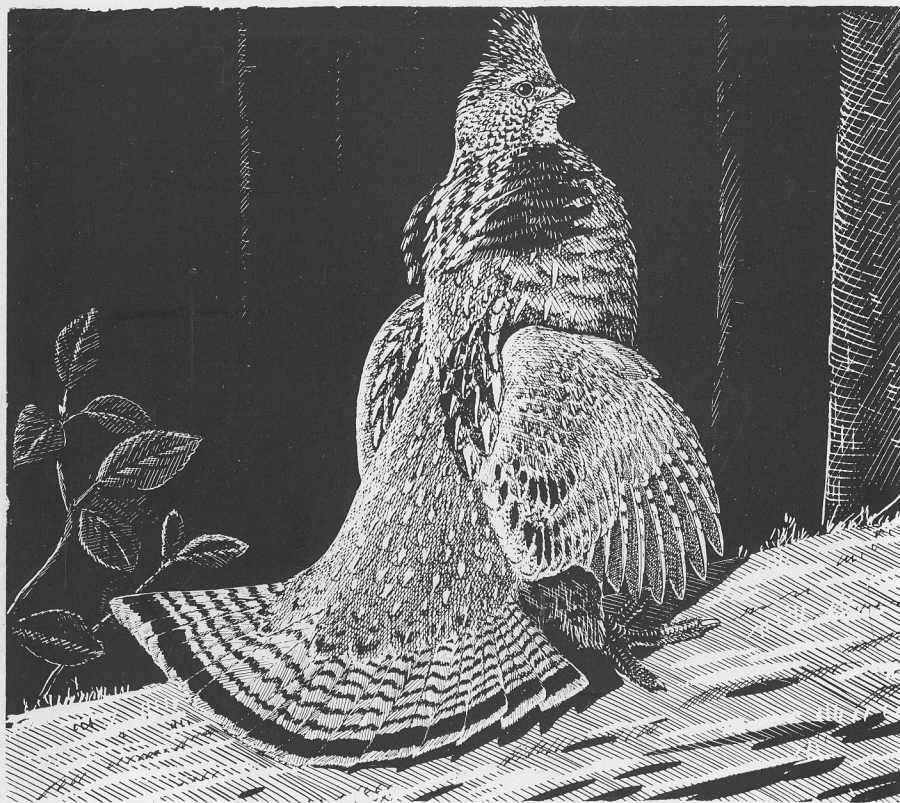


The  
**VICTORIA  
NATURALIST**

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(F. L. Beebe.)

Ruffed grouse.

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FOREST AND FIELD (part two)

by George A. Hardy -

(part one will be found in the March issue)

The charm of a forest lies in the contrast presented by the great and the small. The towering Douglas fir, whose thick-barked columns support the leafy canopy overhead or the giant cedar tapering gracefully upward its drooping boughs clothed with pendant lace-like leafage, seem to dwarf into insignificance the dainty star flower twinkling in the shade or the scalloped bordered May leaf as it nods in the dell.

Among the many delightful and entertaining inhabitants of the forest is the honeysuckle whose weak winding stems compete with the fir for the light far overhead. These weak stems possess hidden powers that often cause disaster.

The honeysuckle or woodbine of Shakespeare and other poets is well named, as honeysuckle literally means the sucking of the honey by the bee, whose association with the flower was as well known by the earliest observers as the flower itself. Woodbine refers to the twining habit of the plant as it is seen to twist and sprawl over tree and bush.

The honeysuckle to which the present remarks apply is the orange red or American fly honeysuckle, Lonicera ciliosa to use its official designation. This plant loves the shady places among thickets of tangled woodland growth, or even in the heart of the forest. It is a conservative plant. It will not waste its substance on leaves or flowers that cannot see the light, hence in the forest almost all one can at first see is the twining stem as it twists upwards, often changing from a lower to a higher support by looping rope-like stems that suggest the "lianas" of the tropical rain forest. Having reached its goal it flaunts its gay trumpets for all the world of bee and butterfly and moth to see, who well know a delectable feast of honey lies concealed therein. But not every pilferer may reach the prize; only those whose probes are long enough can do so, such as the hawkmoth or

the hummingbird. The reward for the unconscious service they render the plant is stored at the bottom of the long trumpet. This service consists in conveying the vitalizing pollen from one flower to another, and thus insuring the continued vigor for future generations of the honeysuckle.

