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Hoary Bat

(F. L. Beebe)

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OUR COVER

The hoary bat is the largest of the bats occurring in Canada. In length it measures up to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches and in wing spread to 16 inches. In colour it is also distinctive; the hairs of the back are multi-coloured being dark at the base then yellow, then dark brown and finally tipped with silvery white. The over all effect is of a dull brown bat with a bright silver wash to its fur. The wings are furred to the wrist and the membrane between the legs is also heavily furred on the upper side.

This big bat is comparatively rare in British Columbia and has been taken only in the extreme southern parts of the province. Specimen records are from Alta Lake, Vancouver, Huntingdon, Victoria and the Okanagan Valley. None of the mammal collectors we know have seen this bat in flight in British Columbia, all specimens have been found hanging in orchards and porches and one was taken from an abandoned woodpecker hole. Elsewhere where more plentiful it is said to frequent forested country and to fly late in the evening which probably accounts for the lack of visual observation recorded here.

C.J.G.

THE MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

Seventy members and friends gathered in the Douglas Building Cafeteria to hear Dr. John E. Armstrong, geologist in charge of the British Columbia office of the Dominion Mines and Technical Surveys at Vancouver, speak on the geology of the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland. Since 1936 Dr. Armstrong has been a member of the Geological Survey of Canada, specializing mainly on the above mentioned area. He mentioned that one of his reasons for being particularly interested in this district was that his family had settled there one hundred years ago.

Dr. Armstrong spoke of the many times the ice masses had advanced and retreated in the geological past, and how the large and many sand and gravel deposits testified to changes that had been wrought by these alternating phases

of intense cold and heat. He also stated that sixty species of tropical and semi-tropical plants had flourished in the Tertiary period, as shown by fossil remains recovered from the sedimentary deposits.

His talk was illustrated by charts and coloured slides. Undoubtedly Dr. Armstrong knew his subject and was quite frank about the conflict of theories advanced by the various geologists who had studied this region.

Mr. Monckton thanked the speaker on behalf of the audience for his interesting and informative talk.

A.R.D.

#### THE CANADIAN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

In the January to March issue of the Canadian Field-Naturalist fifty-two Christmas Bird Counts are listed, made in areas ranging from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast.

Our own members recorded 37,974 individuals representing 100 species as published in the February 'Naturalist'.

Vancouver had the largest number of both species and birds with 104 different species and 102,698 individuals. They had 49 observers in the field. Their list includes 610 song sparrows, but only 14 Bewick wrens, which is odd. Their count of starlings was 30,683, but only 152 of the Japanese starling, the mynah.

Vernon had a good count of 75 species and 6,755 individuals.

Glenevis, Alberta, with one observer, recorded seeing 18 species and 115 birds, and he worked from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with ten inches of snow on the ground.

Hamilton, Ontario, managed to get a wonderful winter count in a 7½ mile radius - 77 species and 12,366 individuals.

Toronto had 126 people in the field in 28 parties, and accounted for 79 species and 28,242 individuals.

In the extreme east, St. John's, Newfoundland, recorded 21 species and 3,707 individuals, the observers working in a temperature of from 12 to 23 degrees and in two to four feet of snow.

A.R.D.

THE ORCHIDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA: This is the latest handbook published by the Provincial Museum. Written by Dr. Adam Szczawinski and illustrated by Frank Beebe, it is the most interesting and understandable booklet on these fascinating plants I have had the pleasure of reading. The cost is 50c, and there should be a good demand for it by those who love our native flowers.

A.R.D.

#### LAND SHELLS of BRITISH COLUMBIA

by W. MacKay Draycot

Abhorred, maligned and crushed under foot, the lowly land snail evokes scant interest, except to the snail-eater. Can you visualize a land snail with a shell 3 inches long, 2½ inches broad and 1 3/4 inches high? Well, such a one does exist; found at Lucban in the Phillipines. I am now looking at its empty shell with gaping mouth, and find comfort in the thought that it is not a native of British Columbia. Its name, Rhysota ovum, explains the type.

Being non-aggressive a snail refuses to be activated by poking or tickling; except to retire into his shell fortress, close and seal the door. Today, few people have the patience to wait until he is disposed to open the door and emerge. When he does so you view him under a magnifier and compare him with a supersonic aeroplane. As to his 'interior economy' your observing eye will get a treat by placing a slimy slug on a wet board, held toward the sun. With a broad magnifying glass to your eye, centred on the object, and in a direct line toward the sun you will see all his "machinery" in motion as the slug moves forward. Try it if you are not squeamish; the slug will not object, providing you do not handle it.

