

The
**VICTORIA
NATURALIST**

Vol. 12, No. 5

November, 1955



Mouse habitat group, Provincial Museum.

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

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FRONT COVER

The habitat group pictured on the front cover is the first of a series of cases to be installed in the Provincial Museum showing the small mammals of British Columbia. Others in the series will include field mouse, shrew, bats, squirrel, chipmunk, and other mammals up to the size of the fisher. The taxidermy in the mouse case is by C.J. Guiguet; background and accessories are by F. L. Beebe. Fluorescent lighting will be employed and the required electrical outlets are now being installed in the building.

DISPLAY OF FUNGI IN THE MUSEUM

A special exhibition of mushrooms and other fungi will be on view throughout the month of November. Featured are models of local species reproduced in wax, wood and ceramics as well as sketches and illustrations all by talented artists. The models in ceramic are of special interest since they are the work of Mrs. L.O. Madison of Port Angeles, Washington, who has just become interested in this group of plants and has learned to reproduce them "from the ground up". The results are remarkably lifelike and pleasing.

Diagrams and photographs showing the place of fungi in nature complete the exhibit. The material has been arranged under the direction of Dr. Adam F. Szczawinski with the cooperation of the Department of Biology and Botany, of the University of British Columbia, the Dominion Forest Biology Laboratory and others.

ERRANT EARWIGS

By G.Clifford Carl.

Earwigs are a well known if not a popular resident of most gardens but few persons realize that we have more than one species in this Province. In fact at least four different kinds of earwigs are known to occur but fortunately only one, the European earwig, can be considered a

pest at present. The others are rarely seen, either because they are restricted to certain specialized habitats, or because they are not yet numerous enough to be noticed.

EUROPEAN EARWIG (Forficula auricularia)

This is the common earwig of the garden, an insect pest introduced by accident from Europe. It first appeared on the Pacific Coast of this continent in 1909 in Oregon where it was reported as a garden pest at Albany. Little more was heard of the earwig until 1915 when it attracted much attention at Seattle, Washington, by its numbers and disagreeable habits. In 1916 it was first reported in British Columbia and by 1919 it had become established at Vancouver and New Westminster. By 1929 earwigs were present all over Vancouver, New Westminster and surrounding municipalities, Victoria, and as far north as Alert Bay. Ten years later these insects were present in most urban centres on Vancouver Island, on the adjacent mainland and apparently also at Vernon in the Okanagan Valley. Since then they have spread southwards in the interior to Osoyoos and in 1952 were reported injuring soft fruits, particularly apricots in that area. More recently they have turned up in the Kootenays, especially in the Creston area and even on the Queen Charlotte Islands where they are becoming a pest at Queen Charlotte City and at Tlell.

Soon after European earwigs first appeared in British Columbia the Federal Department of Agriculture through its Division of Entomology began a programme of releasing parasites to control the numbers of these pests. More than a quarter million of the tachinid fly, Bigonichaeta setipennis, were released during one intensive campaign (1934-1939) and many more have been turned loose since with the result that these parasites have now become established over a wide area and have acted as an effective check on the increase of earwigs in most areas.

You may wonder how efficient this parasitic fly really is when you see the number of earwigs in your garden but entomologists assure us there would be many more if it were not for the help of this tachinid. For more intensive local control, though, the Department still recommends the use of dusts and poisoned bait (see "The European earwig and its control in Canada" by R. Glendenning, Publication No.21, Entomology, Department of Agriculture, Science Service, Ottawa, 1953).

Maritime Earwig (Anisolabis maritima)

The maritime earwig has a world-wide distribution probably largely due to spreading by commerce between countries. It has been recorded from Mexico, Bermuda, Ecuador, Canary Islands, West Indies, Japan, New Zealand, and probably occurs at many other points.

In North America it has been found on the Atlantic coast from Maine to Texas, and on the Pacific coast in British Columbia.

