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Petroglyph at Kulleet Bay, Ladysmith, V.I.

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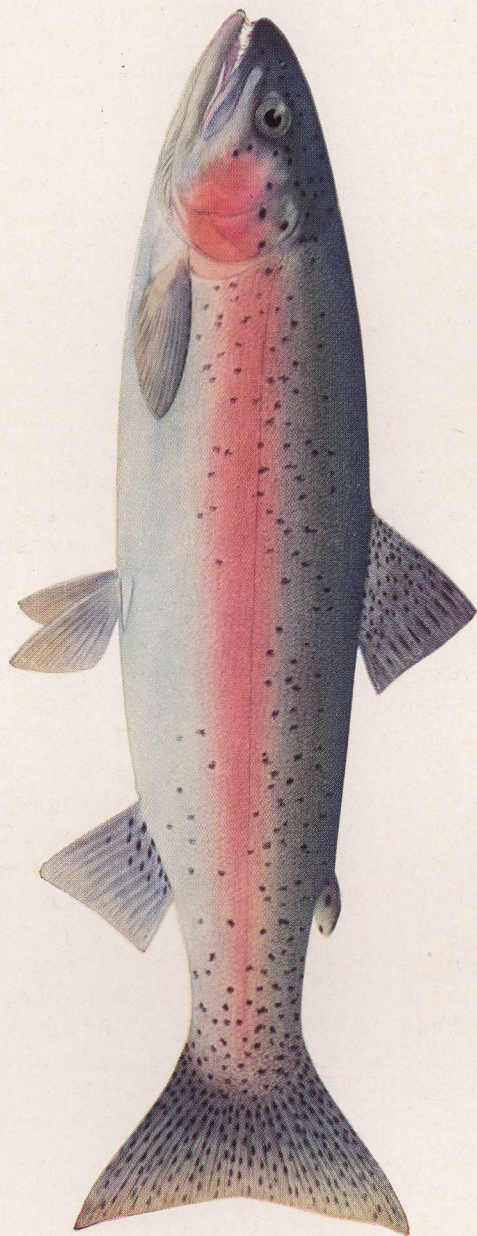
Kamloops Trout

The Kamloops trout is one of the angler's most popular fresh-water game fishes in our Province. While it was originally known only from the Kamloops area this trout has now been introduced into many other areas and its fame has become widespread.

The Kamloops is recognized by ichthyologists as a subspecies of the rainbow trout of the coast which has taken up permanent abode in certain lakes and rivers of the interior. Whereas coastal rainbow trout commonly resort to the sea for some period during their lifetime, the Kamloops trout remains in fresh water permanently.

Besides there being a difference in habit there are certain differences in structure which aid in identifying this trout. In the Kamloops the number of scale rows is usually between 135 and 150 above the lateral line while in the rainbow the number of rows is usually between 130 and 135. The Kamloops trout often develops a deeper body than its coastal counterpart and there are occasional differences in colouration. These differences, however, are apparently the result of the differences in climatic conditions under which the two types of fishes live, fish of the interior being subjected to longer cold periods in the winter and lower temperatures in the summer than those of the coast. This assumption is supported by the fact that the offspring of Kamloops trout eggs, when reared on the coast develop into adults having all the characteristics of coastal rainbow trout.

In their native haunt Kamloops trout spawn in the early spring ascending streams entering lakes as soon as the ice goes out. They can be readily trapped at this time so they are widely used in fish cultural activities as a source of trout eggs for distribution to areas in need of stocking. The young trout may enter the lake



KAMLOOPS TROUT.

Salmo gairdnerii kamloops Jordan.

"Rainbow" coloration; a recently spawned fish.

during their first year of life or may remain indefinitely in streams. Those which spend the greater part of their life in lakes grow more rapidly and attain a larger size than those in streams, often attaining a length of 27 inches and a weight of 8 pounds in their fifth year. The size record seems to be one of 52½ pounds taken in Jewel Lake near Greenwood. By contrast trout in streams of small size and containing little food may scarcely attain 8 inches in length at maturity.