There are several families of snails in British Columbia. The smallest (up to 1/8 of an inch in diameter) is Retinella binneyana occidentalis (H.B. Baker) of the Zonitidae family. Since he has no common name we could call him 'Retty'. His attractive shell is translucent and thin. Retty prefers to abide among damp mosses, leaves and decaying logs in shady places. He has no bad habits and stays in his own ecological domain. Retty's habitat is not without ornamentation for, beside the mosses, he has the spectacular wood-destroying fungus, Polyporus versicolor. Beetles and miniature millipeds are his companions. No other snails were seen in his particular zone.

If you gather leaves for making compost, especially alder, look among the layers. Though they are not prolific you may secure a few Clausinia bidens L. They are slightly larger than Retinella, of similar shape, not quite as translucent, shell circular and flattened from above and below with glossy brown colour. In this matted leaf-zone you will need Dame Fortune's wand to direct you in searching for a miniature snail whose spiral form measures only ¼ of an inch. This scarce species sports a polished shell of five whorls



and bears the name Cochlicopa lubricata (Muller).

Returning to the turban-shaped shells. Nature has seen fit to adorn a few snail shells in the Polygyra family with short stubble-hairs. About a quarter of an inch broad the shells may be searched for among damp grass roots. Viewed under a magnifier the short hairs are seen to be evenly spaced. Structure delicate, colour light brown. His dwarf size is no match for his long name, Triodopsis germana vancouverinsula (Pilsbury & Cooke). In the same family we have his likewise hairy cousin, Vespericola columbiana pilosa (Henderson), which has a broader lip than the former, six whorls and is moderately umbilicated. You form your own opinion about the bristles.

In the spring or early summer the chances of acquiring specimens are good. But during a dry summer they wander off in search of other damp quarters for they must have moisture, so get them before their summer holidays begin. At the end of my garden are wild cherry trees. Growing around the base are types of creeping soft grass with thick matted rootstocks. Intermingling with the grass are, here and there, densely interwoven mats of Hypnum. This moss, a species of Stereodon, provides a damp cool miniature forest for the Haplotrematidae family of snails. Two species inhabit this jungle. Haplotrema sportella (Gould), the smaller one, possesses a dull amber-coloured shell with finely marked transverse lines on all whorls, umbilicus wide and deep, lips of mouth curving slightly outward. Its cousin, who is inclined to be nomadic, is a larger form, thin lipped, with similar striations and shell more glossy. Range eastward to Hope, B.C. Its name is Haplotrema vancouverense (Lea). There are many species of the Haplotrema and all are unsociable, preferring flesh to herbs and feeding on other, peaceful, snails as they emerge from the shell. And they are not averse to eating their own kind.

By travelling farther afield we find the Dry Belt also has wet belts in which specimens are found. Toward the Rocky Mountains species of the following occur, Gonyodiscus, Oreohelix, Columella, Succinea and others. Last, but by no means least, is the large snail, Monadenia fidelis (Gray), the Faithful Snail, one of the most attractive of our larger land snails, beautifully banded in three to four colours, seven whorls, ribbed and striated. Although prolific in Washington they are not so abundant in British Columbia. The question now arises: From whence cometh the land snail population of this province, since the Ice Age?

#### A VARIED THRUSH RETURNS

by M. Jackson, Fanny Bay, B. C.

In the winter of 1955, I wrote in "The Naturalist" of tending an injured varied thrush that learned to eat peanuts during his enforced stay with us; and again in the following winter of this bird's return, when he again accepted peanuts.

After a two-year absence, this bird has again returned. I was walking the short distance to the main road when I happened to turn my head and found this bird running behind me. I turned and faced him and he stopped and looked up at me, whereupon I threw a peanut directly towards him. He at once took it and ran into cover. This was at the beginning of November. He has since appeared in a certain spot close to our house once or twice nearly every day to be fed peanuts. We find it natural for him to be very timid and make no effort to get on friendlier terms with him. These poor creatures need all their natural caution. Yesterday, my wife and I heard dreadful screams from a varied thrush and saw a Cooper hawk fly off with one, not 40 yards from where I had just been feeding peanuts to "Chop", as we have named him. We gave him up as dead. He was not at his usual feeding place next morning, but in the afternoon, there he was! We think now that the hawk's victim was a female; if so, "Chop" will have to find a new mate. The accipiters are not protected as yet, and we doubt whether, in view of the endless numbers of bird-killing, cats they should be. Or, if accipiters are protected there should be an open season on cats!

