

The
**VICTORIA
NATURALIST**

Vol. 7, No. 1

April, 1950



(Photo by V. E. L. Goddard.)

Chocolate lily.

Published by the
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
VICTORIA, B.C.

Mountain Kamloops Trout

The Mountain Kamloops trout is a fish of high altitude lakes as its name implies; so far it is known only from a few small lakes in the Selkirk range. It was first recognized and collected by Mr. F. C. Whitehouse of Vancouver who is the authority on British Columbia dragonflies. The fish was described by Professor J. R. Dymond, our Canadian ichthyologist, as a subspecies of the Kamloops trout and was named Salmo gairdneri whitehousei in honour of its discoverer.

Mountain Kamloops trout are small in size, seldom exceeding 12 inches in length. Members of this subspecies can be distinguished also by the bright colour pattern with about 13 bluish parr marks and the presence of 150 to 155 scales in the first row above the lateral line.

This diminutive game fish is known chiefly from Six Mile lake and Cottonwood lake near Nelson and from Bear and Fish lakes near Kaslo. It is said to spawn in creeks in mid-June.

G.C.C.

Chocolate Lily or Rice-root (Fritillaria lanceolata Pursh.) is one of the larger of our spring lilies that often goes unnoticed because of its inconspicuous colouring. The tulip shaped bell-like flowers are over an inch long. They hang down in a nodding fashion characteristic of the Fritillarias, one, two or sometimes three to a stem. The chocolate coloured flower is mottled with yellow and has a greenish cast on the outside. The root is made up of numerous white scales which look like grains of rice. In the fall the large capsules are made noticeable by their six prominent wings.

W. Tildesley.



MOUNTAIN KAMLOOPS TROUT.
Salmo gairdneri whitehousei Dymond.

NOTES ON BIRD LIFE

Blue-winged teal: The blue-winged teal is a duck seldom seen on the British Columbia coast. During May of 1949 I saw three of these attractive little water fowl at the Lagoon near Hammond Bay. The males are quite unmistakable, the white crescent in front of the eye is possessed by only one other duck. This is Barrow's golden-eye, a very evident diving duck. The teal were quite trusting and allowed me to approach close enough for careful observation.

American scoter: The following account of rather strange behaviour on the part of a duck should be of interest. On a wet night in November we had hung a bright gas lantern on a stick preparatory to a clam-digging foray. From the upper part of the beach came a whistling sound somewhat like the call of a sandpiper. A large bird flew from among the drift logs and splashed in the water near at hand. It then swam boldly towards the light and allowed itself to be picked up. It proved to be an American scoter. Incidentally this is the only occasion on which I can say for certain that I have seen this species.

The bird refused to take to deeper water, and later waddled up the beach once more. We looked for it before going home, but could not find it again.

Virginia rail: Lying near my home is a large area of swampy land, densely overgrown with underbrush and alders. Apparently this swamp harbours rails more often than we know of. This fact was first brought to my notice, when I found my cat carrying a Virginia rail. The bird was freshly killed and still warm. Since then I have seen the birds on several occasions. They seem to follow the small ditches I have dug to drain my vegetable garden. One fell into a trap I had set for rats in the ditches. Of four records, two of which I was able to identify in the hand, all were the same species, the Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*).

Red-breasted sapsucker: The recent cold spell seems to have brought the red-breasted sapsucker into more evidence than is usual. I have not often seen these birds previously, but noticed several during the recent frigid days. My wife reports seeing one hammering on the side of the house, for what reason I cannot guess. Another I found dead in very poor condition. Several large arbutus trees near by are laden with berries, and it seems strange that the sapsucker could not sustain itself with this very convenient provender. In a letter, my mother on the west coast of Vancouver Island mentions a "beautiful woodpecker with all red head and breast" among the birds visiting her garden.

Richard Guppy,
Wellington, B. C.

NORTH VANCOUVER NOTES

The intense cold weather and deep snow of last January, in particular, caused unpredictable happenings. With the ground completely obliterated by snow and small streams frozen solid, through the zero weather, those birds of prey, whose habitat is the forest zone, were forced to enter human settlements in search of food. One of these birds, a Great Horned Owl, actually alighted on the verandah of a house and quickly ate all the food put there for smaller birds. This happened on a bright, though very cold, sunny afternoon and the incident was witnessed by five adults who gazed in amazement through the window panes of the house. After eating the morsel of food the big bird flew onto a fence. Larger portions of food were put out to entice him: he returned and this time he really feasted. "What vicious eyes he has", said one woman. "Yes, but just look at that terrible beak, and his claws," said her companion, "The poor thing. Its really hungry". The owl, desperate with hunger, glanced occasionally at his audience behind the window panes as he continued his meal and then -- back to the woods. He did not return.

