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KAMLOOPS TROUT

To most anglers in fresh water the Kamloops trout, a subspecies of the rainbow, represents the highest type of game fish. It strikes hard, puts up a good fight, is beautiful to look at and makes prime eating. In addition it frequents cold mountain lakes or fast-running rivers which are a delight to fish.

Originally described from lakes in the Kamloops area, from which it gets its name, this trout is found throughout the interior of the Province, except in part of the Kootenay system and extends into north eastern Washington. In lakes containing plenty of food it grows rapidly attaining a weight of 8 pounds in its fifth year. A record fish of 36 inches in length and 52½ pounds in weight was taken in Jewel Lake some years ago. Trout in streams of small size containing little food may scarcely attain 8 inches in length at maturity.

Kamloops trout have been extensively introduced outside their natural range by fish cultural activities. In coastal streams and lakes these introduced fish are indistinguishable from native rainbow trout.

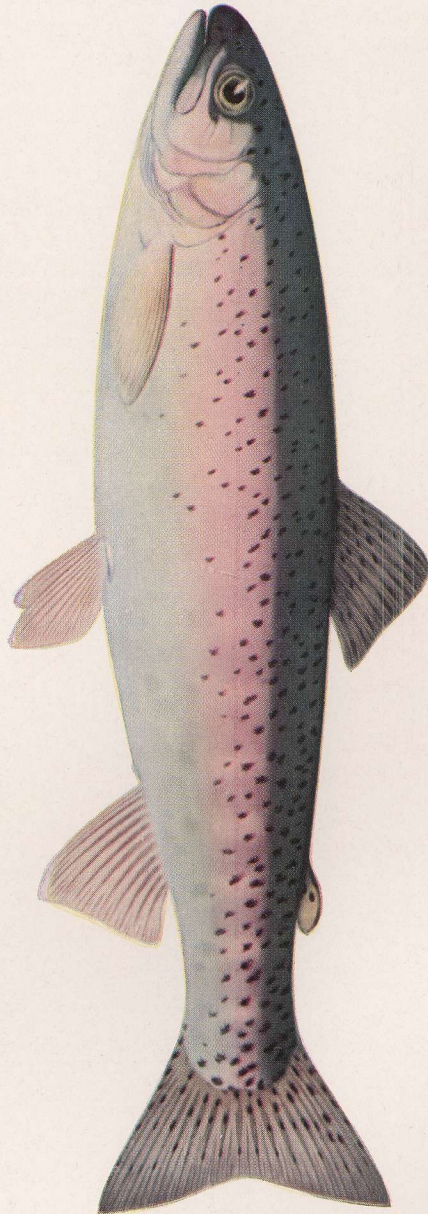
G.C.C.

ATTRACTING BIRDS TO A LOCAL GARDEN

by Grace M. Bell

The winter of 1951 challenged us here on St. Patrick Street to feed and identify birds appearing near the house in search of food. It was cold; at times snow and ice; and in March eight degrees of frost. Winter is a good time to begin studying birds, they come closer. And we recommend the aspect from her kitchen windows for any housewife.

In February our interest had reached what you might



KAMLOOPS TROUT.

Salmo gairdnerii kamloops Jordan.

Coloration of medium-sized fish in rivers and small lakes.

call a high level. There had been two or three varied thrushes gobbling up rolled oats and halved apples in view of the windows. The snow that winter frequently covered the bird fare and it was necessary to continually clear a place and replenish with food. Canary seed fast disappeared; but the purple finches were here and the colour and proximity to them gave delight to ourselves as well as to any visitors. Their preference was for canary seed. By this time we had a feed shelf close to the centre window in the kitchen. So satisfactory was it that the following winter one twice as large was put up and over it we placed as a roof the sash from a cold frame bed. It was not a satisfactory arrangement; the birds preferred the tray at the window uncovered, so the contrivance was taken down. When it pelted with rain we put no feed out; when snow fell nothing was easier than to open the window and sweep it off, then scatter a bit of food. Besides canary seed which we started out with, other food consisted of chick scratch, cracked corn (no longer recommended), broken walnut meats, rolled oats, raisins and suet. The last brought even the flickers to the low nut bushes where it was fastened only a few feet from the windows.