The types of food organisms taken vary with the season and the size of the fish. In general, small fish eat small organisms such as water-fleas and insect larvae, while large fish eat larger items such as leeches, large insects, molluscs, and fish (usually kokanee or minnows).

As a sport fish the Kamloops trout ranks high. It may be taken on a variety of tackle and is sometimes more than a match for the most skilful angler.

G. C. C.

Petroglyphs, similar to that pictured on the front cover, are found in many parts of British Columbia. They usually consist of designs, mythical figures and other symbols carved into the rock face. Some of them are undoubtedly old; others may be of more recent origin but their meaning, if any, has been lost. Petroglyphs (rock carvings) and pictographs (rock paintings) are considered by some authorities to have been produced by native youths during their initiation ceremony when they are obliged to live alone until visited by a "spirit" which subsequently becomes their guardian.

The Small Winter Moth (Rachela occidentalis) was the last of the season's larger moths to appear at a porch light in Saanich, as recorded by G. A. Hardy. Who will record the first for 1950?

SEA STARS

Of all the many seashore animals the starfishes are probably the most easily observed and identified by those of us who are not specialists. The purple or ochre one (Pisaster ochraceus) clinging to the rocks at low tide is a familiar sight. Nearly as common, but usually on the lower reaches of boulder strewn beaches is the variable green or yellow Evasterias troschelii with its partner the scaly seaworm (Arctonoe fragilis) which lives as a commensal in the grooves under the rays.

Less common but mixed with the two species noted above is the smooth skinned orange-brown leather star (Dermasterias imbricata) and the small, bright red blood star with finely tapered arms (Henricia leviuscula) and of course the very large and startling 20-rayed sun star (Pycnopodia helianthoides) found near or below the zero tide mark on shell or gravel beaches into which it digs deeply after clams which are its main source of food.

But this note is not intended to describe these most attractive echinoderm species but to suggest, even to plead, the abandonment of the inappropriate and uninteresting name "starfish". They are not fish, being in no way related to this group, but they are truly stars, stars of the sea. Therefore we believe they should be called "sea stars", a term which is used on occasion. It would not be creating a precedent for we have sea lilies, sea pens, sea mice, sea fans, sea gooseberries and a host of others.

We are not alone in deploring the unfortunate usage of "starfish", for we are joined by one who has spent a lifetime in the study of sea stars and sea urchins. He is Th. Mortensen whose name comes immediately to mind in connection with echinoderms.

We therefore solicit the aid of the Victoria Natural History Society in suppressing the name "starfish" in favour of the stars of the sea.

D. B. Quayle,
Provincial Fisheries Dep't

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, December 27 and 29, 1949

Species	Beacon Hill Park and sea-front						
	Three lakes.	Woods & brush	Horse- shoe Bay	Ross Bay to Shoal"	Lost Lake.Sidney.	Oak Bay Golf Links Cattle Pt.	
Bufflehead	--	--	65	7	--	50	22
Canvas-back	13	--	--	--	--	38	--
Chickadee, GB--	1	--	--	--	4	35	--
Crow	--	--	--	--	--	40	1
Cormorant, Bd.--	--	--	32	12	--	--	16
Cormorant, D-C-	--	--	--	--	--	45	--
Flicker, N-W.--	19	--	--	--	--	--	--
Goldeneye	--	--	5	--	--	75	6
Grebe, Horned--	--	--	31	14	--	185	5
Grebe, W.	--	--	1	--	--	2	--
Gull, Calif.	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
Gull, G-W.	--	--	165	237	12	250	--
Gull, H.	--	--	--	4	--	--	73
Gull, S-B.	--	--	20	--	12	75	10
Harlequin	--	--	23	26	--	4	9
Hawk, Cooper	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Heron, N-W-C.--	--	--	--	--	--	3	--
Junco, O.	--	1	--	--	25	85	--
Kingfisher	--	--	--	--	--	5	--
Kinglet, G-C.--	--	--	--	--	--	30	--
Loon, C.	--	--	--	--	--	7	--
Mallard	266	--	--	--	6	2	--
Mandarin	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Merganser, H.--	--	--	--	--	1	5	--
Merganser, R-B-	--	--	15	--	--	25	2
Meadowlark	--	6	--	--	--	--	10
Murre, Cal.	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
Pheasant	--	--	--	--	1	2	--
Plover, Kildeer	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Robin	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
Ruddy-d.	--	--	--	--	--	31	--
Sandpiper, R-B.--	--	--	--	--	--	300	--
Scaup, G.	--	--	375	302	--	155	22
Scoter, Am.	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Scoter, Surf.	--	--	38	11	--	30	12
Scoter, W.W.	--	--	2	--	--	145	8