It was in the winter of 1922-3 when the last recorded visit of a Great Horned Owl was made; needless to

relate it was shot. As for the recent visitor two men agreed they hadn't the heart to kill the poor starving 'critter', bad as he might be in his native wilds. Since the thaw several grouse and small birds have been found dead, through cold and starvation.

Walter MacKay Draycot.

BIRD GROUP MEETING

A most pleasant meeting of the Bird Group was held on January 17th at the home of Mrs. R.G.Hobson, 2284 Windsor Rd. The main programme consisted of the quiz outlined below. How well can you do? Miss Eugene Perry won the quiz with an almost perfect paper. After the quiz Mrs. Hobson served refreshments to complete a most enjoyable evening.

Bird Quiz (See Answers elsewhere)

1. Name species introduced and breeding in B.C., Not game-birds.
2. Give 3 words (2 C's, 1 W) explaining why song-birds have increased around Victoria since pioneer days.
3. What Canadian bird is most nearly extinct.
4. What member of our Society has seen it.
5. In what State of U.S.A. did he see it.
6. How many winters in succession did an European Widgeon spend here?
7. How many winters in succession did a Rufous hummingbird spend in Victoria.
8. What large carrion-eater wears feathers on its head.
9. What large carrion-eater wears no feathers on its head.
10. What swallow has a tail most like a Swallowtail butterfly.
11. Name 6 members of the Crow family inhabiting Vancouver Island.
12. What island on West Coast supports California Murres, Pelagic Cormorant, Cassin Auklets and Tufted Puffins.
13. What rare owl was seen last January on Oak Bay Golf links.

14. What member of the Dove family lays only 1 egg.
15. What duck lives all its life in swift water.
16. What climber perches horizontally as readily as perpendicularly.
17. Name 2 birds that crawl under water on foot.
18. Name 5 families of birds that gather in flocks, walk quickly and easily.
19. What B.C. bird sings only "in the air".
20. What bird is known to rest under water.
21. Name a climber that seems to prefer hunting head downward.

J. O. Clay.

GEOLOGY GROUP MEETING

At our March meeting we were entertained by Mr. John H. Sewell from Vanderhoof, B. C. who gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on the Indians of the Northern Interior, he described how and with what tools they manufactured their arrow and spear heads showing specimens of artifacts found on the sites of ancient camps and in contrast some specimens that he had made himself. So good was the work, that it was difficult to tell what was Indian and what was Sewell.

Later he showed how the work was done, using tools he had made himself presumedly in exact duplicate of those used by the Indians before they were able to get steel or iron. Mr. Sewell then took a piece of obsidian and rapidly chipped and worked it into an arrowhead, he then took a rough piece of flint and "knapped" off a few flakes, one of which he shaped into an arrowhead. He then related how he had come upon the remains of an Indian village and from the evidence dug up it appeared the original inhabitants must have all been massacred some 200 years ago. Many questions were asked and answered, Mr. Sewell saying that everybody should take a trip to the north country to find out what the interior of British Columbia is really like. Incidentally Mr. Sewell said that Indian women used to make the arrowheads in their spare time and suggested it might

be a change from bridge for ladies at afternoon teas to sit around the fireplace and chip off a few arrowheads!!

The time passed very quickly and Mr. Sewell was given a hearty vote of thanks for a most interesting and informative talk.

J. H. Woodhouse.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Victoria Natural History Society held its annual meeting at 8 p.m. March 14 in the Provincial Museum.

During the business session preceding the presentation of annual reports, a communication from the Outdoor Club of Victoria was read asking for the endorsement of their efforts to have the Mount Brenton area reserved as a Provincial Park. Mr. Gordon Bowes, President of the Club, pointed out that the main area of sub-alpine plateau and lakes was still in its natural state and would be an easily accessible camping site for the study of the natural history of southern Vancouver Island. A resolution was unanimously passed endorsing the efforts of the Outdoor Club in this matter and the Secretary was instructed to notify the authorities concerned.

In presenting the annual report of the Secretary Mrs. Bland gave a short but comprehensive review of another active year. Eight very able and interesting speakers had addressed the general meetings and the various groups had held numerous field trips and indoor meetings. The Audubon Screen Tours still received an enthusiastic public response although any stimulation of interest in natural history from this source was not reflected by any increase in membership but it was felt that as a service to the Victoria public it was worth the labour involved.

Rev. Tom Taylor, in presenting the treasurer's report, pointed out that owing to increased cost of printing it had been necessary to dip into reserve funds to meet the cost of publishing The Victoria

Naturalist. The finances of the Society are still in a very sound condition.