They were first recorded from Canada in 1926 by Professor G. J. Spencer of the Department of Zoology, The University of British Columbia, who found a colony on the beach at Departure Bay, near Nanaimo, and on a small island three miles off shore in the same area. Since then this species has been discovered at other beaches in the vicinity of Victoria particularly near Albert Head and at Sooke. It occupies a narrow belt of beach just above the high tide mark where the insects seek shelter beneath stranded sea weed, or other debris or where they burrow into the gravel.

The maritime earwig is distinguished from the others by its rather thick-set, elongated body, lack of wings and presence of short pincers that are assymetrical in the male. (See diagram)

Ring-Legged Earwig (Euborellia annulipes)

The ring-legged earwig is another cosmopolitan species that has apparently been spread by shipping. In North America it has been recorded from several points on the Atlantic coast and from southern California and at Victoria in this Province. Here on Vancouver Island it is known only by specimens taken in the gardens of the Empress Hotel. It is not considered likely to become of economic importance in Canada.

This earwig, as its name implies, can be distinguished by the presence of dark bands on its yellowish legs. The body is shiny black in colour changing to reddish or greyish-brown toward the rear. The pincers are relatively short.

Little Earwig (Labia minor)

This earwig also has a wide distribution, being common throughout Europe and reported from Madeira, parts of Africa, the Phillipines and the Galapago Islands. It is also widely spread in North America both in the United

States and in Canada. While it is present in British Columbia it is seldom found probably because of its small size.

The little earwig may be identified by its small size (total length 5 to 7 mm.) and by the fine yellowish pubescence covering the body. The wings are well developed and the insect frequently flies and is attracted to light.

Spine-Tailed Earwig (Doru aculeatum)

While the spine-tailed earwig does not occur in British Columbia it is included here because it is the only species native to this continent and further, its inclusion completes the earwig list for Canada. In the United States it is found in many of the northern and eastern states but in Canada it is known only from extreme southern Ontario at Point Pelee.

The native earwig is a slender species, dark chestnut brown in colour. The forceps of the male are slender and with a tooth near the apex.

Key to Species of Canadian Earwigs

- A. Without trace of tegmina (wing covers) or wings.
 B. Legs yellowish, not banded with black; antennae 20-24 jointed. Large species, 20-28 mm. in length.

Maritime Earwig, Anisolabis maritima

- BB. Legs yellowish, usually distinctly banded with black on femur and tibia; antennae 15-16 jointed. Medium size, 12-16 mm. in length.

Ring-legged Earwig, Euborellia annulipes

- AA. Tegmina, or tegmina and wings present.

- C. Size small, tegmina and wings well developed, body clothed with fine yellowish pubescence. Antennae 12 jointed. Small, 5-7 mm. in length.

Little Earwig, Labia minor

- CC. Size medium.

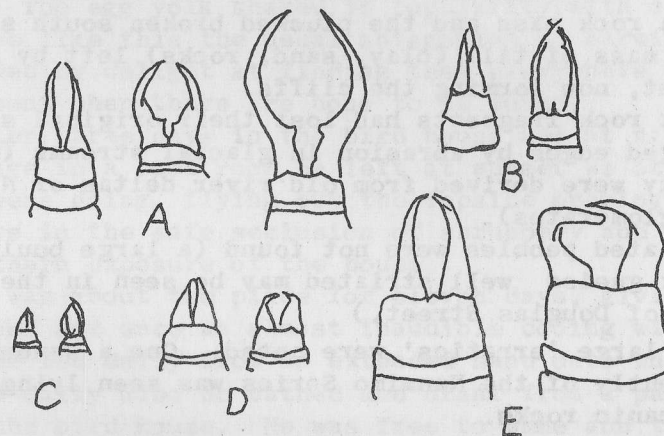
- D. Slim species, tegmina well developed, wings usually abortive. Male with conspicuous pygidial spine; forceps slender, rather straight with (male) a tooth near apex. Length 11-17 mm.

Spine-tailed Earwig, Doru aculeatum

- DD. Stout species, tegmina and wings well developed. Male without pygidial spine; forceps stout, of male dimorphic; calliperlike. Length 16-23 mm.