This was the winter when we experienced for the first time an additional advantage we in Victoria have over other places where there is no museum. We found the Government Wildlife staff always responsive to matters governing any angle of natural life occurring here. We telephoned them and went to see them repeatedly and found them indispensable in helping us forward in our questing amongst birds. Nor would we have progressed as well in our first year's bird watching without the ready assistance of Mr. J.O. Clay, Bird Group Chairman for the Natural History Society.

By March two different looking finches arrived; timid, cold and hungry. Finally they came to the feed tray and finally they were pronounced linnets or house finches by most of the birding community. Other birds coming to the feed tray were juncos, red-winged blackbirds, chickadees, song sparrows, fox sparrows, towhees, Seattle wrens and far too many house sparrows.

Near the middle of May a flock of red crossbills arrived, found our greengage tree alive with aphids, and

stayed on the job for two weeks. Incidentally, that year we had the biggest yield of greengages we have ever had. The crossbills became quite tame, we could almost touch them. They moved like little paroquets over the infested tree. The bill looks ill adapted for picking up anything, but inserting the prongs of the crossed tips of the mandibles in the leaf, the bird twists its head and the leaf opens, giving a clear field for the long tongue.

That spring and summer the garden was visited by four or five varieties of warblers, many chipping sparrows, western flycatchers, white-crowned sparrows, rufous hummingbirds, warbling vireo, and others not then identified. We began to see that the birds wintering here are different ones to those seen in the summertime. For instance, as autumn approached the white-crowned sparrows place was taken by the golden-crowned sparrows. The warblers left altogether, though a late straggler caused excitement by being observed in October.

It is such details which contribute to the overall interest and excitement of the home bird watcher. The banding of birds offered another side with useful results added to the enjoyment. In June, 1952, I obtained my first bird banding permit.

The number of birds visiting our feeding stations increased. We had a very much frequented bird bath, a must for the home birder, if possible. Several species often bathe at the same time. With the sun on the shiny wet feathers in different colours they are a sight to behold.

Not all the birds in the garden will come to the feed tray or into the feeding traps we have so far put out. The ardent birder is always on the look-out for the right food to attract a special bird. Bush-tits, ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglets like the margarine hung in a sort of basket made of small-mesh wire placed near the windows, but nothing on the feed shelf or in the feed boxes has yet attracted these delightful small birds. The linnets have proven the most constant of all the birds which have visited the shelf; they still frequent this and the feeding places elsewhere in the garden near

the house.

In developing the home feeding station one can be encouraged by the fact that though there may be but a few birds at first their presence will soon draw others.

THE COMPOSITION AND HISTORY OF
the COAST RANGE BATHOLITH

A meeting of the Geology Group held in the Provincial Museum on the evening of November 17th, was addressed by Dr. W. R. Bacon of the British Columbia Department of Mines. By the use of maps, slides and blackboard, the speaker gave an exceedingly instructive description of the great intrusive masses of granitic rocks that form the Coast Range batholith, varying in width from 50 to 100 miles and reaching from the international boundary line on the south to Kluane Lake in Yukon Territory on the north, a distance of 1100 miles.

By referring to the geological time table, Dr. Bacon started charting the sequence of changes from the Triassic period, when a great outpouring of lavas, interbedded with marine sediments, occupied the present site of the Coast Range. The Triassic period had a duration of 30 million years. This was followed by the Jurassic period, of like duration, when sedimentation was more important than vulcanism.

It was during the Jurassic that the first extensive invasion of granitic rocks began, which continued during the Lower Cretaceous, and possibly later.