Editors' note: Accipiters and other birds of prey are now protected by Provincial legislation.

MR. J. OWEN CLAY passed away suddenly on the night of March 24th. While at his work of tree pruning on Salt Spring Island the previous week, he suffered a heart attack and was brought home. Mr. Clay had been the Chairman of the Ornithological Group of the Society continuously since October 1944.



SALAMANDERS

by Barry Morgan

Not having seen salamanders before except once at Glintz Lake, I was surprised to see quite a number of them in several small ponds of water near a small lake on Kangaroo Road. (Blinkhorn Lake)

Knowing nothing about salamanders I thought I would investigate these intriguing little amphibians. I found 4 or 5 small pools on the logging road which skirted the lake and noticed several salamanders in each. Some of the pools were probably too small for them as they contained none. The greater number of salamanders were in pools with many leaves on the bottom with water entering and leaving, eventually filling into the lake a short distance away.

I followed one of the slow trickling streams up the hill about 200 yards and found a salamander not in the water but on the damp ground. It was rather sluggish and must have recently awakened with the spring to start its journey down to the smaller pools to breed and lay eggs with its companions that were already there. I picked it up and it stayed in the palm of my hand with no fear as I examined its dull orange underparts. The back is quite dark brown and blends well with the bottom of the leafy ponds. I put it down and went back to the pools below and picked up some of the others and noticed that some were fairly active and would swim away with a few strokes of their tail when approached while others were quite motionless when picked up. Could it be that one of the sexes is more active than the other?

Before leaving the lake road and its many pools I made a rough count of about 20 salamanders but there must have been many more.

GEOLOGY GROUP MEETING: FEBRUARY 17th

recorded by A. H. Marrion

Dr. Clifford Carl spoke on the subject "Rehabilitation of Life in British Columbia after the glacial period".

The lecture started with three assumptions: (1) That all life was eliminated. (2) That the province was like it is at present re mountains and valleys. (3) That there were centres of life outside the province.

The time for rehabilitation has been very short geologically speaking, even allowing 20,000 years since the ice

melted away from most of the province. The 'nunataks' or or mountain rocks, outcrops in the field of ice might (very questionable) have supported primitive life. With the melting back of glaciers from the coast, the Slow rehabilitation started, and is still going on. At first the exposed bare rocks would be covered with lichens, followed by mosses and other spore producers. Seeds would be carried by winds and by birds visiting ponds. Then plants of a higher order moved in, such as we see along the moist areas of the coast - fir, red cedar, hemlock, sitka spruce, etc.

Insects would arrive early. They are sometimes carried far by winds. Some beetles could find a home in swampy areas. Migrating birds and fishes would find these a source of food. Fishes could come from the north, east, south and west. The north was a non-glaciated area. Some of our fish are northern species. Some marine species (pilchard and albacore) came from the south. Ice in the valleys changed the drainage systems greatly enabling some fresh-water fish to become widely distributed. Species from the south, include cut-throat, Kamloops trout, and carp, the latter coming via Washington, through the Okanagan and Fraser, down to Chilliwack and Point Grey. Those from the east via the Mackenzie, Peace and central British Columbia, include pike perch and golden-eye. From North came white fish, grayling, pike, etc. From the west, steelhead and Dolly Varden.

The amphibians, requiring moisture and a fairly long summer for reproduction, came chiefly from the south. A newt got as far as Alaska. Toads are found all over the coast up to Alaska and on the Queen Charlottes. One frog from the east is found in the north-east of British Columbia.

Reptiles (snake, lizard and turtle) can only survive where the frost-free period is long enough to allow of reproduction. One species of garter snake has moved up the coast almost to Alaska. Marine turtles come along the coast with the warmer ocean currents.

The birds came chiefly from the south, as the Rockies formed a high cold barrier to the east. From the north came the ptarmigan, the gulls, kittiwake, bunting, puffin and some owls.