The tangible result of these visitations is seen in the bright red berries that later embellish the green leaf-plates whereon they repose. This banquet, so temptingly dished up is not missed by the bird or other animal who unconsciously disperses the seeds after eating the fruit. Thus does the honeysuckle accomplish its purpose in life, but unfortunately the destruction of the support which made it possible is often the result. The help of the tree is rewarded by a choking embrace which eventually may cause its death.

"Laurel for a garland, or elder for a disgrace" so runs a quotation from the early classics but why the elder stands for disgrace more than the laurel is hard to know. Probably this was due to superstition and nothing else. Whatever the reason, the elderberry as we know it now, is an ornamental tree or shrub, one that in its day has contributed much to the physical if not moral enjoyment of mankind. Elderberry wine is a well-known beverage made from the black-berried elder and as if that were not enough to gladden the heart, the hollow stems were used to make a flute-like musical instrument. "Sambucus", the generic name of the elder originates from a Greek word meaning a musical instrument.

The hollow stem was put to other and less desirable uses by adapting it to the principles of a blow-gun. Shakespeare refers to the indignity the gentlemen of his day were subjected to by being saluted with the contents of the "elder-gun" operated by some person hiding behind a hedge or tree.

The pith was and still is used in place of cork for various purposes connected with science such as pinning minute insects and insulating electrical devices. The whole tree is a regular pharmacopoeia. The inner bark is a powerful emetic, the blossoms cooked in oil form a cooling ointment or dried and powdered form an insecticide. The fruit has been used as a medicine and as an ingredient in making wine, pies and jellies.

The products of forest and field from the viewpoint of human activities are complementary to one another. The

forest provides shelter and material for constructing the numerous articles almost indispensable in our present way of life. The field affords conditions necessary to the production of large quantities of food on an economic basis.

It is in the open fields of the inland plains devoid of the abundant moisture required by the forest plant life, that the Grass family finds its ideal habitation. Here with the brilliant sunshine and vitalizing air currents the wheat and other cereals find conditions resulting in best growth and highest yield.

The word "cereal" is derived from the goddess "Ceres" of the ancient Romans who organized great festivals in her honour at seed time and again at the harvest as an offering and propitiation for a bountiful yield of the life-sustaining grain. The seeds of wheat and barley were the chief tokens used on these occasions but the name cereal has been extended to include all our important grains such as rice, oats, rye and maize or corn.

Probably the cereals were among the first grains deliberately cultivated by mankind; religious rites with these as the basis of their inauguration can be traced back through the records of the early Romans and Greeks while Hebrew histories refer to their cultivation in Palestine and in the Valley of the Nile. The old prehistoric lake dwellers of Switzerland left evidence of their use and the Chinese have cultivated rice for 4,000 years at least. Ears of Indian corn are among the most ancient remains in Mexico and Peru.

Thus the basis of human existence is the grass plant with its feathery tops as there would be no bread without wheat, rye or barley seed. Of the six cereals mentioned, five originated in Europe and Asia while corn is of Central American origin.

To "live off the country", a common expression used in relation to the native resources, can only be carried out to a limited extent depending upon what part of the world is referred to. For the full development of his powers, aggressive man therefore brings with him into the new country of his choice and conquest those foods he has been accustomed to use and which have proved by long experience to combine adaptiveness to varied climatic conditions, greatest nutrition and economy of production and storage. In this connection the cereals are in the first rank.

Here in British Columbia the food resources of the native Indians were sufficient to support only a limited population. They consisted mainly of fish, flesh and fowl,



plus a few of the native plants to balance the diet whenever they were obtainable. With the advent of the white man the indigenous food supply proved to be insufficient for both races. It was a case of importing new foods or maintaining a smaller population. Cereals supplied this need and so the native plants soon became only of a secondary importance from a sustenance point of view.

Thus while the tree rules the forest the grass dominates the field. Extremes meet! Nature exemplifies this ruling on every hand. The grandeur of the forest and the freedom of the open field may seem to be as opposite as night and day yet they will be found to merge imperceptibly one with the other as if in acknowledgment of their equal value in nature's economy.

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#### LAMB PREDATION BY BALD EAGLES

by Morris Jackson, Fanny Bay, B. C.

