

Comox, Vancouver Island, Canada
 April 26, 1990

Continued north on highway 19. At 3 mi. S Campbell River photo 900426-1 of Cascade across Straits of Georgia and with dandelion in foreground. Had lunch Kelsey Bay and thence to Port McNeil, made short trip to Telegraph Bay. This Bay is small but unique and picturesque. Checked camp site approx 1/2 mi. E. Returned to McNeil and camped overnight there. Mileage 67566.4. Best naut C.3546

Port McNeil, Vancouver Island, Canada
 April 27, 1990

Left 10:10 A.M. on the boat Cupre Prince for Robson Bight on Johnstone Strait. Day windy and cool. Between Port McNeil and Telegraph Bay observed 1 pelagic cormorant, 1 red-throated grebe, 60 sandertings, 8 dunlins, 6 buffleheads, 2 mew gulls, 8 mew gulls. Photos 900427-1 and 900427-2 of this bay and associated birdings. 11:05 AM Telegraph Bay, 11:20 AM Blakehorn beacon. Pilot of boat says Paul Spang research area by recording sound as they pass his research facility on an island E of Alert Bay. Kinds of whales and numbers of orca can be ascertained. The pilot also says that harbor porpoise surface slowly like a larger whale(?) The last of August and first 2 weeks of September are the best times to see orca. At that time they have definite routes among the islands that they follow. On our trip the pilot had four different contacts he made for information on the whereabouts of the killer whales and it impressed me how readily the area can be molested by great number of people so informed. Continued to Robson Bight but no orcas. Photos 900427-3 approaching bight and rough seas of Johnstone Strait. 900427-4 + 900427-5 ibid. This bight has been remote but now roads are being made into area and the last stand of white cedar is going to be logged with the attending disturbance and pollution associated with logging. The greatest harm is the opening of the bight to tourism by the new road. It is here where the orcas rub their bodies on the shoreline and is one of only a few such places in the world. As now we do not understand why they so perform nor we will never know when people disturb the whales at this rubbing site. I understand that the last group of Roosevelt elk on Vancouver Island use the cedar forest as a refugia. At the bight observed: 6 band-tailed pigeons, 1 adult bald eagle, 3 white-winged nester and 4 mew gulls. Left Robson Bight photo 900427-6 as we left bight. Left 4:43 P.M. and returned to Port McNeil via northern islands.

Left Port McNeil on return trip. Between Port McNeil and Kelsey Bay turnoff noted: 1 Stellers jay, 4 Common ravens, 2 mule