Mammals were retarded by mountains, ice and sometimes rivers. From the north came the moose, which at first was scarce in northern British Columbia and with none in the south. Today they are found in large numbers. The wolf and fox probably came from the north, while along the coast we find the sealion and sea otter. From the

east we have the wood buffalo and in southern British Columbia the plains buffalo. On land, two types of moles, one of which crossed the Fraser, while the other, with two types of shrew, remained on the south side.

Vancouver Island was reached by the squirrel, field mouse, wolf, deer and black bear, but not by the chipmunk, jumping mouse, coyote, grizzly bear, skunk, wood rat and fox. The black bear of the Queen Charlotte Islands is different from the mainland one. How did the mouse, for example, get to the islands? Some animals may have been carried by Indians as young pets, others by logs and debris from land slides or river floods. How long ago? Long enough to cause differentiation between types from the mainland, Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlottes. (A useful book in this connection is the Provincial Museum handbook No. 11 'The Mammals of British Columbia' by I. McT. Cowan and C. J. Guiguet).

The Indians by carbon 14 tests have been on the coast 2,500 years (Marpole) to 10,000 years (Oregon), having come south from Behring Sea area by canoe or the Rocky Mountain trench.

Changes from the ice period are still going on, i.e. new bird arrivals, animal movements, snow levels and mountains, climate changes and human migration.

#### TRUMPETER SWANS AT VICTORIA

Late in December one adult and three immature trumpeter swans appeared on Swan Lake for a few days. On December 22nd they flew to Prospect Lake, and were seen all feeding together. Two of the cygnets were reported as being smaller than the others, and these two stayed on the lake for only a short period of time, but the adult and the remaining full grown immature remained at Prospect.

These two swans became so tame that it was possible for anyone to hand feed them. For some time the immature bird was sick, suffering apparently from some obstruction in the throat and was unable to feed. However, due to the care and attention given them by Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Steward it quite recovered and soon was able to eat quite normally. At the time of writing (March 17) they are still there and being well looked after.

With them is an adult mute swan, and the three get along quite amicably. A small flock of Canada geese and occasionally two white-fronted geese are also on this lake

and come to the Steward's garden, which runs down to the water, to be fed.

Prospect Lake is the wintering quarters of many species of water birds, including thirty-five ruddy ducks, many American and hooded mergansers, scaup, grebe, etc.

A.R.D.

#### APRIL MIGRANTS

From my records, the following are the dates of arrival of the birds last year:

April 4th: Solitary vireo. April 5th: Band-tail pigeon.  
 April 6th: Western bluebirds and lutescent warbler.  
 April 7th: Rufous hummingbird (female) and the savannah sparrow.  
 April 13th: Osprey. April 15th: Townsend warbler.  
 April 16th: Chipping sparrow. April 18th: Western flycatcher.  
 April 19th: Rough-wing and cliff swallows.  
 April 24th: Barn swallow and myrtle warbler.  
 April 25th: Pectoral sandpiper.  
 April 26th: Pipits.  
 April 27th: Russet-back thrush, yellow warbler and the goldfinch.  
 April 29th: Warbling vireo.

NOTE: The white-crowned sparrow was first seen March 29th, as was the savannah sparrow (brooksi), while the first male rufous hummingbird was reported on March 30th.

#### BIRD NOTES

Mr. J.A. Flett of Duncan reported a male cowbird on his field on March 14th.

David Sterling saw 45 herons in the trees at the north end of Esquimalt Lagoon on March 21st.

Barry Morgan reported 2200 murres passing Clover Point in 55 minutes one day in February. There was an immense flock in Saanich Arm during March. Mr. Guiguet advises these birds migrate north in enormous numbers at this time of year.

A.R.D.

#### THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

The following is a list of books that have been acquired as the nucleus of a library, and they can be borrowed by any member. At the present time they are available at 825 Monterey Avenue, the home of our treasurer, Mrs. Eleanore McGavin.

Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America, by Kortright.  
 The A.O.U. Check List 1957. A complete list of North



## American birds.

- Audubon Water Bird Guide, by Richard Pough.  
 Audubon Small Bird Guide           "  
 Audubon Western Bird Guide       "  
 A Field Guide to the Birds (Eastern) by R.T.Peterson.  
 A Field Guide to British & European Birds   "  
 Birds of Canada, Taverner  
 North American Birds of Prey, by A. Sprunt, Jr.  
 A First Book upon the Birds of Oregon & Washington, by  
 William Rogers Lord, issued in 1901.  
 The Birds of Alberta, by W.Ray Salt and A.L.Wilk.  
 A Review of the Bird Fauna of B.C. by J.A.Munro and  
 I.McTaggart Cowan.  
 Wild Flowers in the Rockies by George A. and Winifred V.  
 Hardy.  
 Trees, Shrubs and Flowers to know in B.C. by C.P.Lyons.  
 Milestones on Vancouver Island           "  
 Milestones in Ogopogo Land               "  
 Milestone on the Fraser                   "  
 Field Guide to Common Mushrooms, by Thomas.  
 The Mushroom Hunter's Field Guide by A.H.Smith.  
 Wildlife in Colour, by R.T.Peterson.  
 Seven Golden Nature Guides on Wild Flowers: Rocks and  
 Minerals: Insects, Fishes, Trees and Seashores.  
 We are also indebted to the Provincial Museum for a  
 complete list of their publications, (Occasional Papers  
 and Handbooks) still in print, including the following  
 titles:  
 J.W.Eastham's supplement to the Flora of Southern  
 British Columbia by J.K. Henry.  
 Anthropology in B.C. by Wilson Duff.  
 The Upper Stalo Indians by Wilson Duff  
 Birds and Mammals of the Greston Region.  
 Birds of East Kootenay.  
 A Natural History Survey of Manning Park Area  
 An Ecological study of Goose Island.  
 Flora and Fauna of the Paradise Mine Area.  
 The European Starling in B. C. by M.T. Myers.  
 The Natural History of the Forbidden Plateau region.  
 And a complete file of 'Victoria Naturalists' todate.

A. R. D.

The Society has been fortunate lately in having interested some excellent lecturers to address them, chiefly due to the energy of Mrs. Grace Bell, our programme convener.

One of the latest of these was Mr. J. E. Underhill, one of the officials of the Parks Branch of the Provincial Government, who spoke to us on Tuesday, February 24th on the 'Adaptation of our Native Plants', which he illustrated with a number of superb slides in colour of our native plants.

The April meeting will be held in the Douglas Building Cafeteria in conjunction with the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Ass'n, on Thursday the 16th, instead of Tuesday, our regular meeting day.

There was a short item in the 'Colonist' of March 12th reading as follows:- "Goshawks, Cooper hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, great horned owls and snowy owls are protected by an amendment to the Game Act, but the European starling now is classed with ravens, crows, magpies, jays and sparrows, whose nest and eggs can be despoiled or as birds that may be killed as pests", so evidently all our work in connection with the brief to this end has succeeded. Now comes the real fight - to see that the law is enforced.

Enclosed in this issue is a copy of the leaflet designed to protect our wild flowers. Three thousand were printed for distribution to the children of Greater Victoria schools.

It is a pleasure to be able to record that our membership has increased considerably this year. There are now 119 single members, 32 family memberships and 43 juniors, a total of 222.

On the first Tuesday in April, the 7th, Mr. David Hurn will speak on the re-stocking of lakes with trout. Mr. Hurn is the fresh-water fish biologist for the Provincial Fish & Game Branch and lately this branch has been treating some lakes with rotenone, and other chemicals which kills all the natural fish life, the existing trout, bass, etc. so that they can be restocked with rainbow trout. This is a rather controversial subject, and as Mr. Hurn has stated he will be glad to answer all questions, this ought to be an interesting meeting.

A. R. D.

AN INTERESTING VISITOR

by Tom Briggs

We have always fed the birds in a casual sort of way. This winter we fed the birds but not as casually. We endeavored to observe them more closely. No mean trick for novices. Great time wasters too, especially when there are jobs to be done around the place.

Our birds were made up mainly of about a 100 quail, many golden-crowned sparrows, some house sparrows, some juncos, a few song sparrows, fox sparrows and an occasional Bewick wren.

Along about the time of the first snow this winter I noticed an unusual type of sparrow. I had a tough time at first picking up its marks. It was much too flighty. However, I pored through my many books to try to identify this strange bird but had no luck. I gave up and tried to pass it off as an off-colored golden-crown, the birds with which it associated. The white throat, breast and underparts I passed off as albinism; the black bib on upper breast as melanism. Two different colorations could be dichromatism (a word I dug up during my delvings). I wasn't too happy at the uncertainty that it could be a new bird that I had passed up.