During the Cretaceous period, lasting 65 million years, the granitic rocks were largely uncovered by erosion of the overlying formations, leaving a peneplane with the mountain peaks fairly concordant. The final upthrust of the range occurred in Cenozoic times, in the Pliocene, when the range probably had a height at least a thousand feet greater than at present.

Normal erosion and the work of the Pleistocene ice

sheet account for the loss of height since. With the melting of this great ice sheet, having a thickness of one to two miles, the Coast Range rose slowly until marine beaches were raised in some localities as high as 600 feet above the present sea level.

One of the last and most spectacular of late geological events was the outbreak of volcanic activity during and after the Pleistocene glaciation. It was then that such peaks as the 'Tusk' in Garibaldi Park came into existence.

The granitic rocks of the batholith vary from granites to gabbros, including diorites, granodiorites, quartz-diorites and monzonites. The average composition would be that of a granodiorite or quartz-diorite.

Dr. Bacon showed a variety of specimens of the rocks that go to make up this great composite batholith.

Dealing with the mineral resources, Dr. Bacon expressed the opinion that further exploration of the batholith will reveal that about 25% of the Coast Range is composed of septums and roof pendants of the older sediments and volcanics. It is in these inclusions in the plutonics that ore bodies such as those at Britannia, Anyox and Ecstall River are to be looked for.

Dr. S. S. Holland operated the projector, and showed a number of very fine views of the Coast Range that have been taken by members of the British Columbia Department of Mines.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Bacon was moved by Dr. A. O. Hayes, who told of an experience he had on a glacier in the Portland Canal area many years ago.

George E. Winkler.

THE TENTH ANNUAL FUNGUS FORAY

The Tenth Annual Fungus Foray took place on the afternoon of November 7th in the Hudson's Bay woods off Argyle Street. About 25 people attended although it was a dull rainy day. Fungi were not very plentiful; altogether 41 species were identified.

As this was the tenth foray led by Mr. G. A. Hardy who had recently retired from the post of Botanist to the Provincial Museum, it was decided to show Mr. Hardy some appreciation of the many services he had given to the Society and particularly to the Botanical Group. After gathering the fungi the party gathered in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hobson for light refreshments. A cake with 10 candles was produced. Mr. Hardy extinguished all ten candles with one blow. A piece of the cake was given to all present. A card, signed by everyone there, expressing the good wishes of the Society was presented to Mr. Hardy. Mr. Hardy told how much he had enjoyed his association with the Society and then proceeded to identify the fungi collected that afternoon.

C.W.L.

Mushrooms and Toadstools found in the Hudson Bay Woods
Tenth Annual Fungus Foray

November 7th, 1953

Tricholoma personatum	Mycena galericulatus
" terreum	" haematopus
Marasmius bellipes	" pura
" candidus	Hypholoma fasciculare
" rotula	" incertum
Omphalia campanella	" sublateritium
Clitocybe infundibuliformis	Stropharia ambigua
" nebularia	Pholiota spectabilis
Hygrophorus conicus	Collybia dryophila
" pratensis	Boletus luteus
Gomphidius glutinosa	" subaureus
Lepiota cristata	Pleurotus serotinus
Cystoderma amianthinum	Peziza auranticum
Laccaria laccata var. amethystina	Fomes pinicola

Armillaria melleus	Ganoderma applanatum
Chanterellus aurantiacus	Stereum hirta
Psalliotus sylvicola	Cryptoporus volvatus
" placomyces	Lycoperdon pyroforme
" campestris	Tremella mesenterica
Entoloma strictus	
	Coprinus micaceus
	Gyrocephalus rufus.

G.A.H.

A STRANGE "FISH"

by J. H. Whitehouse

The following unusual occurrence happened to a friend of mine (Evans by name) while fishing at Brentwood recently.

Trolling with 200 feet of line, to which was attached four ounces of lead, a nine inch herring dodger and a wooden plug, he felt a strike.