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, December 27 and 29, 1949

Cont'd

Species	Beacon Hill Park and sea-front						
	Three lakes.& Brush	Woods Shoe Bay	Horse- to Shoal"	Lost Lake Sidney	Oak Bay Golf Links to Cattle Point		
Shoveller	---	---	187	60	4	8	---
Siskin	---	---	---	---	---	6	---
Squaw-duck	--	---	15	---	---	4	1
Sparrow, Fox--	---	---	---	---	1	2	---
Sparrow, G-C.--	---	---	---	---	1	---	---
Sparrow, S.--	---	3	---	---	1	11	3
Teal, G.W.	---	---	---	---	---	21	---
Towhee, O.	---	---	---	---	3	6	---
Turnstone, B.	---	---	3	---	---	---	1
Thrush, H.	---	---	---	---	---	1	---
Widgeon, Am. 342	---	---	---	125	15	350	395
Woodpecker, D.--	---	---	---	---	1	---	---
Wren, S.	---	---	---	---	2	1	---
Wren, W.	---	1	---	---	---	---	---

Total 50 species observed.

Notes: Beacon Hill Park count by J.O.Clay and H.D.R. Stewart, Dec.29 a.m. Temp.44°; wind S.W. 21; poor visibility.

Horseshoe Bay count by J.O. Clay and H.D.R.Stewart, December 28 a.m. Temp.38°; wind N. 12; poor visibility.

Ross Bay to Shoal Bay count by H.D.R.Stewart, Dec. 28 p.m.

Lost Lake count by G.A.Hardy, Dec.27 p.m. Temp.44°; wind S. 21; heavy rain.

Sidney count by A.R.Davidson, Dec. 27 a.m.

Oak Bay to Cattle Point count by J.O.Clay and C. Faulkner, Dec.29 p.m. Temp. 44°; wind S.E. 35; poor visibility.

REPORT OF THE JANUARY MEETING

The regular meeting was held on Tuesday, January 10th, in the Provincial Library at 8:15 p.m. In the absence of the president the vice-president Mr. J. O. Clay took the chair.

The minutes of the December meeting were read and on motion adopted.

The secretary read a letter from Mr. A. R. Davidson in which he described the hordes of robins in trees about Cadboro Bay and in the Ten Mile Point district.

Dr. Margaret Newton introduced Miss L. Panton, a recent arrival from Winnipeg, as a new member, and she was accorded a warm welcome by Mr. Clay on behalf of the Society.

Mr. H. D. R. Stewart exhibited a piece of fire wood in which there was an area of unusual discoloration probably due to bacteria or moulds becoming established in a wound. The area looked as though a black plug had been driven an inch or so into the tree but the curled and twisted grain around the base of the area showed it to be due to an injury. Mr. Clay had with him a list of birds made by two young people in the Sidney area; he also reported that he and Mr. Davidson had spent most of this day at Sidney engaged in the Federal bird inventory, where they had seen numbers of robins and a few red-winged blackbirds. Mr. Odling reported seeing a red-winged blackbird in his garden last week feeding on arbutus berries.

Mr. Chester P. Lyons, Assistant Forester, British Columbia Forest Service, then gave an illustrated talk entitled "Milestones on the Mighty Fraser" which was greatly enjoyed by the members present. A condensation is given below. Mr. Lyons was thanked with enthusiastic appreciation of the beautiful slides he showed and his work in preparing such an interesting address.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

Secretary.