Late in February my wife saw this bird several times. Seeing all marks very clearly she noted them and went to work. After poring through several books, she came up with an immature Harris' sparrow. This sparrow took to coming in religiously and I confirmed it in my own mind. Munro-Cowan "Bird Fauna of B.C." recorded a specimen taken at Cadboro Bay taken in 1891, which is not too recent. There have been other occasional records all over British Columbia since, so this helped some to reassure us.

We notified members of the "Bird Group" and many of the good birders had a good look at it to confirm our observations and to have the pleasure of seeing a Harris' sparrow. The Tuesday group came out on one of their jaunts and all saw it. This helped to make their trip a success for that day. In many cases this bird was a first Harris' for their private list.

Perhaps Harris' sparrows aren't as rare as recorded. The average person feeds the birds as a whole, but does not observe the individuals too closely. We were in that category all our lives until recent months. I believe, from memory, that a Harris' was noted at a local feeding station along with a Leconte sparrow in 1956. Anyway, we

derived much pleasure from seeing and studying this bird.

A chance remark to Alan Poynter earlier this year regarding six Hungarian Partridge in our back field roused his interest and I learned from him that they are not too plentiful on Vancouver Island.

One sunny Sunday afternoon I spotted them near the house. I phoned Alan and he arrived in short order and the partridge accommodatingly posed for us. We spent a pleasant half hour walking around to different vantage points gazing at them. They are beautiful birds and it was a pleasure to look at them. Since then many birders have been out to see them including Mrs. Soulsby who dropped in one morning on "spec" to pick them up herself.

During the first snow we fed six slate-colored Juncos. Though scarce, these birds are perhaps more plentiful than believed. I believe some were seen by Mrs. Bell and Mr. Palmer in different locations.

Am looking forward to the spring and summer. Only about 200 more species to go!

NOTE: Don't know where Tommy got the Leconte sparrow information from. An adult Harris was seen in December of 1955 and January of 1956 in the garden of Miss Leila Roberts on Cedar Hill Cross Road.

THE NANAIMO LAKES ELK HERD

by Alan Poynter.

A drive along the Nanaimo Lakes valley in early spring is typical of any drive into the mountains on Vancouver Island, but with time to walk the trails it would be delight to any amateur botanist, geologist or ornithologist, or just a plain old sightseer.

On the 14th of March four members of our group set out to locate the elk herd in this valley, only to find light rain and snow enveloping most of the hills, with some of the snow-capped peaks silhouetted against a patchy blue sky. All the plant life in the valley was breaking out into foliage, while the violet-green swallows skimmed the lakes for insects, and ravens called back and forth from the hills.

Only minutes out of the car were required to locate two columns of elk walking over a gravel bar and crossing the river in the distance.

Being the only person not loaded down with photographic equipment I made a long detour and intercepted the herd in



the heart of an original stand of cedar, to lie and watch fifteen of these beautiful animals pass only several yards away.

Thinking the whole herd had passed I walked into the open only to be confronted with twelve more, led by a huge bull, which came to an abrupt halt only twenty feet away.

Bull, cows and year-old calves standing majestically in the depths of this natural forest with the noise of the river and the wind in the trees should bring out the conservationist in anyone. It was only seconds later that the elk thundered past me to join up with the main herd.

Later in the day we were lucky enough to stalk the herd while brouseing out in the open; here the rest of the party had their moments with several good shots taken (with cameras and movies) before the animals moved into the tall timbers on the hillside to end a perfect day.

#### SUPPLICATION OF WILD FLOWERS

Thou who lovest all wild things,  
Keep us safe beneath thy wings.  
Keep us from the careless boots  
Trampling on our tender shoots.  
From the ones who take for granted  
Every flower can be transplanted.  
From the people who can think,  
Flowers will live without a drink.  
From the ones who never tire  
Of twisting us with bits of wire.  
They do not see the wounded stem;  
We are much afraid of them.  
We pray Thee, then to be our shield  
Who loved the lilies of the field.

F.F.Y.

Contributed by Mrs. D. Leedham Hobbs, Royal Oak.