More absurd stories have probably been told about eagles than about any other birds, and bald eagles have had their full share of misrepresentation. Current reports of heavy damage to lambs on Saltspring Island by bald eagles might therefore be regarded simply as a recurrence of an old story usually captioned "Fierce Eagles attack so or so." Even though men may state that they have actually seen the eagles kill the lambs their statements should be taken with a large pinch of 'salt', since almost any farm journal which publishes reader's letters has at times printed little rashes of such from readers who state determinedly that they have seen mother snakes swallow their young to protect them, and subsequently eject them "when the danger had passed".

These witnesses are not conscious liars, neither are those who have seen snakes sucking cows, or those more dangerous witnesses who swear to a criminal's identity, a criminal who later is found to be innocent and quite unlike the real culprit. Why people do this is outside the scope of ornithology; but their propensity to airily bear false witness against, among other things, eagles should be kept in mind. Only investigation by trained professional observers can give a true picture of what really killed the lambs.

Usually, of course, such lambs or their mothers, were winter-killed.

However, a bald eagle is quite capable of killing a good size lamb and there is a strange tendency among birds to copy one another. Thus it might happen that an unusual killing might be copied by other eagles until in a very brief period numbers of them were taking live lambs.

We may remember how in England the blue titmouse was found to be robbing milk bottles and how this practice spread to some other varieties of British birds. There seems to be among birds an inability to recognize unusual forms of food until a pioneer of their own species has shown them what they are missing, and not even when some will eat the strange food do all the others always follow.

We feed clipped oats and shelled peanuts to the birds around our home but our grain dealer, a few miles north, tells us that his small birds did not appreciate clipped oats and ate very little of them. However, our yard shows heaps of oat hulls from oats eaten by blackbirds, juncoes, towhees, finches, sparrows of many varieties, even crows. And with the exception of the blackbirds, all these birds eat peanuts with zest. But only half a mile north of here I found two towhees that failed to recognize peanuts as food! Highly spoken of foods such as sunflower seeds, walnut pieces, almonds, etc., are not appreciated by such birds as we have offered them to.

It is now more than 50 years since we first saw Saltspring Island. In those days many sheep ran the mountains there, there were no great concentrations of eagles then, and I never heard of them killing lambs in the 9 years I spent on that lovely island. Perhaps they kill them now, perhaps not. I remember the tits with the British milk bottles... and I remember the mother snake with her young!

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#### AN EARLY BIRD

Mr. Alec Patterson of 897 Vernon Street in the City reports a particularly early nesting record of the house sparrow in his attic. A young bird was found on February 5th, having fallen from the nest.

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COLTSFOOT

by Freeman King

At the foot of Mount Douglas, just where the road branches leading to the summit, one can see the coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus*) (L.) Frics. sending forth its purplish-white sweet-scented flowers up out of the damp undergrowth. As the plant grows these soft loose heads turn into seeds without visible change in color or shape. Often can be found some plants in the same group that are eight to ten inches tall and in full flower, while others are just coming through the ground. The leaves developing after the flower often leads to some confusion in linking the two at a later date. I have found some leaves that measure fourteen inches across, and when they are turned over by the wind or in some other manner, they look like some soft wooly cloth that has been thrown into the bush beside the road.

In the south of England where the writer came from, the coltsfoot with the yellow flower and large kidney shaped leaves would be growing at the foot of the chalkpits where water had accumulated into pools in the early spring. Some of the leaves would reach the size of large dinner plates. As small boys we would use them to thatch our forts and hideaways. They were probably *P. albus*, one of the three species known to occur in England.

BIRD GROUP FIELD MEETING

On Saturday, April 13th, thirty-four members of the Society met at the Sidney wharf to investigate the bird life of this district; always, summer and winter, an excellent place to find birds.

It was a pleasurable outing, the weather being perfect and the countryside at its best. The party covered most of the shore line from the wharf to Shoal Harbour, spending some time at Roberts Point, and the grounds at the 'Latch' and at All Bay, where Resthaven is situated. From there they crossed the tip of the peninsula and had lunch in the beautiful gardens of Mrs. Walker Taylor at Towner Park, which faces the sea. Many sea birds were seen here, there having recently been a herring run in these waters. At this time of year many of the sea birds had already departed to the northern nesting grounds, but there were still left many scoters, goldeneye, buffleheads and

scaup. Among the more uncommon birds seen were Bonaparte and California gulls, cedar waxwings, and some baby killdeer. Two ospreys were found near their nesting site at Randle's boat landing, and the first chipping sparrow of the season was sighted at Roberts Point. One interesting feature was the number of skylarks to be heard on and near the Patricia Bay Airport. These birds are undoubtedly increasing as they can now be seen on most of the larger fields in the Saanich peninsula.