European Earwig, Forficula auricularia

Material for this article has been largely taken from Mr. E.R. Buckell's excellent paper "The Dermaptera of Canada" which appeared in the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of British Columbia, 1929, Number 26, pages 9-27. Additional material was obtained from the Biological Control Section of the Division of Entomology, University of British Columbia through Mr. J. H. McLeod, officer-in-charge.



Forceps of Canadian Earwigs

- A European earwig. B Spine-tailed earwig. C Little earwig.
 D Ring-legged earwig. E Maritime earwig.

GEOLOGY GROUP MEETING - SEPT. 17th

Twenty members of the geology group found much to interest them during a trip to the shore line at Beacon Hill Park on Saturday, September 17th. The following glacial effects were noted:-

1. The beautiful gouging and fluting of grooves in a north-south direction.
2. The undercutting of rock as the ice squeezed down and along the cracks and joints. (possible because of the plastic nature of the ice).
3. The thinness attained along the rounded edge where two smoothed surfaces met.

4. The highly polished surfaces of the rocks, especially where freshly exposed by removal of till or clay.
5. The many north-south scratches (striae) on the polished surfaces, made by pebbles and boulders.
6. The large size of several scratches about 3/16" deep and 3/8" wide, due possibly to a very hard and large boulder.
7. Indications of rate of weathering, as seen in the amount of erosion outwards from the cliffs.
8. The flaking away of areas of polished rock 1/2" or so thick and 6 to 8 inches across due to expansion and contraction of the rock surface.
9. Ice flow direction indicated by the rounded north side of a rock mass and the plucked broken south side.
10. The mass of till (clay, sand, rocks) left by the ice sheet, now forming the cliffs.
11. Most rock fragments had lost their original sharp or jagged edges by abrasion in glacial streams (many possibly were derived from old river deltas or Nanaimo conglomerates).
12. Striated pebbles were not found (a large boulder of wark gneiss well striated may be seen in the cliff west of Douglas Street.)
13. Two large 'erratics' were noted. One a sandstone apparently of the Nanaimo Series was seen lying on the volcanic rocks.
14. Several examples of chiselling indicated ice flow direction (removal of small rock areas deep on side and sloping upwards on the other like a check mark).
15. Several beautiful stones (one large agate) were found on the beach.
16. The top of the cliffs indicated a raised beach effect. (a) till (b) stones, (c) 6" to 18" sand.
17. The resistance of quartz or silica to weathering produced an ice smoothed surface standing 1/2" or more above the eroded softer rock about the harder area.
18. The complex contacts of wark, Colquitz, Saanich granodiorite and Vancouver volcanics attracted much attention.

A. H. Marrison.

DWARF HERMIT THRUSH,
Band Number 52-04568
By Grace M. Bell

It is not known how the large eyed little thrush came to be weak and fluttering on the porch of a residence on St. Patrick Street. Though showing no injury he would not fly for days, but hopped on the ground and from twig to branch placed in a 6 x 6 foot wire bird house.

After a first feeding of meal worms a more easily acquired diet had to be found. It consisted of earwigs, "Sluis," which is a Dutch preparation of ground insects, Gaines dog meal, hard boiled egg yolk and a little raw hamburger. The egg yolk shared in popularity with earwigs. In a case like this the usual antagonism to earwigs becomes superseded by delight at finding them everywhere and disappointment when there are none to be found.

After three days in the bird house and at night in a small cage in a cool room he left at sunset as other birds he saw were doing, flying out the topside opening to roost somewhere in the safe seclusion of shrubbery and hedge at the northern exposure of the house.

He was about the place for eleven days, giving notes of "chook" and once an almost inaudible cooing with closed bill. He fed daily from an extended hand onto which he flew and daily also he bathed and drank from a pan of water inside the bird house. He was free to come and to go as he pleased.