The 'fish' did not jump, but since the line continued to jerk spasmodically, he concluded he had hooked a dogfish. The catch apparently had some attraction for several gulls, as they were following up and hovering over the line. A very wide wake appeared behind the 'fish', and Mr. Evans wondered if he had caught a squid, or some other unpleasant marine specimen. However, it was not until the line was nearly in that he found he had hooked a full grown Glaucous-winged gull. The hook had penetrated the lower mandible and had made quite a hole as a result of the bird's struggles. Strange to say though, the barb on the hook was not set.

The gull, of course, was half dead from drowning and fright. However, when the hook was removed and a lot of water literally squeezed out of its stomach, the bird still seemed to have some life left, so it was put on the bow of the boat to see what would happen. After some time, it tried to wobble back to the stern, pecking at a hand that was extended to help it. Falling foul of the propeller shaft it lost a few feathers and tottered back to the bow, where it remained until the boat landed, when it was put ashore.

It still seemed dazed and stupid, but soon started flapping its wings, and in a few minutes soared into the

air and flew off, apparently none the worse for its experience as a 'fish'.

The most remarkable thing is that the lure was being towed well under the surface of the water when taken by the gull.

BIRD NOTES

On November 24th, while Mr. Clay was working among his raspberries, he thought he heard a hummingbird. Without moving, he looked around, and then saw an immature rufous hummingbird busy eating the white flies he had disturbed from under the raspberry leaves. The bird stayed there about fifteen minutes, and came back for a similar period of time the two following afternoons, November 25th and 26th. He has seen no sign of it since.

While waiting for a plane at the Vancouver Airport, a friend of mine was rather surprised to see two herons, one of them quite close to the runway. The ground was very wet indeed and several fair sized pools had formed, and the heron was very intent on its business of getting food. There was a lot of noise, of course, planes were coming and going, and even when one machine turned so that the heron got the full benefit of the blast from the propellers, reversing many of its feathers, it merely turned its back and concentrated on its dinner; it was still there when my friend boarded his plane and left.

I went to Beacon Hill Park the other day to see if the widgeon and mallards were there in their usual numbers; and they certainly were, as I estimated one thousand widgeon and five hundred mallards, also twelve canvasbacks, but saw no wood or mandarin ducks. While watching the masses of widgeon slowly eating their way across the grass, I noticed among them three Canada geese keeping step with them. The geese paid no attention to the automobile traffic which was fairly close, but when a pedestrian came along the road, much further away than the cars, they up

and flew toward the sea. Apparently birds are more afraid of us than our machines.

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On October 30th, while at Cattle Point, I was fortunate enough to see twenty-four whistling swans flying fairly low; most of them white, with a few grey ones. I watched them until they were out of sight, and they never diverged from their course, which, as far as I could judge, would take them into the Lake Crescent region of the Olympics.

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While walking on the Willows Beach near the foot of Bowker Avenue on December 17th, Miss Melbourne found a pacific fulmar lying dead well above high water. The bird was perfectly dry and clean, and showed no external injury or signs of oiling. As it was a new bird to me she very kindly brought it to my house so I could see it for myself. Its feathers were grey in colour and very soft to the touch. This bird belongs to the tube-nosed swimmers, which order also includes the albatrosses, shearwaters and petrels. In the case of the fulmar, the nostrils are encased in tubes about an inch long on top of the bill. These birds are essentially marine, rarely indeed coming near land except at breeding, so it is very unusual to find them on a Victoria beach. Some ornithologists believe that the period of adolescence of a fulmar may be as much as seven or eight years.

A. R. D.

THE TUFTED PUFFIN (*Lunda cirrhata*)

The tufted puffin, dark in plumage, is ornamented in summer by an enormous red bill, the outer covering of which is shed at the end of the breeding season. In nuptial plumage it is further embellished by long straw-coloured plumes streaming from above and behind the eyes. In summer the sides of the head are conspicuously white. When

leaving and alighting the feet and legs show red.