Fifty-six species were listed, which included the following newly arrived migrants: Audubon and lutescent warblers, rufous hummingbirds, white-crowned, chipping and savannah sparrows and the violet-green swallows.

J. O. C.

SHARKS ARE PROLIFIC

by J. H. Whitehouse

Last fall a friend of ours was fishing alone at Brentwood Bay when he hooked an apparently good fish which he had some trouble in landing and then found to his disgust he had caught a small shark about three and a half feet long. He was about to throw it back after giving it a rap on the head, when he remembered his wife had never seen one, so he threw it in the back of the boat.

Landing a little later, he was surprised to see another tiny shark lying beside the big one, apparently fully developed except for a small sac attached containing a milky fluid. Going ashore he brought his wife down to see his capture; what was their surprise to find that there were now four little sharks, each about seven inches long with the small white sac attached.

This called for further investigation and it was then found that there had been no less than fourteen baby sharks in the big female, all alive and apparently just about ready to leave, each having a small sac attached which presumably contained the yolk. It is possible, of course, that the contents of the sac would have been completely absorbed in the case of a normal birth, when from their appearance the young sharks would have been quite able to fend for themselves.

THE PLANT SCIENCES LIBRARY

Chromosome Botany C. D. Darlington, 186 pp., illus. The Macmillan Company, N.Y. (1956) \$2.75.

Combining knowledge of experimental breeding and chromosome studies of both wild and cultivated species and the relationship to ecology of both wild and cultivated species and the relationship to ecology and taxonomy, is the purpose of this book by one of England's outstanding geneticists.

Chromosome Atlas of Flowering Plants C. D. Darlington and A. P. Wylie, 519 pp. The Macmillan Company, N. Y. (1956) \$10.50. The first edition appeared in 1954 and covered cultivated plants. The second edition has been extended to include all flowering plants - a total of 17,000 species.

Cone-Bearing Trees of the Pacific Coast N. A. Bowers, 169 pp., 62 plants. Pacific Books, Palo Alto, California (1956) \$3.50. Written at a level between the scientific and the popular. This nature book was designed to assist non-botanists and laymen alike in the identification of the native conifers of the Pacific Coast.

The Hardiness of Plants J. Levitt, 278 pp., illus. Academic Press, New York (1956) \$7.00. This book was prepared to bring together the known facts on hardiness not only for those involved in plant physiology but also for workers interested in plant responses to environment.

The History of the British Flora H. Godwin, 384 pps., illus. Cambridge University Press (1956) \$16.50.

The processes by which the modern British Flora came to its present composition and existing ranges are carefully outlined.

An Ecological Glossary J. Richard Carpenter, 306 pps., Hafner Publishing Co., New York (1956) \$4.25. 3000 definitions in ecology are presented with subsequent refinements of usage and meaning. The references supplied are to generally available papers in which definitions and concepts are discussed in detail.

A.F.S.

The 'Naturalist' is not published during the summer months. The date of the next issue will be September 1st.

PREYING OR PLAYING

By J.O. Clay

It is common knowledge that many of the activities of the birds of prey, as of other animals, are done in play.

Last autumn, in the early morning sunshine on the shores of Flathead Lake in Montana, I watched a sparrowhawk enjoying an aerial game around the tree tops with three magpies.

At Colquitz, during the last Christmas bird count I saw an assembly of flickers playing with a sharp-shinned hawk. They appeared to be daring the hawk to attack each flicker as it left a group of firs to reach another group a hundred feet away. There were twenty-six flickers and each one seemed to time its flight to a regular interval. At our approach the hawk, which had been sitting atop a dead tree in full view of the scene, moved to a different tree. This was followed by all the flickers moving back in much the same way that every one had come.

The same day, a large hawk, probably a goshawk, flew across Beaver Lake followed by two ravens, one of which attacked her twice from above. Twice the hawk made a half somersault to protect itself with its talons from the long beak of the raven above it.

How often has one observed a hawk being chased away from a locality by a number of small birds?

Persecuting or persecuted, preying or playing? Who knows?

