered in the British Columbia Nest Records Scheme, hand-labelled "Petrel Island, Le Pas [sic] Bay, West Coast of Graham Island B.C. 4 June 1927 Albert Peve and Wesley Birtch [sic] on beach." Photograph by S.J. Darcus.

After landing [on Graham Island] we walked through the woods to Lepas Bay and constructed a raft on the beach and all three of us paddled out to the Island about 200 yds off shore. I do not think this island has ever been landed on before [at least by naturalists]. Found numbers of both Fork-tailed and Leach's Petrels nesting on this island. None of the Leach's Petrel's have eggs yet, as we examined a number of their nesting holes, finding both birds in many of them. A number of Fork-tailed Petrels have deposited their single egg, and a few of the eggs are almost incubated now, although most of the holes contained the fresh egg. Number of Cassin's Auklets nesting on the island, most of which have the young hatched, but a few of the burrows contained the single egg still. A few Glaucous-winged Gulls [*Larus glaucescens*] nest on this island also, but are only just beginning to construct their nests. There four species of sea birds were all we found nesting there. Most of the island has a luxuriant growth of grass and wild flowers. There are also some trees on the island, which is about three acres in extent and the highest parts about 100 ft above high water mark. Song Sparrows [*Melospiza melodia rufina*] abounded amongst the long grass. After spending about

four hours on the island we set sail again on our raft for the shore. The day was beautifully fine and warm with brilliant sunshine. Returned to the cabin on the Graham Island shore of the Pass; Russet-backed Thrushes [Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*] abound here also Varied Thrushes [*Ixoreus naevius*].

Darcus last mentioned Peve in his notes on 20 June. He wrote, "Fine weather continues, walked to one of the Peale's Falcon's nests on the coast north and found it contained 4 eggs, the second laying as I had taken the first of 2 eggs May 1st. Coming back to the cabin we packed up after lunch and set out in the row boat for Parry Pass, being towed by an Indian with his Launch [sic] part of the way. Taking up our quarters with Albert Peve in his cabin until we are ready to make the trip down the west coast of Graham Island."¹⁴ Peve did not accompany Darcus and Burtch down the west coast (Figure 7). Having conducted research on seabirds on and around Langara Island in the early 1970s, equipped with a reliable inflatable boat and outboard motor, it is difficult to imagine the conditions and dangers of navigating the strong currents of Parry Passage in a row

boat, and especially the exposed waters and swells off the west coast of Graham Island.

Observations of birds

Peve provided the second record and only report of a large-scale die-off of the Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) in British Columbia. In a handbook of the diving birds and tube-nosed swimmers of British Columbia, Guiguet (pp. 100-101) stated that Peve "reported dead horned puffins washed up on beaches in numbers one winter in the early 1940's."²³ Guiguet later informed me that Peve "told [him] that horned puffins occurred regularly in winter off Langara Island and that in the 1930's a big die-off occurred and 'winrows' of dead horned puffins washed ashore at Bruin and Henslung Bays."²⁴ Regardless of the discrepancy in the reported dates of the die-off, and because a specimen was not preserved, Horned Puffin remained on the hypothetical list for British Columbia and Canada, until a female was salvaged from a beach on Langara Island in 1971.⁴⁰

The number of dead puffins and the year of the die-off remain uncertain. Peve probably relayed this information to Guiguet during one of his collecting trips in 1946 or 1947. Guiguet's field notes revealed the two men visited frequently, often at Peve's cabin, but this die-off of Horned Puffins was never mentioned. On 17 May 1947, Guiguet noted that Peve collected Tufted Puffin (*F. cirrhata*) eggs on Cox Island "last year";²² nothing more was written and the eggs did not turn up in egg collections. Peve became familiar with Tufted Puffin colonies near Cox Island in 1926 (Figure 8), an islet off the west side of Langara Island that would be the focus of Darcus's search for Marbled Murrelets' nests



FIGURE 7. Wesley E. Burtch with bear skin, west coast of Graham Island, Haida Gwaii, May 1927. Photograph by S.J. Darcus.

the following year.

Peve presumably met Brooks during his visit to Langara Island in 1920, though Brooks did not mention it.^{5,28} In fact, C. de B. Green joined Brooks during that trip, which was noted only in passing.²⁸ Apparently Peve did not collect specimens for Brooks or anyone else until 1937, when seven specimens of

six species of birds were collected on Langara Island. By that time, Brooks had curtailed his long-range field activities.²⁸ The specimens became part of the Brooks collection and Peve was named as collector (Figure 9). These specimens are catalogued in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ) at the University of California, Berkeley:



FIGURE 8. Albert Peve and Tufted Puffin; inscribed in Darcus's hand on the back of the photo is "Peve & Tufted Puffin, Langara Island, 20-6-[19]26." This colony was located on the SW corner of Langara Island, where Darcus took four eggs of this species the following year.¹⁸ Photograph by S.J. Darcus.



FIGURE 9. Labels attached to male Red-winged Blackbird (MVZ 104807) collected by Albert Peve on Langara Island, British Columbia, 14 October 1937; the specimen was part of the Allan Brooks collection. Note: “Striking male” hand-written on the auxiliary label. Photo credit: Jessica Shi.



FIGURE 10. Albert Peve standing beside skeletal remains of a beach-cast whale, Lepas Bay, Haida Gwaii, 1926. Photograph by S.J. Darcus.

Red-breasted Sapsucker

(*Sphyrapicus ruber ruber*; MVZ 102175, ♂, 14 September 1937)

Hairy Woodpecker

(*Picoides villosus picoides*; MVZ 82280, ♀, 8 September 1937 and MVZ 102217, ♀, 11 September 1937)

Mountain Bluebird

(*Sialia currucoides*; MVZ 103810, ♂, 11 October 1937)

American Robin

(*Turdus migratorius caurinus*; MVZ 103603, ♂, 10 September 1937)

Pine Grosbeak

(*Pinicola enucleator carlottae*; MVZ 71258, ♀, 15 January 1937)

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus nevadensis*; MVZ 104807, ♂, 14 October 1937)

The Mountain Bluebird, Pine Grosbeak and Red-winged Blackbird were the first specimens of these species taken on Haida Gwaii, whereas specimens of the other species had been taken previously.^{30,35} Arrangements made for Peve to collect these specimens were not uncovered in Brooks’s papers held in the MVZ archives or Greater Vernon Museum and Archives, which was not surprising, as Brooks was typically reticent regarding his collecting associates.²⁸

Experiences with mammals

A photograph of Peve standing beside the skeletal remains of a beach-cast whale at Lepas Bay (Figure 10) was uncovered among photos taken by Darcus in 1926. Christopher M. Stinson, Beaty Biodiversity Museum, University of British Columbia, identified the whale as probably a species of beaked whale, possibly Cuvier’s Beaked Whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*),⁴³ a species recorded frequently off Haida Gwaii.¹⁹

Almost nothing was known of the resident mammals on Langara Island when Guiguet trapped in all habitats during his first visit there in 1946. That is, until he talked to Peve, the trapper. Guiguet’s field notes revealed an expectation of capturing shrews, including water shrews, and possibly a deer mouse (*Peromyscus* sp.), voles, weasels and mink, but only the Black Rat (*Rattus rattus alexandrinus*) was taken as well as a species of shrew (*Sorex monticolous*). Peve related observations of deer mice “as large as a small rat”, which Guiguet concluded were young rats, after sampling widespread sites on the Island without capturing *Peromyscus*. On 16 May 1946, Guiguet found a dead Ancient Murrelet that had been chewed on the neck, about

which he commented: “... Looks like weasel work to me.” Later, penned in the margin of his field notes were the words: “Wrong, no weasels on Island. Peve.” The murrelet had been killed by a rat. Peve later confirmed what Guiguet had by then concluded: “There are very few predatory animals here, i.e., weasels, mink, etc.” He also told Guiguet that “[Allan] Brooks had taken mice (*Peromyscus* by Peve’s description) at a place not far from here. He also says that besides shrews & rats there are two other mice here on the island — assuming *Peromyscus* as one, the other known, I imagine, is a vole.”²² There is no evidence of historic presence of a species of vole (*Microtus*) on Haida Gwaii²⁰ or a deer mouse on Langara Island.³⁷

Pickings were slim for a trapper living on Langara Island. The nearest source of the endemic American Marten (*Martes americana nesophila*) was Graham Island, and the endemic Ermine (*Mustela erminea haidarum*) was rare.²⁰ On top of that, it was a hazardous trip by row boat across Parry Passage. Red Squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) had not been introduced to Haida Gwaii,³⁴ the Sea Otter (*Enhydra lutris*) was extirpated,¹⁹ and the Northern Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) was

accidental,⁴ leaving only Northern River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) accessible on Langara Island, in addition to seals. Peve trapped marten, however, undoubtedly on Graham Island. Dalzell (p. 21) commented that he "... managed to gain the trust of marten enough for some of them to take food from his hand. This gave him the idea of applying for a homestead on nearby Lucy Island to establish a marten farm. He caught and set out several pairs. But Mr. Marten is an aggressive animal with his own ideas about territory. The plan did not succeed."¹³

The introductions apparently occurred in the 1920s, as Cumming, who visited Langara and Lucy islands in June 1930, reported that "Many [Ancient Murrelet] burrows... contained deserted eggs, the birds having probably been killed by Marten which were introduced on the island a few years ago."¹⁰ Cumming undoubtedly learned of the introduction during a conversation with Peve. In a letter written on 1 April 1932 to James A. Munro, Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the western provinces, Cumming stated, "When we were leaving Lucy Isle^D, Pavie [*sic*] asked us if we wanted some eggs which we took back to Masset. He told us he was going to burn them under a stump as he did not get a month's wage from Darcus for guiding him when he was on a previous visit. He was promised a cheque when Darcus reached Vancouver"; it is not known whether Peve received the payment. Darcus returned to Langara Island for several weeks in 1936 but he did not mention Peve in his field notes.

Peve may have released martens on Langara Island or, if held in captivity before release to Lucy Island, there was risk of escape. Either way the risk was real. Marten swim occasionally²⁵ and it is only

a short distance from Lucy Island across Solide Passage to Langara Island (Figure 1). In 1952, Guiguet described the behaviour of a marten captured on Graham Island and held for photographs on Langara Island.²² On 29 May, he wrote: "Spent early p.m. photographing marten with Clifford [Carl] and Frank [Beebe]. Set up a few small logs & placed bagged marten on open rocky beach. Camera set up, loosened draw strings & animal emerged, but would only show head – preceded to lower the logs as they were too high – animal bolted for the woods – Frank & I managed to recapture it after a chase. Slow movement of animal deceptive – actually covering ground quickly – good change of pace we nailed him just short of the timber. Had a repeat performance a few minutes later – caught him at the timber. Last time he was slowed down and hurt during capture – and some good shots were made. Marten is now specimen #2319 [Royal British Columbia Museum #5797]." A close call! Neither Wayne Nelson nor I recorded marten on Langara Island in the late 1960s and early 1970s and the species was not recorded during efforts to eliminate rats from Langara Island.²⁶ Two unconfirmed sightings were made by lighthouse keeper K. Brunn in 1985, one on the beach opposite Cox Island in February and one at close range on the boardwalk east of the lighthouse at Langara Point in early November.³²

Sales of furs would have provided Peve much-needed money for supplies, but I did not uncover sales records held in the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) archives. His name also does not appear in the HBC servant's contracts or in any records pertaining to furs purchased at either Masset or Port Simpson, on the mainland coast.⁴¹ The dates of operation of the HBC post at

Masset predated Peve's residence on Langara Island.^{2,12} With the extirpation of the sea otter,^{19,21} the Northern Fur Seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*) became the staple of the fur trade at Masset.² Nevertheless, some mammals trapped on Graham Island provided type specimens on which descriptions of subspecies of the endemic mammals of Haida Gwaii were based, including the marten.^{30,36} Introductions of other fur-bearing mammals to Haida Gwaii came too late to benefit Peve.⁹

Epilogue

Each of us who has conducted research in the field, especially at remote sites, have benefited from assistance for the general aspects of living provided by local residents, and often as sources of information pertaining to the natural history of the area and the species that were the subjects of our studies. Albert Peve assisted in various ways the naturalists who visited Langara Island during the early decades of the 1900s. I often pondered what it would have been like to have visited with Peve, who lived "just around the corner" from my camp at Dadens when I studied seabirds on and around Langara Island in the early 1970s.

Notes

^A. Beebe was intrigued by adult Ancient Murrelets as they guided their recently hatched chicks to off-shore feeding sites. His party captured murrelet chicks as they descended the nesting slopes on Iphigenia Point and held them until morning when there was enough light for photographs. The chicks were released but because there were no adults present, their attempt to photograph them being escorted out to sea failed. Guiguet's field notes told the story:²²

Bird activity began about midnight and was really humming by one o'clock. Watched old birds bringing young to the sea while F. Beebe and Dr. Carl collected young for movie work. Tide well out by [sic] rising. Young observed following old birds out of woods. It appears that the young are escorted by one adult from the burrow - the other adult calling from the sea. Watched the adults and young about the wharf where lights, boats and ships confused them more than somewhat. Retired about 1:30 p.m. meditating on the remarkable diving and swimming ability of both adults and young of this species. The flying underwater technique is used by both old and young ... Released [in daylight] young murrelets for photography - crow [Northwestern Crow, now American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos caurinus*] took one of the young released and two others showed positive interest.

^B. Darcus did not provide details of observations made during his preliminary visit in 1926 in accounts of his work on Langara and Cox islands the following year.^{15,16} He noted only that "Marbled Murrelets were seen daily near the shore of the island, but no nest was found. If a few pairs of this species were breeding on the [Langara] island, it would have been very difficult to discover their burrows among the thousands of burrows of the other burrow-nesting species breeding there. However, I obtained a clue to a breeding colony of Marbled Murrelets on a smaller island [Cox Island] close by, finding on this island a dead Marbled Murrelet and some wings of the species in the eyrie of a Peale's Falcon."¹⁵ He concluded a "nesting colony" of Marbled Murrelets was nearby and vowed to return; indeed, he returned in 1927 to search intensively for the nest of this species.¹⁵

^C. Young observed birds near Masset before spending a few days on Langara Island in June 1926 with his friend, S.J. Darcus, who had been there for two weeks in search of a Marbled Murrelet's nest. Young's observations of colonies of Ancient Murrelet and Cassin's Auklet near Dadens and on nearby Lucy Island¹⁰ were the first reports of nesting at these sites; by 1970 the colonies were abandoned.³⁹

^D. Cumming collected birds at several sites along the north coast of Graham Island between mid-June and the end of July 1930, "... with the intention of investigating the nesting of certain sea birds on the extreme northwest end of Graham Island."¹⁰ He listed 63 species of birds recorded between Rose Spit and Langara Island, 13 of which were observed at Langara Island from late June to 19 July.³⁹

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POETRY

A winter of bird abundance

When grasses brown and warblers leave
 With its array of calls,
 many does a mockingbird deceive
 The first hoary redpoll,
 on Christmas eve
 Seeds from cones,
 crossbills retrieve
 The faint call of a bunting,
 you can perceive
 Juncos less abundant,
 for there is snow to heave

Rowan and Teal Clarke

9 years of age
 Edenwold, SK