OUR WILD FLOWERS: It is to be hoped that the efforts of this Society and the many other thinking people for the protection of our flowers will have some success. The flowers are there for our enjoyment, and certainly no one would want to stop the children from picking them in reason, and with care. There would have been no need even to pass laws prohibiting the picking of dogwood and trillium had people used more restraint.

A.R.D.

#### JUNIOR NOTES

by Freeman King

The car pool set up by Mr. Gordon Clendenning, father of one of the junior leaders, has proven a real success. On Saturdays now we are sure of transportation for the children. Our attendance over the past month has been over thirty each trip.

On our expedition to the east side of the Thetis Lake Park, along the Colquitz River, a young buck deer was found. It had just been shot, as it was still warm. On investigation it was found to have a 22 bullet through its shoulder.\*\*

The trip to Patricia Bay beach proved very interesting. A number of sand dollars were found amongst other interesting sea creatures and shells. A piece of Oregon Grape was brought in that was over eleven feet tall, and it was cut about three feet from the ground.

A work bee at the tree plot resulted in a large amount of rubbish and other debris being burned. It is hoped to make a good picnic spot adjoining the tree plot.

Lots of fun and enjoyment were had when we made the trip to the "Thunderbirds Cave" on Mount Newton. This cave is a cavern in a large rock, and at one time in the dim past it was possibly used by the Indians of the Saanich tribe as a shelter from their enemies and from the elements. Of recent years it has become partly blocked, particularly since the area was logged off.

It was interesting to note where a large number of Douglas fir trees had died in what is now a swamp owing to the outlet being blocked to make a logging road. It has the looks of a new beaver meadow. In the swamps the frogs were setting up their spring songs.

The junior leaders have made several trips, amongst them being one to the area back of Pike Lake. This country is really rugged and the road runs out into just a track. During this trip it rained and made cooking our dinners rather fun. A trip to Goldstream was also made where we found Coltsfoot in bloom.

The junior branch have a six week's television series on CHEK, Channel 6, magazine show on Mondays between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Botany, mineralogy, marine biology, tree farming, fossil hunting, and ornithology are the subjects being discussed, with specimens being shown. Each show one girl and one boy goes on and they are doing a wonderful job.

(\*\* The Game Department was notified.)

NOTICE OF MEETINGS - APRIL, 1959

- Tuesday 7th 8 p.m. ZOOLOGY: Speaker, Mr. David Hurn, regional fisheries biologist for Vancouver Island, Fish and Game Branch, Department of Recreation and Conservation. Topic includes fluctuations in abundance and decline of species with methods of restoration. Ample time will be given for questions from members interested in the conservation programme of elimination and restocking in certain waters. Place: The Museum.
- Saturday, 11th, 9:30 a.m. BIRD GROUP FIELD DAY: Meet at Monterey Cafe parking lot at 9:30 a.m. or Sidney Wharf at 10:15 a.m. Leader: Mr. Alan Poynter. Bring lunch.
- Thursday, 16th, 8 p.m. THETIS PARK NATURE SANCTUARY ASS'N and VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Combined meeting of the month, at the Cafeteria, Douglas Building. Speaker: Dr. Adam F. Szczawinski.
- Saturday, 18th, 1:30 p.m. BOTANY FIELD TRIP: Meet at the Monterey Cafe, Douglas St., for trip to Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary. Leader: Miss M.C. Melburn.
- Tuesday, 21st, 8 p.m. GEOLOGY EVENING: Dr. James T. Fyles, Provincial Department of Mines, will speak on "Geology of Southern Vancouver Island." Place: The Museum.
- Saturday, 25th, 9:30 a.m. MARINE BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP: Meet at the junction of Foul Bay Road and Crescent Rd. Leader: Mrs. G. Clifford Carl. (Waterproof foot-wear advisable)
- Tuesday, 28th, 8 p.m. BOTANY EVENING: Mr. P.J. Croft, professional engineer, Assistant to General Manager of the British Columbia Power Commission, will show part of his extensive collection of pictures in colour photography taken of nature subjects across Canada.
- JUNIOR BRANCH, SATURDAYS, 1:30 p.m. OUTDOOR EXPEDITIONS: Plant explorations; West Coast; Tree Farm, and Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary. Meet at Monterey Cafe parking lot, 2703 Douglas St. "Skipper" promises an enjoyable time well spent to all who join in. Leader: Mr. Freeman King (Skip')



# Victoria Natural History Society

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