THE VERSATILE MALLARD

In the late afternoon of Sunday, January 27th, we were watching some small flocks of robins, meadowlarks and red-winged blackbirds gathering in the trees at the Uplands. For two weeks Victoria had been in the grip of a cold spell, the nearby lakes and flooded fields were covered with ice and the snow was heavy on the ground. Undoubtedly many of the birds were being hard put to it for sustenance. Suddenly we saw large flocks of ducks converging over the oak trees, and to our surprise they flew to the ground among the thickest of the trees. It was difficult to estimate their numbers, but when they had settled we could see they were all mallards and their number not less than four hundred.



It was evident they knew there were many fallen acorns under the trees and their hunger had compelled them to come down into the thick woods in search of them.

It was quite an impressive sight, and one unique in our experience.

A.R.D.

### STRANGE BEHAVIOUR OF ANIMALS

by W. MacKay Draycot

Perhaps, or perhaps not, there is an answer to the question often asked by motorists - why do animals, both quadrupeds and bipeds cross a road in front of a moving vehicle, or persist in running ahead of an automobile when, on either side of the road, there is ample room to escape into unfenced territory?

In a car, on a byway, we slowly followed a deer for 200 yards before he decided to leap aside into bushland. A jack-rabbit hopped, stopped and continued thus for 300 feet before taking a right angle turn into the bushes. Then there is the slow determined movement of a goose or duck with her progeny, who command the right of way; also the scurrying hen and the uncertain cow.

We move the scene to France, where my experiences with rats in World War 1 would fill a book. One episode will suffice. It was a delightful night with a full moon shining at midnight. Proceeding alone toward my dugout 'home', the shell-pocked cobblestone road was deserted. Without warning four large rats lumberingly raced across the road in front of me. A fifth rat, almost the size of a cat, stopped, as I had done, and came toward me. He was met head-on by the toe of my heavy boot. The rest of the journey was done at the 'double' with more rats darting across.

Most of the foregoing is common knowledge to travelers by road or lane, but what is the answer? Possibly it could be momentary confusion confounding their sense of direction, brought on by some noise or by some optical peculiarity. Their range of vision being limited does not extend as far as the eyes of a human, but their sense of hearing is apparently more acute than ours.

### PROTECTION OF HAWKS AND EAGLES

By Morris Jackson

It is said that the way of the transgressor is hard. The way of the conservationist, however, is much harder for he must wage his conflict, for such it is, against prejudice, old wives' tales, sheer indifference, the opportunity to make a dollar now when it is to be had, even though a desert may result later...he has indeed a host of enemies to overcome. Plodding militancy must be his watchword. But the advocate of hawk and eagle protection is confronted with really stiff opposition, namely, the billion dollar sporting goods and ammunition industry.

"Kill that pest" is an advertisement frequently displayed in farm and sporting publications. The ad. carries pictures of crows, rats, hawks, and woodchucks. The crows in these ads. invariably are ragged and disreputable-looking, whereas in actual fact the crows, unless moulting, are glossy-feathered and handsome birds who do on the whole about as much good as they do harm. But it is "sport" to kill them and it uses ammunition. Even a Game Department booklet (Game Regulations, 1955-56) says "practice on crows, magpies, and that ilk." To the average hunter "ilk" means "carte blanche". It certainly would include hawks and eagles.

To furnish adequate rather than paper protection to hawks and eagles whom must we convince that such protection is necessary or justifiable? Democratically speaking, we should first approach the general public who would then theoretically and figuratively take up the torch.

Who, comprise the hawk's present-day human enemies; with whom does the conservationist have to contend? There is the ammunition salesman who urges us to "kill that pest", with his company's ammunition of course. I fear we can do little there. There is the poultryman, a very minor threat in himself where hawks are not actually preying on his stock. He is far too busy to go looking for hawks, and yet he has plenty of sympathisers to take up his cudgels and kill an osprey or a black vulture (I have had both these birds described to me as a "great big hen-hawk".)

There is the youth, idle when school lets out, who, whatever he may have learned there, has learned nothing of his debt to nature, of his kinship to creation. He wanders aimlessly, shooting with his .22 at any acceptable living

target, and songbirds are "acceptable"--they eat cherries and damage gardens, though not his garden--he knows nothing of gardens. If he shoots a hawk he glows with civic pride. The law encourages him in this. Hawks kill birds. How many are there of these lads? Outside of the towns, they are legion. They have licenses, and if questioned are "hunting crows". It is true that they are required to be accompanied by an adult when shooting but they seldom are, and the adult is too often simply a youth over 18 years. How can we talk of hawk conservation to a killer of songbirds?