The last few days he was in strong condition, for not only did he chase away a bird house full of linnets, he pursued an English sparrow across the garden! He learnt to hunt his own food in sheltered humus and underbrush of hedges, not turning down the occasions of open hand feeding. Generally speaking he was retiring and kept to the north end of the house in the tangle of clematis, catoneaster, barberry and cedar; but one day after rain when a shaft of sun came out onto a board in the bird house where he was feeding he suddenly fell over on his side, spread out a wing, fan-shaped his tail and for a moment, only, soaked up the sun.

Another interesting incident was the time he came for food vibrating his wings like a young bird to its parent. There was, too, the odd performance of throwing up a curled wire worm in order it seemed to make way for earwigs. When I stooped to see what it was he hopped onto my head.

The eleventh day he was gone. A Cooper's hawk was in

the garden boldly diving into shrubbery and hedge and even perching openly in one tree or another. But the well recovered bird may have safely migrated further on, and the joy has been great of having tended a little thing as gently lovely in its bird kingdom as is a fawn in his animal world.

BANDED GULLS

The following is an excerpt from a letter received from Mrs. Zella M. Schultz, 22809 West 53rd Avenue, Mountlake Terrace, Wash. dated September 15th. Should any member notice any gulls color-banded in this way, would they please notify Mrs. Schultz:-

"I have color-banded a number of gulls this summer, with the aluminum Service band on the left leg, and a blue, green, red or yellow colored plastic band on the right leg. I wish you would alert any persons who might be interested in your area to keep their eyes open for sight records of such birds. Actually, I am not interested in having such birds collected, if the observer can note the plumage. I am in the process of having some cards run off which will make analysis of the plumage of a banded gull fairly simple, and will send you a few of these. However, an un-color-banded bird, after January, might well be collected. I am still interested in having banded birds collected for me. I was lucky enough this summer to collect three banded breeding birds, two of which I myself had banded seven years before, one on the same island, one on another island about four miles away. The third had a very old, illegible band, which will have to be etched before it can be read."

KILLER WHALES

A lady physician from Toronto, whose outside interest is birds, made a special trip early in August to see what the Victoria district had to offer. Naturally enough, the first birds we looked for were the skylarks on Finnerty Road. That was easy. We knew they were there, and, as we walked slowly round the field, many of them rose in song. Then we thought the shore birds would provide the most interest at this time of year, and on Cadboro Beach found the western sandpiper in abundance, as well as some least

sandpipers, Bonaparte, California, and short billed gulls. Following the coast we located many surf birds, black oyster catchers, and black turnstones.

While at Hood Lane, however (Hood Lane is between Shoal Bay and the Victoria Golf links) we had the good fortune to see a group of seven killer whales in close formation, and quite near to us. One of our party was carrying a camera with a tele-photo lens, and was quick enough to take some photos as they passed by. The most prominent feature of these whales is the dorsal fin, a jet black erect structure shaped like the rudder of a plane, and between five and six feet in height. They travelled a little beneath the surface of the water, except when they came up to blow, which they did frequently, and so generally all we could see was this high solid looking black fin going through the water at considerable speed.

Killer whales are between 25 and 30 feet in length and possess twelve pair of sharp teeth in each jaw, and, in addition, have a most bloodthirsty disposition. They are described as being like great wolves of the sea. Certainly our local fisherman respect them and keep out of their way.

So our visitor from the east had at least one impressive memory to take back with her.

A.R.D.

BIRD NOTES

On September 18th eighteen knots were seen at the northern end of Island View Beach.

Between September 27th and 30th a large number of robins entered the Victoria area, and with them were many varied thrush and also a considerable number of hermit thrushes. These were noted by several observers in different localities around Victoria.

American pipits have been migrating along the shores in good numbers since the middle of September. On the 18th the writer estimated there were up to a thousand along a two mile stretch of Island View Beach.

Seven American scoters were seen on October 15th near Roberts Bay. At Resthaven on the same day a large flock of red-winged and Brewer blackbirds were seen, and among them a considerable number of European starlings. These are the first starlings to be reported since March of this year.

Mr. Clay saw a rufous hummingbird in his garden on October 12th. Four nighthawks were seen on September 24th, and one as late as October 12th.