"MILESTONES ON THE MIGHTY FRASER"

The Fraser River and Canyon provide the most interesting combination of history and scenery to be found in British Columbia. Although the Canyon Highway is one of the major travelways in the Province, few people realize the significance of what can be seen.

Outstanding examples of physical geology are present in the building of the Fraser Delta, the last-century activity of Mt. Baker, the cutting of the great canyon, the concentrating of gold on the river bars and the formation of river terraces.

Families of Indians continue to catch and dry fish in a manner little changed by passing centuries. Cache trees in which food was once stored and "KeeKwilee" holes, remnants of a type of habitation before the white man came are found along the highway. The Indians have legends for various peculiar features and also a strong belief in the existence of the Sasquatch, a race of hairy giants.

Along the route between Vancouver and Kamloops may be seen a wide variety of Coastal and Interior trees, shrubs and flowers. Many were valued by the Indians. Mock orange and Saskatoon berry limbs were used for arrow material. Other plants like spring sunflowers, cactus and bitterroot were held in high esteem as food.

Many small towns along the way such as Hope, Yale, Boston Bar, Spences Bridge and Cache Creek were booming towns before New Westminster or Vancouver came into existence. They all possess clues to dramatic happenings in the past but their value is not generally known or appreciated.

The Cariboo Wagon Road of great historical significance can be traced for over a 100 miles. Examples of the painstaking construction methods of the Royal Engineers are visible at many points along the highway. The era of stage coaches, mule-teams, camels and traction engines is long-forgotten thus robbing the

present highway of much of the glamour and spirit of adventure with which it could be associated.

C. P. L.

THE RED SQUIRREL AS A TRUFFLE HUNTER

Truffles or below ground fungi are a well known delicacy, particularly in Europe where the secret of their whereabouts is well known. However they are more common in British Columbia and the west coast south to California than is generally supposed.

Recently, near Lost Lake, a red squirrel was seen busily munching what seemed to be a very choice tid-bit. When closely approached he reluctantly decided to move off, but not before hastily caching his sweetmeat in a crevice in the bark of the tree, near which he was sitting. This proved to be a small brown truffle, partly eaten and no doubt to which the squirrel would have returned when the coast was clear.

The fact that the ground in the neighbourhood of this squirrel's home was very much scratched up by some animal in search of an underground substance, indicates the possible source of his fungoid nourishment.

Quantities of a species of truffle have been found in squirrel caches in dead trees. Evidently, in British Columbia, the squirrel takes first rank as a successful truffle hunter.

G. A. Hardy.

ANSWERS TO BOTANICAL QUERIES

By W. Tildesley

Northcote Dimoline.

1. Bladder Senna (Colutea arborescens L.) Shrub with pea-like flowers, odd pinnate leaves and a large inflated seed pod of parchment-like texture. A member of the pea family (Leguminosae) native to S. Europe and N. Africa.
2. Caper Spurge (Euphorbia lathyrus L.) A herb with stem crowded with 2" lanceolate leaves tapering to an umbel of greenish-yellow apetalous flowers. Seed capsules 3-celled and 3-seeded; plant full of milky juice.
3. Black Walnut (Juglans nigra L.) American or Canadian walnut. Hard round nut, 1 to 1½ inches in diameter, splitting into two equal parts, with outer surface cut into rough sharp ridges. Tall tree with smooth bark, leaves opposite, pinnate, of about 8 pairs of leaflets. Occurs only in the most southerly point of Ontario as a native but has probably been introduced to the west Coast as a cultivated tree.

Mrs. A. F. Sarratt.

Mertens Sedge (Carex Mertensii Prescott) A very pretty sedge with a long nodding head of bright brown fruits, and fairly wide green grass-like leaves. This plant is a member of the largest genus among North American plants. Henry's "Flora of Southern B.C." describes 142 sedges in the family Cyperaceae; 116 of them are contained in the genus Carex while the other 26 are divided among 7 other genera.

ANSWERS TO BOTANICAL QUERIES

By W. Tildesley.