The adult sportsman is most unlikely to be a hawk conservationist. He usually subscribes to at least one magazine which relies on its sporting goods advertisements. To such magazines every predator is "a killer" which must be put to death in the interest of game conservation. There is an attitude, a policy, to be found in these magazines which I for one find irksome. It is that we are all hard-headed, practical, good fellows. We know the ways of the wild through experience rather than by the uncertain theorizing of the biologists, who are frequently termed "longhairs", "tremblechins", and other invidious names. Experto crede to be sure, but it is we the hunters who have the experience. The longhairs can only theorize. And yet how often have we heard these experts talk of a bird they have seen as "a great big hawk, or it may have been an eagle". Surely. Or a black vulture or heron.

So education in hawk conservation has its counter-propaganda; a heavily financed press. A press which talks man to man, which doesn't mince words, and yet flatters its readers unsparingly. And what could be sweeter--or more dangerous to wildlife? The bland assumption that men who have devoted their lives to research are not to be trusted; that they are amusingly slightly unbalanced and, in the upshot, know less than good fellows who read our magazine, and who can tell you the ballistics of Winchester's newest rifle-- and don't know one bird from another. Most certainly none of them know one hawk from another. And, unless I held it in my hand, for the most part neither do I. It is imperative therefore that protection should include all hawks; a law that excludes accipiters gives no protection to any. One of the points raised by the Game Commissioner when

I wrote about the necessity of protecting bald eagles was that it is easy to confuse their young with those of the Golden Eagle. I feel that both species should be protected. The idea, current among so many people, that any creature which interferes to the slightest degree with the profits of a chosen occupation should be destroyed is unacceptable to a scientist. It should also be unacceptable to a moralist, for the world is not so nicely arranged that its inhabitants, both floral and faunal, are completely good or completely bad. We can accept Kruschef, Nasser, or Foster Dulles as unpleasant or pleasant people. It depends on what paper you read. So why not face the facts? The sheep farmer must not kill off the coyotes or the coyotes' natural prey will leave no pasture. The Golden Eagle's death means more jack rabbits to offset the few lambs the bird might have taken. And so it is with hawks. The Rev. E.A. Armstrong has written how, on a great estate in Ireland during the troubles, as they were called, even the gamekeepers' guns were taken away--for safety. The result was that both game and predators flourished exceedingly.

In other words, predators are self regulating. Hawks were on earth before man was, and needed no bounties paid on them or predator control. (A predator, by the way, is a creature that habitually kills what we desire to kill ourselves. Perhaps that is why the common house cat, far more destructive to small birds than a sharp-shinned hawk, is not usually classed as a predator. I am sure I don't know why otherwise it should not be. But we just seem unable to imagine Pussykins killing young gamebirds--- or adult ones. Even the red-hatted fraternity don't speak of cats as killers.)

To sum up. It is unfortunate that the only agency able to initiate hawk and eagle protection should be subjected to constant heavy pressure from those who care nothing if these birds disappear from the skies. There is no agency entrusted solely with the protection against persecution of wildlife. It is true that the Game Commission has been so entrusted but its primary function is, as its name implies, to look after the interests of the hunter and the fisherman. The meagre funds at the Commission's disposal are totally inadequate to enforce the provisions of the Game Act, and the token force of game wardens have a heart-breaking job to do in the face of ever increasing numbers of sportsmen--and lawbreakers. The Commission should, however, purge itself of the "kill that pest" complex. The



excuse "I am looking for "crows" or "hawks" or "eagles" covers up possibly as much depredation on wildlife as the "pests" themselves commit. It should not be left to the public--which means generally youths or someone with time to kill--to exercise predator control. All hawks should be protected save when doing actual damage to stock. It is useless to exempt accipiters from protection. They do this in Pennsylvania. The result is that swarms of gunners attend the great hawk migrations and shoot every species, until hawks are piled in great windrows. Of course, flickers, etc., everything that flies, all fall to the sportsmen's guns. Accipiters are the excuse for carrying a gun there; here, it is usually the crow. But it is an excuse good for the year. And not all vandals are minors!

Since the above article was written protection has been afforded eagles and accipiters in British Columbia. As Mr. Jackson points out, this is useless legislation. The Society should press for full protection on all birds of prey.

A.R.D.