A wandering tattler was seen at Cattle Point on October 18th. At this writing (October 20) there are two hudsonian curlews at Oak Bay, and are generally to be seen opposite the Old Charming Inn.

Three turkey vultures were seen at Shoal Bay on Oct. 20th.

A.R.D.

BIRD GROUP MEETING

A field meeting of the bird group was held on Saturday, October 15th, twenty-five members making the trip to Island View Beach.

It was a perfect autumn day, the warm sun tempering the cool and gentle north wind, providing excellent visibility and adding much to the pleasure of the outing.

Some of the party walked along the beach and across the fields as far as the Indian Reservation. No shore birds were seen, except for the resident killdeer. The sea birds, however, were increasing in number, there being many surf and white winged scoters, scaup, horned grebe, Baird cormorant, and a fair number of common loon, western grebe and one only red-throated loon.

The most numerous bird on the beach was the American pipit which could be seen to advantage as they walked on the logs and rocks, quite apparently finding ample food. Song sparrows, Seattle wrens and towhees were in good numbers, while on the marshes were many Brewer blackbirds. Skylarks were also heard many times in this area. A flock of some 45 cedar waxwings gathered together in one tree were most interesting, as they constantly made short flights after insects and returned to their perches. Two ravens came over, while on the reservation was a large flock of crows, at least 300 in number.

One section of the party went on to Roberts Bay, north of Sidney, where they found crowded on one small rock about 35 black oyster catchers and three yellowlegs. At Resthaven was a flock of red-winged and Brewer blackbirds, and among them a fair number of European starlings, which have not been reported since early spring.

All together 37 species were identified.

A.R.D.

JUNIOR NATURAL HISTORY PAGE

Gerry Skinner, --- Editor

A General Talk on Goldfish, by the Editor.

To start off with, the dictionary says a goldfish is a small golden carp, but we know its colour ranges from white to red to black to yellow.

The goldfish usually lives in water, too, (chemical form H_2O) and breathes through water lungs called gills. Like most fish, they have fins. On certain goldfish they are long and graceful; on others they are short and stubby. The average goldfish length is from two to five inches. They grow longer faster when they are in a pond or pool.

There are three very common types of goldfish. They are:

Fat goldfish

Medium goldfish

Thin goldfish.

The first includes the little black fellow with the goggly eyes known as the telescope fish. In the second group come all the ordinary goldfish and the fantails with the double tails. In the last group is the comet, the one with the sleek body and long trailing fins. If you were to have goldfish, I think it would be an excellent idea to procure some snails, available at your nearest fish dealer. Snails are very worthy 'glass cleaners' and they cost about 25 cents each. If they begin to multiply like mine did, the pet shop will give you a sum of money for them.

Other accessories include a bowl, weed food, fresh water and pebbles for the fish. A good thing about having fish is that if you don't like them you can always feed them to the neighbour's cat.

Good luck with your fish!

Dear Junior Members: If you have any stories, quips or anecdotes about animals or anything to do with animals please write it out and send it to Miss Newton, the Museum office or myself.

Gerry Skinner.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS

1955

Wednesday

AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR:

Nov. 2nd:

Tom and Arlene Hadley -

"Into the North Woods"

to be held in the Oak Bay Junior

High School Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Admission 50¢. Season Ticket \$2.00.

Tuesday

GENERAL MEETING:

Nov. 8th:

To be held in the Provincial Library at 8 p.m.

Speaker: Mr. V.E.L. Goddard.

Subject: "Wild Flowers of British Columbia"
illustrated.

Tuesday

SPECIAL BOTANICAL MEETING for all members,

Nov. 22nd:

to be held in the Provincial Museum at 8 p.m.

Dr. Szczawinski or Professor Lowe will

speak on the Fungi to be on display at the
Museum.

Saturday

BIRD GROUP:

Nov. 26th:

Field trip to Esquimalt Lagoon and
Witty's Lagoon.

Meet at Monterey Cafe at 9:45 a.m.

or at East end of Esquimalt Lagoon
at 10:15 a.m. Bring lunch.

Leader: Mr. J. O. Clay.

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