It is at breeding-time that puffins return to the land from deep-sea wanderings. They burrow into steep hillsides or enter rocky fissures. From these places they can launch themselves into the air safely for return to the sea.

Their flight is fast and unswerving, repeatedly sweeping past an intruder in wide ellipses, or descending to rest on the sea. The food is small fish, with which they stuff their great beaks. The nest is scanty, made of seaweed and feathers placed at the end of the burrow. One egg is laid at a clutch.

The tufted puffin nests in large numbers on islands off the open coast of Washington, but sparingly in the vicinity of Victoria, the largest breeding population so far recorded for British Columbia being on Triangle Island, which is situated off the northern tip of Vancouver Island.

(The above article was written by Mr. J. O. Clay for inclusion in the December issue, the cover for which depicted one of these birds, but it was inadvertently omitted.)

SNOW DROPS

Clustering snowdrops, quivering with hanging heads like shy little girls.

Petals pendant, pearly white, curved in spindle shape guard the source of life.

Wrapped in green gauze sheaths, held vertical on slender stems are buds struggling up.

Hidden farther down, close to the nourishing ground are snow drops to be.

Cannot loneliness always a welcome find wherever friendly flowers live?

A. O. Hayes.

JUNIOR NATURAL HISTORY PAGE

Chairman: Bruce Colvin

Editor: Roger Porter

This month there are no contributions to this page from the Juniors. Please bring any writing you do for your page by the 19th of each month, or post it to Roger Porter, Editor Junior Natural History Page, care of the Provincial Museum.

The next gathering will be on January 5, 1954 at 3:30 and the actual 15 minute meeting will be held at 4:30 so that everyone has a chance to be present.

There are two promises we hope to keep: One; to have Mr. Cunningham, President of the Natural History Society, to speak and demonstrate on biology, and two: To receive and distribute Audubon sets that will make the first twenty of our members also Junior Audubon members.

Our Secretary, Marie Barr, is doing her best to be present at every meeting to keep the minutes, but afternoon meetings are difficult for some of our members to attend.

Mrs. Sherman, a member of both this and the B. C. Indian Arts and Welfare Society, said that she enjoyed the article about the hummingbird taking a shower.

Genevieve Whale, who modelled and cast the lynx all by herself, has volunteered to organize the Junior Natural History display case.

At the last meeting this year Dr. Carl arranged a preview and took the Juniors over to the new Mungo Martin house at Thunderbird Park where they met Mr. David Martin who made the mythical Ho-hoc bird at the top of the inside pole open and shut its huge beak. The poles glowed in the light of the central fire and hemlock bows arched over the entrance and the huge painted screens.

Your Natural History Magazine should be coming to you each month except June, July and August. Look for it to arrive before the 15th of each month. 'Phone the Museum if it does not come by then.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

1954

Saturday

January 9:

BIRD GROUP: Meet at Clover Point at 9:30 a.m.

Main object SHORE BIRDS.

J.O. Clay.

Tuesday

January 12:

GENERAL MEETING: In the Provincial Library
at 8 p.m. Mr. Frank Beebe of
the Provincial Museum staff, will give a
talk on Falconry.

Tuesday

January 19:

GEOLOGY GROUP: Meeting to be held at the
Museum at 8 p.m.

Tuesday

January 26:

BOTANY GROUP: Meet at the Museum at 8 p.m.
Mr. W. A. Hubbard, the
newly appointed Provincial Botanist, will
talk on the work of the Many Berries Range
Station, Alberta, Illustrated.

Saturday

January 30:

AUDUBON LECTURE: At the Oak Bay Junior
High School Auditorium
at 8 p.m., speaker Mr. Cleveland P. Grant,
subject: 'Wildlife of Marsh and Mountain'.

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