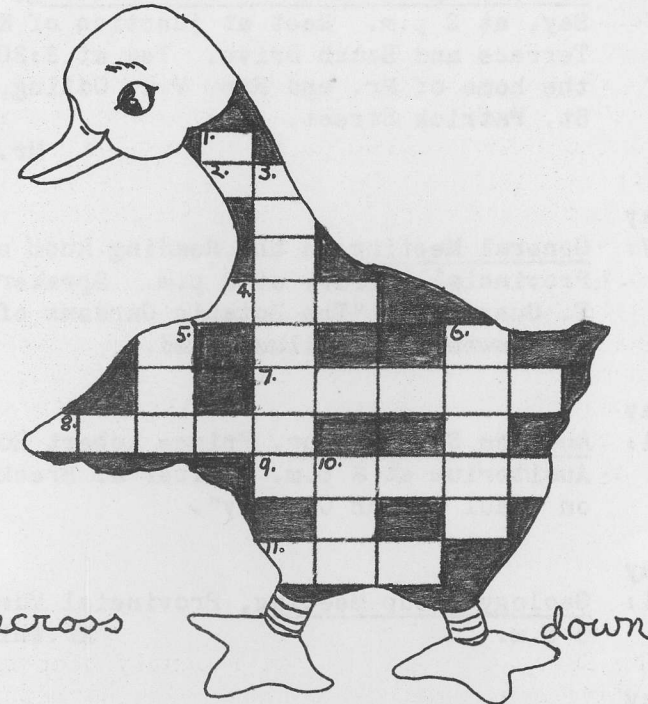
Miss McDonald.

Chinar (Platanus orientalis) Oriental Plane Tree. This is the tree to which Pandit Nehru was referring when he claimed that our Canadian Maples reminded him of home. Although belonging to different families the plane tree and the maple are very much alike in general outline; the leaves are almost identical, but the fruits are quite different. The winged seed of the maple is quite familiar around Victoria but the pendant seed balls of the plane tree are not so noticeable although there are a number of plane trees in the city. Chinar is the Indian name for the Oriental Plane tree; its native habitat extends into the northern provinces of India including Nehru's native Kashmer.

The European starling has recently been observed in the Vancouver area and unauthenticated reports of its presence on Vancouver Island have been received. Naturalists should be on the watch for this bird's appearance in their respective areas. The common starling is much like a black bird with yellow bill, reddish legs and short stubby tail.

JUNIOR PAGE

Here's a "ducky" puzzle for you to solve,-



- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 2. Us | 1. A cry of pain. |
| 4. A kind of monkey | 3. A large mammal whose ancestors roamed over this province. |
| 7. A common fruit | 5. Brother - abbr. |
| 8. A tool used at meal times. | 6. A substance made by wetting sand. |
| 9. To annoy | 10. Organ of sight. |
| 11. A colour | |

(from "Our Dumb Animals")

ANSWER to Crossword Puzzle which appeared in January.

ACROSS - 1. cat, 3. inch, 6. B.C., 7. apple, 10. end, 11. old, 12. do, 13. V.

DOWN - 1. cabin, 2. ti, 4. nap, 5. hull, 8. P.O., 9. Ed., 10. el., 14. B.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Saturday

Feb. 4: Bird Group Field and Social Meeting, at Shoal Bay, at 2 p.m. Meet at junction of King George Terrace and Beach Drive. Tea at 3:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. V.G. Odling, 492 St. Patrick Street.

Mr. Clay.

Tuesday

Feb. 7: General Meeting in the Reading Room of the Provincial Library at 8 p.m. Speaker: Dr.H. T. Gussow, on "The Botanic Gardens of the Commonwealth". Illustrated.

Tuesday

Feb.14: Audubon Screen Tour, Prince Robert House Auditorium at 8 p.m. Walter J. Breckenridge, on "Paul Bunyan Country".

Tuesday

Feb.21: Geology Group Meeting, Provincial Museum at 8 p.m. Mr.Whitehouse.

Tuesday

Feb.28: Botany Group Meeting, Provincial Museum at 8 p.m. Mr. Tildesley.

Junior Naturalists

Each Saturday in February, the Junior Naturalists will attend the programme of Museum Movies which commences on February 4th. There will be two shows each Saturday morning, - one at 9:30 and one at 11.

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