AUDUBON ACCOUNT. Winter Season 1956-1957

<u>REVENUE:</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE:</u>	
Receipts from five lectures	\$1,690.30	Audubon Society	\$500.00
		Hall rent	250.00
		Advertising	52.60
		Printing	31.30
		Customs & Express	21.68
		Amusement tax	<u>152.55</u>
			\$1,008.13
		Net profit	<u>682.17</u>
	<u>\$1,690.30</u>		<u>\$1,690.30</u>

The net profit is divided evenly between the Audubon Society and the Victoria Natural History Society.

JUNIOR NATURAL HISTORY PAGE

Bruce Crawford - - - Editor

The Editor's Ghost tried to scare up an article but a Certain Person (not the Editor) failed to make the deadline so the Ghost had to write up this interview kindly given by Gerry Rushton who stayed in after five one Tuesday.

Gerry has a Flower: Flower is a Skunk. Flower was born at Burnaby on Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher's skunk farm. Skunks are sold there for pets and the industry has been thriving for about three years. Gerry has had his skunk Flower from the time she was three weeks old. It cost ten dollars to have the protective scent spray arrangement supplied by nature removed from the little skunk.

Her first food was cottage cheese and milk but the milk upset her at first. House training was given. She grew up into a very pretty toy-like animal and at nine months old she made her debut before the President of the Natural History Society during a geology lecture to the Juniors. She certainly created a sensation! Dr. Carl told a reporter and she was photographed along with her master.

Gerry Rushton says she sleeps days - plays nights. She hisses and makes little squeeks. She gets along with Mandy the dog. Pounces at Mandy's tail making her yelp. She has never been known to bite, but she could, her teeth look curved and sharp. When taken into town on her leash attached to a harness she causes a sensation if allowed to walk. Two elderly ladies got a good fright when suddenly confronted with Flower the skunk. One day we hope Gerry will draw a picture or a series of studies of this little animal and write about it.

AN "OLD TIMER" RECALLS THE PAST:

Mr. Hamilton Smith remembers seventy-five years ago when thousands of grouse were around Victoria. Indians used to go around with poles on which were hung many pairs of birds. They were sold at 25¢ a pair. In February the sound of the Willow grouse drumming could be heard all over the outskirts of the town; particularly at Smith's Hill and Hillside. Mr. Smith remembers when great fields of blue camas were common around Beacon Hill together with the 'Dog Tooth Lily'.

We will learn something of the wild flowers when Miss Melburn speaks on Tuesday, April 30th.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS1957

Saturday

BIRD GROUP:

May 4th:

Meet at Monterey Cafe at 9:30 a.m. or at  
Royal Services College at 10:15.  
Bring Lunch. Leader: J.O.Clay.

Saturday

BOTANY GROUP:

May 11th:

Field trip to Thetis Lake;  
Meet at Monterey Cafe at 1:30 p.m.  
Leader: Miss M.C.Melburn.

Tuesday

ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENING:

May 14th:

At the Provincial Museum at 8 p.m.  
Refreshments 25 cents.

Saturday

BOTANY GROUP:

June 8th:

Field trip to Shawnigan Lake.  
Meet at the Monterey Cafe at 9:30 a.m.  
Bring lunch. Leader: Miss M.C.Melburn.

Saturday

BIRD GROUP:

June 15:

Meet at Monterey Cafe at 9:30 a.m. or  
at St.Mary's Church, Metchosin, at 10:30.  
Bring lunch. Leader: J.O. Clay.

Saturday

BIRD GROUP:

July 6:

Boat trip to Bare Island.  
Contact Mr. Clay for details.

Saturday

BOTANY GROUP: Field trip to Goldstream Park.

July 20:

Meet at the Monterey Cafe at 1:30 p.m.  
Leader: Miss M.C.Melburn.

Saturday

BOTANY GROUP: Field trip to John Dean Park.

Aug. 17:

Meet at Monterey Cafe at 1:30 p.m.  
Leader: Miss M.C. Melburn.

Professor J. A. Cunningham expects to hold two marine biology field trips during the summer. Members will be phoned when arrangements have been made.

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The Society is much indebted to Dr. L.J. Clark for his lecture given on Tuesday evening, April 9, on the Plant Biotic Zones of British Columbia which was illustrated by some of the finest colour photographs we have seen. It was a very instructive and enjoyable evening.

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W A N T E D : A TENT in good condition, approximately 9' x 9'. Phone ENID LEMON 2.6111, Local 694



# Victoria Natural History Society

OFFICERS, 1957-58

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HON. L. R. PETERSON,  
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*Former Provincial Plant Pathologist.*

J. A. MUNRO,  
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