The group chairman reported varying amounts of activity. As usual the bird group under Mr. J.O. Clay had the most widely attended meetings both indoors and on field trips.

After losing its chairman, Mrs. Wm. Matthews, through her returning to California the geology group was lucky in persuading Mr. J.H. Whitehouse to take over. A very interesting series of indoor meetings have been held this winter and interest is maintained at a high pitch.

For the botany group Mr. Tildesley reported an active year both indoors and in the field.

Dr. Carl reported continued interest by the Juniors; although fewer meetings were held the attendance was well maintained. At present the Juniors are attending the Saturday moving pictures at the Museum.

In the President's report Mr. Hardy stressed the role that breadth of interest and dispersed responsibility played in keeping the organization in a live and healthy condition, stating that "there is only one thing a one-person Society can do and that is die of old age". Referring to the Treasurer's report he pointed out that the deficit in cost of publishing the Naturalist would have to be met either by increased membership fees or an increased membership. While he thanked his executive for their unfailing support he pointed out that the Society owed a great deal to members whose names never appeared on any list of officers and whose work was often unknown to the main body of the membership. In this respect he particularly wished to thank Mr. H.D.R. Stewart for taking on the onerous duties connected with the Audubon Screen Tours, and the enthusiastic but unsung members who helped to handle these meetings month after month throughout the winter. Mr. Hardy also had a special word of praise for Miss Eugenie Perry, Mrs. Leveson-Gower, and Miss Grace McDonald for their work on the nominating committee. Knowing from past experience the difficulties to be encountered in getting the members to take on the responsibility of office they still accepted the job and he was now pleased to present to the meeting the results of their efforts and ask for the approval of the slate of officers as prepared by

the nominating committee. The whole slate was elected as presented and the names and positions will be found listed on the back cover of this issue of the Naturalist.

As there have been so many problems relating to conservation brought before the Society and to continue the work of our affiliated Society for the Preservation of Native Plants, Dr. Clifford Carl proposed that a new group be organized under the title of Conservation Group. Following this Dr. David Turner, B. C. Director of Conservation was elected as chairman. This resolution was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

Mr. Hardy then introduced the new President, Mrs. James Hobson, who proceeded to carry out the first programme of the 1950-51 season. MEMBERS NIGHT: Under this title members presented material connected with the group with which they were particularly interested. Miss E. Collen in speaking on "Collecting Rocks by a Beginner" provided proof that there is unlimited interest for anyone with an enquiring mind even in the rocks and pebbles on the beach. The collection exhibited by Miss Collen rather puts her out of the class of beginners but it certainly stirred up a great deal of interest among the members. For the Bird Group, Mr. H. D. R. Stewart gave an inspiring talk on his early experiences in bird watching in Alberta and the Interior and interesting sketches of the people he encountered in his travels. Mr. Hardy had a most interesting collection of flower slides showing his first efforts with coloured film around Lost Lake and Manning Park. In conclusion Dr. Carl showed a ten minute National Film Board short on the Montreal Botanical Garden. One of the fairly new stunts of having the moving picture camera show the years growth of a plant in the space of a few seconds was used to show the contortions of a morning-glory to find a support and the rhythmic movement of dandelion leaves as they avoided the hot rays of the sun while the flower stem shot up and produced a bloom. There was an unusual shot of cauliflower seed germinating and the subsequent growth and development of the large white vegetable head. The views of the garden were pretty but the whole tone of the film was too much like some of our blatant travel

reporters and reflected somewhat the reasons that Dr. Gussow warned us about in pointing out the danger of Botanical gardens getting into the hands of entertainment merchants.

W. Tildesley.

Answers to Bird Quiz:

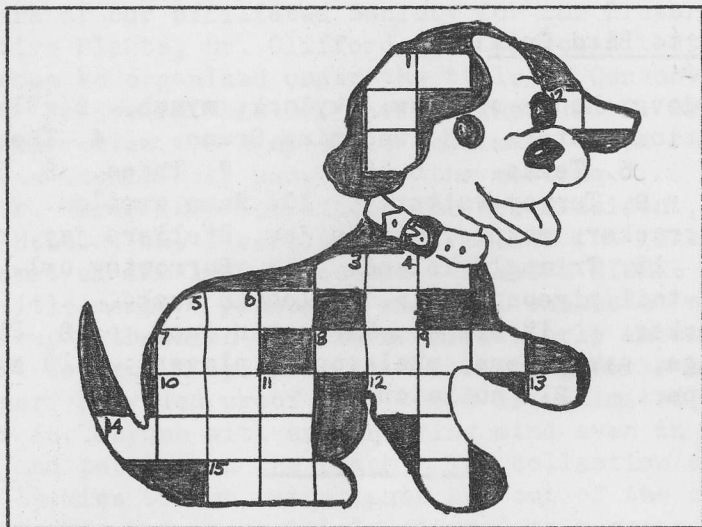
- 1 Rock-dove, house-sparrow, skylark, mynah. 2. Clearing, Cultivation, Water. 3. Whooping Crane. 4. Theed Pearse. 5. Texas. 6. Four. 7. Three. 8. Bald Eagle. 9. Turkey-vulture. 10. Barn swallow. 11. Nutcracker, magpie, Canada jay, Stellers jay, raven, crow. 12. Triangle Island. 13. Burrowing owl. 14 Band-tail pigeon. 15. Harlequin duck. 16. Flicker. 17 Dipper, Harlequin duck. 18. Pipits, starlings, sandpipers, phalaropes, plovers. 19. skylark. 20. dipper. 21. nuthatch.

The Mind Of A Bird

Sir W. Beach Thomas, in his nature column in the London Observer records some remarkable habits acquired by English Tits. The one that has probably received the most publicity in the press is the habit of removing bottle tops from milk bottles and stealing the milk. This depridation which evidently started in London has been copied by Tits all over the country. "Birds, in short, can learn and imitate and do, especially if it is seen that profit ensues."

JUNIOR PAGE

Test your wits on this 'doggy' puzzle; answer next month.

ACROSS

1. To achieve
2. A cutting tool
3. To assist
5. Female sheep
7. Eleven
8. Dog food
10. Writing fluid
12. Negative
14. 12 inches
15. Optic organ

DOWN

1. Canine
4. Common metal.
5. To go out.
6. Triumph.
9. Short letter.
11. It opens locks.
13. Five.
(From "Our Dumb Animals"
magazine)

TREASURER'S REPORT

for year ending Feb. 28, 1950

INCOME

Balance from 1949 - - - - - \$167.14

Membership:

63 at \$2.00	\$126.00	
3 at 1.00	3.00	
1 at 2.00 past dues	2.00	
21 at 3.00	63.00	
1 at 3.00 paid in advance	3.00	
1 at 1.50	1.50	
Junior	12.90	
Interest at Bank	2.30	
Mr. Clay, Bird check list	3.35	\$217.05

\$384.19

EXPENDITURES

Printing and postage (Naturalist)	\$240.36	
Stationery	1.24	
Stamps (G.C. Carl)	1.00	
" (Sec. 2 yrs.)	2.12	
" (Treasurer)	3.00	
Printing (Buckle Pub. Co.)	10.85	
Balance in Bank	125.62	\$384.19

1950

Tuesday GENERAL MEETING, Provincial Museum at 8 p.m.
 April 11: Speaker: Mrs. E. G. Oldham.
 Topic: Problems of "Recreation Resource
 Utilization".

Tuesday GEOLOGY GROUP MEETING, Provincial Museum
 April 18: at 8 p.m. Mr. J. H. Whitehouse.

Saturday
 April 29: BOTANY GROUP MEETING, Field Trip.
 Ten Mile Point, at end of Cadbora Bay bus
 terminal at 2 p.m.

Dear Readers: As you will see by the financial report and from the Treasurer's and President's reports, there is a gap between income and outgo with respect to this publication. Remembering Mr. Micawber's advice on expenditures it behoves us to do something to make these fit our income.

The most satisfactory adjustment would be to increase our circulation. Another method might be to increase the membership fee to cover the extra expense of printing, but even if this expedient is used it will be a year before the necessary change can be submitted to the membership for approval. As expenditures beyond printing and postage are only nominal there is very little that can be done by economy except in the number of copies sent out to members in arrears so if you get any use or enjoyment out of this little book will you please check up on your subscription and if you are in arrears send or take cash, cheque, or money order to:-

E.W. ADSHEAD,
 2270 Central Avenue.

With a truly earnest and concerted effort on the part of all the membership we are quite sure that we can add enough new members who are really interested in natural history to balance our budget.

After this issue all names will be struck off the mailing list after they are one year in arrears.

The Editor.

Note: Membership fees for the year 1950-1951 are now due.

Victoria Natural History Society

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HON. WM. T. STRAITH,
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Telephone: B 4975.

Annual dues, including subscription: Single, \$2; Family, \$3; Junior, \$1.

AFFILIATED SOCIETY.

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATIVE PLANTS.

Secretary: MISS ELLEN HART, 1513 Laurel Lane, Victoria, B.C.

To