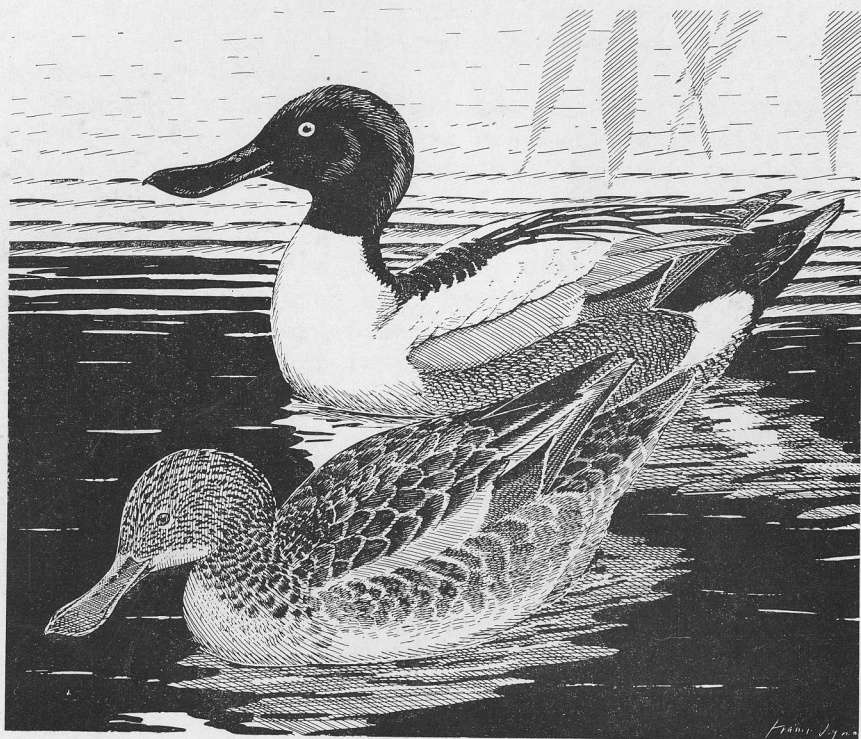


The  
**VICTORIA  
NATURALIST**

Vol. 16, No. 1

September, 1959



(F. L. Beebe.)

Shovellers

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THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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SEPTEMBER 1959

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

At the annual meeting in May, Mrs. Gladys Soulsby, our President, outlined some of the work of the Society during the year. Firstly, there was the brief presented to the Provincial Legislature for the protection of predatory birds. This was successful, but it entailed much toil on the part of our secretary, Miss Irene Latimer, as 71 letters were sent to various societies and individuals throughout the Province.

Secondly, an essay contest was held for children, a new idea for the Society. This was quite successful, and some of the prize winning essays will be published in the Naturalist.

Thirdly, an important step was taken in connection with the Audubon Screen Tours, as, starting on October 2nd next, these lectures will be held on two successive nights. This is an experiment, and our President asked that members tell their friends, so that we will have good audiences. Details will be found on the leaflet enclosed.

Also, a library was started, a list of the books purchased being published in the April issue of the Naturalist. Books can be obtained from A.R. Davidson at 825 Monterey Avenue. Elsewhere in this issue will be found additions since the above mentioned list was printed.

In conclusion Mrs. Soulsby expressed her gratitude to the members of the Executive and to the membership in general for the fine support she had received during her term of office. She regretted not being able to carry on; she and her husband, Cmdr. H.W.S. Soulsby were leaving shortly to spend several months in Bavaria. Mrs. Soulsby was a most energetic and enthusiastic president ably assisted by her husband; we will miss them both. We hope they spend a happy and profitable time on their trip, and we will certainly have a hearty welcome for them on their return next summer.

Editor.

REPORT OF THE BOTANY GROUP MEETINGS - 1958-59

During the winter season of 1958-59 we have held six Botany Group meetings, and these have all taken place at the Provincial Museum.

On Tuesday, October 7th, a talk was given by Mr. V.E.L. Goddard on 'Some of the Wildflowers', illustrated by his own coloured slides.

On Tuesday, January 27th, Mr. Freeman King entertained us with a talk on 'Edible Plants' illustrated in Mr. King's own inimitable way by living specimens.

On Tuesday, February 24th, Mr. J.E. Underhill of the Parks Branch of the Provincial Government, gave an interesting talk on 'The Adaptation of our Native Plants', illustrated by some fine coloured slides of Manning Park and other parts of B. C.

On Tuesday, March 17th, Miss Enid Lemon gave a delightful talk on 'Flowers of Hawaii' illustrated by her own coloured slides.

On Tuesday, March 24th, Mr. Freeman King continued his previous lecture with a talk on 'Trees and Bark', again illustrated with specimens of bark and leaves of native trees.

On Tuesday, April 28th, we ended our season at the Museum, when Mr. P. J. Croft, of the British Columbia Power Commission, gave us a talk on Nature Study, illustrated with many interesting coloured slides from his own collection.

All these evenings have been very well attended, and the talks have been both interesting and informative, and appear to have been enjoyed by all present.

Emily Sartain.

OUR COVER

The shoveller duck winters regularly in the Victoria area, generally to be found on the flooded fields and muddy ponds.

No other duck has such a long, broad and specialized spatulate bill, and no other duck displays such a striking arrangement of colours as the male exhibits in the winter months. The metallic green and black head, white breast, and cinnamon flanks and abdomen separates it from all the numerous species which are found in its company.

When the spring comes shovellers fly north to the Peace River and the Cariboo Parklands to nest, but occasionally a few stay on the Island all year. One pair, at least, raised their young on the slough at Comox this year.

A.R.D.

1958 REPORT OF BOTANY FIELD TRIPS

Beginning on April 12, 1958, botany field trips were held each month through August. The areas visited were Thetis Lake Park, George Pringle Memorial Camp (at Shawnigan Lake), Saanichton Spit, John Dean Park and Goldstream Park. These are familiar areas which we visit nearly every year but by varying the dates of our trips we see a wider range of plant life.

The number of species observed in flower, in fruit or both on these five occasions were as follows:- 42, 64, 85, 100 and 110. It was at Saanichton Spit that we listed only 42 species, but this is quite to be expected since plant growth there is restricted to those species which can tolerate either dry sandy soil or saline conditions. Botanically speaking "The Spit" is a very interesting area; however, I fear we must forego any further trips there until something has been done to improve road conditions through East Saanich Indian Reserve.

In addition to these five trips we made the customary fall fungus foray. At Thetis Park on November 9th a party of "hunters" found over 50 species of fungous plants, some of them very beautiful, and all of them interesting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who kindly helped in providing transportation for these six trips.

M. C. Melburn.

1958-59 BIRD GROUP REPORT

The Bird Group had a very successful year with, to the writer's knowledge, 199 species on the check list seen over the past twelve months, with twelve new species added to the list.

A total of eleven field trips were held including the Christmas Count, three of these being boat trips to the Islands.

The late Mr. J. O. Clay covered the ground work which brought about the full protection of all the hawks and owls in British Columbia.

Our Christmas Count was carried out in December with a total of 100 species and 37,974 individual birds.

We now have a very enthusiastic group, finding lots of new and rare birds and willing to check on any reports that come to light.

--- Alan Poynter.



REPORT OF GEOLOGY GROUP FOR SEASON 1958-9

Mr. A. H. Marrion, who was elected chairman of this group, commenced the term of office by sending out to the members a suggested list of lectures and field trips. When the lists were returned, with the members' choices marked, the following program was arranged:-

Sept. 23rd: "Our World in relation to the Universe", by Dr. Ken Wright of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, who spoke about our knowledge of outer space through the study of light and radiation and use of larger telescopes. The spectroscope is used for the study of radiation from the star elements. Having dealt with stellar spaces Dr. Wright described the satellites and conditions found thereon; stars and their composition, galaxies, and drew the conclusion that the earth is an average type of object seen in the universe. The Provincial Library was filled to capacity.

Oct. 21st: Dr. A. O. Hayes spoke about primary land masses; the origin of continents and theory of continental drift. Having dealt with Chamberlain's Planets and Hypothesis, the speaker showed how from stratification and fossil content time periods of the earth's history were worked out.

Nov. 18th: Mr. Milne of the Astrophysical Observatory explained the cause of earthquakes; the results produced, such as tidal waves, earth cracks and changes in land surfaces. Examples of large faults and disastrous quakes of the past were enumerated. The speaker explained how the intensity of earthquakes was measured, and their origin, as located by means of the seismograph. (See Mrs. Soulsby's account of this lecture in the January issue).

January 20th: Mr. A. H. Marrion illustrated the effects of glacial action produced as the ice passed over southern Vancouver Island, such as rock grooves and striations, outwash deposits of gravel, sand, clay, etc. and interglacial deposits, peat beds, fossils, etc., and erratics or large boulders carried by the ice and dropped at various places.

February 21st: Dr. G. C. Carl explained the rehabilitation of life in British Columbia after the ice sheets retreated back to the mountains. See details of lecture in the April magazine.

March 10th: Dr. John E. Armstrong, in charge of the British Columbia office of the Dominion Mines and Technical Surveys, Vancouver, was the guest speaker at this meeting, held in the Cafeteria. Dr. Armstrong spoke on the "Geology of the

Fraser River", using charts and maps of areas of glacial outwash, to build up the glacial history of the lower Fraser. The large amount of work entailed in this study can be judged from the two reports issued by the Geological Survey of Canada for this area under the name of J.E. Armstrong. The room was filled to capacity.

April 21st: Dr. J. T. Fyles of the Provincial Department of Mines gave an illustrated talk on the "Geology of Southern Vancouver Island". Dr. Fyles was well able to deal with this subject, as he was responsible for the material in Bulletin No. 37, B. C. Dept. of Mines on the "Geology of the Cowichan Lake Area".

Field trips, which were well attended, took the members to Goldstream, Island View Beach and the Beacon Hill shore line.

Through the kind co-operation of the various speakers, this may be considered a successful year for the geological section, judging by the number of persons attending the meetings and the educational side of lectures and outings.

A. H. Marrion.

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ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

Since the list of books was published in the April copy of the Naturalist, the following have been added:-

- "The Birds of Massachusetts" by E.H. Forbush,  
in three volumes.
- "Wild America" by R. T. Peterson and James Fisher.
- "Dance of the Trees" - - - by R. St.B. Baker.
- "Flora of Southern British Columbia" by J.K. Henry.
- "The Mammals of British Columbia" by Cowan & Guiget.
- "Wild Paradise" - - - by Guy Mountfort
- "Fresh Water Fishes of British Columbia"  
by G. C. Carl,  
W.A. Clemens & C.C. Lindsay.
- "Orchids of British Columbia" by Adam F. Szczawinski.
- "Grasses of British Columbia" by Wm. A. Hubbard.
- "The Bird Watcher's Anthology" by R. T. Peterson.



AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR SEASON 1959 - 1960

Once again the time is drawing close to these lectures. As most of you are aware, we are doubling our efforts this season, and the lectures will be given on two successive nights. This move entails extra work, which the committee has no objection to, and is delighted to undertake for the benefit of all those who desire to attend these delightful lectures.

The season tickets will be available for either the first or second nights of the lecture. As you will realize, it is impossible to issue the tickets on a 'floating' basis, i.e. come which night you like. Therefore, buy a season ticket for the night you wish to attend, which will have to be the same for the five lectures.

As before, the price of the season ticket is \$3.00, and the student season ticket \$1.00. These student tickets are available for those up to and including High School, and are limited to fifty for each evening.

The season tickets will be available at the General Meeting on Sept. 8th, and at the Provincial Museum, the Dogwood Shop at 2224 Oak Bay Avenue and at 825 Monterey Avenue. Members are urgently requested to get their tickets before September 21st. Shortly after this date an announcement will be made in the press, and we expect all remaining tickets will be quickly taken up. We do not wish any member to be disappointed in not being able to buy their ticket.

The first lecture takes place at the Oak Bay Junior High School on Friday Oct. 2nd and Saturday October 3rd.

THESE QUEER BARN SWALLOWS

In the September 1957 issue of the 'Naturalist', Miss Melburn told the story of barn swallows nesting on the Salt Spring Island Ferry, which operates between Swartz Bay, at the tip of the Saanich Peninsula, and Fulford Harbour on Salt Spring, a half hour's run.

This odd nesting arrangement was carried out by these swallows the next year also, and, on taking this ferry trip this summer, we again found a barn swallow's nest, on each side of the ferry, with the birds in attendance.

This year, however, other barn swallows tried an even more original site to build on. At Mayne Island and Galiano Island new ferry slips have been built recently.

These slips include a long movable ramp between the dock and the ferry, and at the end of the ramp is a heavy steel plate, about twelve feet square, which is lowered to make the final adjustment for the cars. The bottom of this steel plate, designed to come down on the deck of the ferry, has the edge rolled under to give it additional strength, and here the barn swallows have built nests, one on the Mayne Island landing and two at Galiano Island.

A more uncomfortable nesting site could scarcely be found, as the heat of the steel plate must be intense on a sunny day, and each time these ramps are lowered the cars go noisily over them, and occasionally, though the ferry officials know of the nests and lower the ramp carefully, the eggs are tumbled out. I am informed, however, that young have been successfully raised here.

A.R.D.

IT IS REALLY VERY SIMPLE!

by E.K. Lemon

During the last few years that I have lived in this delightful city, I have been playing around with bird photography with only a modicum of success.

I decided early this year that something had to be done about this situation. It is not easy to find a kindred spirit - one who is willing to sit for some hours with the hope of obtaining a picture. Fortunately I bumped into a new member of the Victoria Natural History Society who was just as keen as I was to do something about the recording of nests and their occupants in this area of the Island; Maeford Slocombe, who, besides being a very excellent artist, is a good photographer, and a very pleasant "birding" companion. So we joined forces in the elusive hunt for this and that. Things began to buzz. More film than ever was used up, with the usual result of a rapidly sliding bank balance, but results were coming to light.

We decided early in our wanderings that extra assistance was necessary in the shape of kindred members of the Society who were interested in same project. To our delight, Alan Poynter, the Chairman of the Ornithology Group, was very interested in the idea. His findings have been of immeasurable help. In fact without his wonderful set of eyes our results would not have been so satisfactory. Shortly after this happy find, another



new member of the Society was incorporated, "Mr. Eyes Himself" who answers to the name of Robert Mackenzie-Grieve and who was instrumental in finding a number of interesting nests. We are most indebted to these two men for their help.

We have all had some most amusing times, searching the elusive bird or her nest. There was a tragic little scene one Saturday morning in the early spring. I was determined to find a skylark's nest. So armed with some 60 feet of rope stretched over the grass, and aided by a somewhat sleepy Alan, we proceeded to walk across the field at the Gordon Head Camp. The grass was long and the dew had been very heavy. The net result was very wet legs, and regrettably no nest. The only find was a very unphotogenic savannah sparrow's nest. Alan decided to try and remedy the situation. So while I did my best with the sparrow's nest he went to the CJVI field. In five minutes he was back with the news that he had found a nest. All rather ludicrous, as we must have walked some 2-3 miles in the space of some two hours in our first abortive effort, and then he falls over a nest within minutes of walking on the new field. Phooey to the rope trick!

The first real thrill that Maeford and I had was the report of the nesting on Vancouver Island of the horned lark. This nest was most conveniently situated at the Pat Bay Airport, within a few yards of a rough road. So with the camera set up at 6 feet from the nest, the remote control stretching from there to the car some good record shots of this interesting discovery were obtained.

The next wild excitement was a tremendous find by Alan of the first recording of the blue-winged Teal. This nest plus others of the red-winged blackbird, sora and Virginia rail nesting in this area, were situated in the reeds of a very smelly swamp. A major difficulty arose as there were no waders in the "firm". I was able to acquire on permanent loan a very good pair. Maeford enquired from a sporting goods shop in town, if they had a pair. The salesman replied "Oh! yes madam, what is your height" Reply was 5 ft. 1 in. Whereupon there were heard peels of laughter down the phone, suggesting that a pair of gumboots would suffice, as the waders would come over her head. So no dice there. Fortunately I was able to get some good pictures of all the above-mentioned nests, the teal and sora rail being firsts for this area. Copies of the horned lark and blue-winged teal slides are now on permanent file at the Provincial Museum.

A short time later there was the report of the spotted

sandpiper and mourning dove nesting at the Rithet Swamp area. As everyone who is familiar with this property is fully aware, this area can be extremely wet, and quite tricky under foot. Gumboots were the order of footwear. Another obstacle to be overcome was the fact that the mourning doves nest was some 10 ft. up in a lodgepole pine. This was overcome with the aid of a step ladder. Weighed down with photographic equipment, step ladder and binoculars we proceeded across the field. All went well for some time. With "yours truly", weight 165 lbs., in the lead, I suddenly heard loud noises of disgust from my companion. Turning around I saw Maeford, weight 95 lbs, up to her knees in the bog. How ludicrous can one be! After this slight interlude all went well. The spotted sandpiper's nest neatly tucked under a small bush in the open field was duly recorded. The mourning dove's nest was taken care of with the help of the much travelled step ladder.

One of our favourite spots is near Cedar Hill Cross Road. This wooded area has been the site of Robert Mackenzie-Grieve's nest finding. Among others he has found the following: American goldfinch, screech owl, cedar waxwing, and what was at first a "mystery nest". With the aid of Robert's strong shoulders we were able to hoist Maeford up to the cedar waxwing's nest, which was occupied by two fairly large fledglings.

The mystery nest was situated about 10 ft. up in a Willow, beside one of the bridle paths. At first glance it was fairly obvious that this beautifully made nest belonged to a bird of either the warbler or vireo family. It had been deserted for some time, so we decided to find out the cause. This was two-fold, in the shape of a large juicy slug occupying half the nest, and the fact that a cowbird had laid her egg in the nest. Which was the primary reason for desertion I am not qualified to state. After much pouring into books and measuring, plus the advice of the Museum it was established that we had a nest of the Cassin's vireo. So thanks to the keen eyes of Robert Mackenzie-Grieve we now have recorded the nest and egg of this vireo plus a cowbird's egg. The russet-back thrush made her nest in a very handy spot so that was also taken care of.

On Bare Island, not too far off the Saanich Peninsula Maeford obtained some excellent pictures of the glaucous-wing gull, eggs and young, plus pelagic and double-crested cormorant, as well as the pigeon guillemot.

As the writer is fully aware, there are two distinct schools of thought on whether or not it is wise to take



pictures of birds while they are on their nest. Some naturalists become quite "hot under the collar" when you even mention the idea. Although Maeford and I have not been able to work with a blind, which is the best method, we would like to state that not one nest has been deserted as a result of our operations, and all have raised their young. One exception was the skylark which was destroyed by causes unknown. I think that we might all remember that the excellent Audubon Screen Tour Lectures which we enjoy to the full, are filmed by men who are naturalists in the first place and photographers in the second place.

In this article a few of the highlights of this nesting season have been mentioned. It will be obvious to anyone who takes the time to have read same, that the whole subject is really very simple, if you have friends with good eyes, strong shoulders, a step ladder, plenty of patience, and a great deal of luck!

E. K. Lemon.

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#### BIRD GROUP SUMMER REPORT

by Alan Poynter.

All of the summer trips listed in the May publication were held in fair weather and were very well attended.

Once again the Bare Island excursion could be considered our best, with bird watchers and photographers making the most of it.

The Vancouver group had their "skylark" day on Saanich Peninsula on April 6th, enjoying a pleasant if rather windy day, but with a shortage of our renowned skylarks.

It was of great interest that three nests of the blue-winged teal and two of the spotted sandpiper were found almost within the city limits. These are the first nesting records for the Victoria district.

Two pair of cinnamon teal were admired for a few weeks by several of our group in the same swamp as the blue-winged teal, while single sightings were recorded for the kittiwake, solitary sandpiper, eastern kingbird, Franklin's gull, golden plover and Lapland longspur (alias Alaska Longspur).

It is good to see our group using the camera to its fullest extent this year, also the interest in bird song recordings sparked by the visit in May of Dr. Arthur A. Allan.

#### AN ALBINO CROW

by Mrs. J. M. Jackson

On July 10th we had just arrived, shortly after 6 p.m. to visit friends at Towner Bay, when three crows flew, cawing, over our heads and alighted in a nearby fir tree, about twenty feet up. One of them, the young one, was a pure albino. There he sat against the green boughs, with the sun shining on his glossy, pure white feathers and accenting the glittering pink eye and the pink bill and feet. One jet black crow perched nearby and the other flew around the area. It was a memorable sight. They stayed around for about ten minutes and then the two older ones, obviously the parents, flew off and young white one followed closely.

This trio were seen in the area for about two weeks, and then disappeared, or rather the albino did, as the parent crows were quite normal in colour and could not be separated from all the others.

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#### BIRDS TO BE LOOKED FOR

The month of September is one of the most interesting in the year to the bird watchers.

Shore birds, which comprise the sandpipers, turnstones, surf birds and plovers will be seen at most of our water fronts. The first phalaropes and terns have already been noticed, and in the woods the southern migration of the warblers, vireos, flycatchers, etc., will be at its height.

At Cattle Point, Clover Point and similar areas look for the pipits, savannah sparrows and larkspurs.

A.R.D.

A PIONEER'S LAMENT

in Nineteen Fifty-Eight

Oh for the scenes of boyhood days,  
 When o'er the hills and fields I roamed.  
 When I could walk sweet scented trails  
 Lined with flowers of many a hue;  
 Could see the mighty oaks, in all their prime,  
 Guarding beneath them, the lesser plants;  
 Could hear the birds sing sweet songs of joy,  
 While butterflies sipped some nectar sweet.  
 No fear of man, whose axe and spade  
 Was soon to change what nature made.

Give me back the fields of camas,  
 The areas so lily white,  
 The violets in the shadows,  
 And the blooms with colours gay.  
 The paint brush and the mustard,  
 The star of Bethlehem;  
 The rounded rocks and the hill tops  
 From whence with joyous pleasure,  
 I saw the distant scenes.

Going are the unfenced places,  
 O'er which I used to roam,  
 Going the scenes, as I knew them---  
 The streams, fields, birds and flowers.  
 Now, the age of man is about me,  
 Taking its toll of all.  
 But, the stars are still in the heavens,  
 The seas still lap the shores,  
 And the memories of the old days,  
 Aye, I love them, more and more.

Victoria.

A. H. Marrion.

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MOSTLY DREAM STUFF

Saw my first '59 immigrant white-crowned sparrow on April 5. He was in company with the usual run of golden-crowned sparrows which have fed at our place all winter. As I watched it, with much pleasure, in popped our local rarity, the Harris' sparrow. This made quite an interesting picture, each belonging to the genus Zonotrichia. This scene has been repeated many times since, in some cases with two or three white-crowned sparrows. All we needed to make the picture complete was for someone to plant a white-throated sparrow in our midst, this being the fourth man in the Zonotrichia quartet.

Guess the appearance of a white-throated sparrow at this late date, however unlikely, would be too late. The Harris' sparrow was last seen feeding on April 16. It was a good try.

Have had a couple of Wilson's snipe in our ditch off and on all winter. Lately, for the last six weeks at least, they have lived there constantly. Herbert K. Job tells us they nest as far south as the U.S. border. Is it too much to try and dream up nesting Wilson's snipe in our back yard, or is this, like four Zonotrichia appearing together, highly unlikely?

Good Friday, at about 6 a.m., I spotted a hawk carrying off a lone quail from our back yard. I followed it out and came upon the hawk striking at the quail, which it had dropped. As I approached, the hawk flew to a rail on the fence not ten feet away. I stood and had a good look at it. It stared right back making little sparrowy noises. I delved through the hard, dry grass at my feet for the quail. It had burrowed itself under the grass, which protected it from the hawk's force. I examined the quail. The hawk must have caught it by the left wing, near the shoulder, tearing out many of the wing feathers and nearly denuding the left side. The skin was scratched but not punctured. It had also lost its top-knot. It felt strong and its movements were vigorous. I took it to its sanctuary in the local blackberry patch and turned it loose, feeling a wee bit boy-scoutish at my good deed on Good Friday morning.

The quail came back in thirty-six hours to feed, moving quite stiffly and with a limp. It has been coming in regularly ever since. It is now in excellent shape but still minus its top-knot.

Oh yes! The hawk was an immature Cooper's.

Tom Briggs.



On several field trips I have heard local birds called by names unknown to me, so out of curiosity I checked the Victoria bird check list against the 1957 edition of the check list of North American birds listed by the American Ornithologist Union and compiled the following:

<u>Bird</u>	<u>Local check list.</u>	<u>A.O.U. check list.</u>
Loon	Pacific	Arctic
Grebe	Holboell	Red-necked
Cormorant	Baird	Pelagic
Duck	Baldpate	American widgeon
Scoter	American	Common
Curlew	Hudsonian	Whimbrel
Sandpiper	Aleutian	Purple
Gull	Short-billed	Mew
Murre	California	Common
Nighthawk	Eastern	Common
Pipit	American	Water
Warbler	Lutescent	Orange-crowned
Towhee	Oregon	Rufous sided

I noticed that several of our check list names are sub-species of the birds in the A.O.U. check list.

Since the latest publication of the local check list, several rare birds have been reported; unfortunately some of them have been seen by only one person, which exemplifies the necessity of team work in the field. This list makes good reading:

snow goose, gadwell duck, redhead duck, Franklin gull, Sabine gull, ring-billed gull, marbled godwit, skua, snow bunting, Alaska longspur, white-rumped sandpiper, Anna's hummingbird, American three-toed woodpecker, pygmy nuthatch, marsh wren, Calaveras warbler and vesper sparrow.

Our latest check list was produced three years ago, and, as this printing is nearly exhausted, a new one has been compiled and will be available this month.

The camp for the juniors was held at Little Qualicum Falls Park from the 5th to 11th of July. Sixteen attended - 9 boys and 7 girls - all 12 years of age and older. Mrs. Ada Bone attended as cook and to help supervise the girls.

The advance party, consisting of myself and 5 boys went up on the 4th and set up the camp, the other members arriving on Sunday in cars which were arranged by Mr. Gordon Clendenning.

During our stay we explored the surrounding country, the park itself, and made trips to Cathedral Grove at Cameron Lake.

Over 100 plant specimens were collected and displayed, some being put into presses for a more permanent collection.

Dr. Clifford Carl spent the best part of two days with us, and we are grateful for his assistance.

Swim periods were held each day and were enjoyed by all. A number of the members were proficient in throwing and handling the life line. Also, a St. John Ambulance Course was commenced, which on completion will entitle those who pass to hold their certificate. This course will be completed in the near future.

The meals were very good indeed, and we owe Mrs. Bone thanks for the excellent manner in which they were cooked and handled. The children certainly did not go hungry, and with their healthy outdoor appetites they put away a lot of food. All handling of the equipment and putting up the tents and shelters was done by the children themselves.

On Saturday we cleared camp and stored the equipment in a lock-up building at the park. This equipment will be used by another group going in to camp later on during the month. The Park Superintendent, Mr. Jim Hall, gave us every assistance possible.

Transportation for the return home was arranged by Mr. Gordon Clendenning, all children being taken to their homes by the drivers of the cars.

This camping experiment was most successful and I am more than pleased with the behavior and conduct of the boys and girls, and would not hesitate to take them all on any camping trip again.

I would like to thank Mr. Geo. Bone for his help in taking the equipment to the camp for us on the 4th (Mr. Bone has no children belonging to the Society). I would also like to thank all those who helped us to enjoy a wonderful holiday and I would like to thank the children themselves. All I can say is that they are a grand bunch and I am proud to be with them.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- Tuesday  
Sept.8th: GENERAL MEETING: Prov. Museum 8 p.m.  
A talk on the Vancouver Natural History Society's annual camp at Manning Park. Illustrated with coloured slides taken by Enid Lemon and Joan Hannay, and sketches by Miss Emily Sartain.
- Tuesday  
Sept.15: GEOLOGY GROUP: Provincial Museum at 8 p.m.  
Speaker: Dr. A.O. Hayes  
Subject: 'Introduction to Geology'  
At this meeting a report will be made on the summer's work, and questions will be answered relating to any specimens members may bring.
- Saturday  
Sept.19: GEOLOGY GROUP: Meet at the Monterey Cafe at 1:30 p.m. or 2 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church, cor. of Mills Road and Patricia Bay.  
Leader: Dr. A.O. