



June 24, 2012

Dear Northern Gateway,

This letter is in reply to the information request No. 1 to Kitimat Valley Naturalists.

First, we are gratified to see that the Northern Gateway project has recognized the importance of the Kitimat River Estuary and Delta. This area provides very important habitat for fish, migrating and resident birds, and many large and small mammals.

Northern Gateway has specifically requested the long-term database of birds occurring over many years within the Kitimat River Estuary. The data we have collected includes monthly British Columbia Coastal Water Survey (BC CWS) and yearly Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). The data from these bird counts are available on the web or in print form.

For access to BC CWS enter <http://www.bsc-eoc.org>

For access to CBC data, enter <http://birds.audubon.org>

Historical results for CBC counts have also been published by the journal *American Birds*. The earliest CBC count for Kitimat was 1974.

In regard to the long-term database, we have significant numbers of records for the foreshore of the Kitimat River Estuary. The number increases when the larger estuary perimeter is considered. These cover a 40-year period with the majority in the last 20 years.

We would be willing to provide this information in a meaningful format.

The Kitimat Valley Naturalists, however, lack the expertise or financial ability to convert the data into a format that would address Northern Gateway's interest in methodology, survey design, dates, weather, and assumptions for data collection.

Alternatively, we do have access to a consulting firm, which is willing to analyze our data and convert it to a useable and practical design. We assume, since this is a considerable undertaking in both time and cost, that Northern Gateway would be willing to cover the associated fees.

We look forward to hearing back from Northern Gateway and pursuing this with a budget proposal.

Sincerely,

Dennis Horwood  
April MacLeod  
Walter Thorne

On behalf of Kitimat Valley Naturalists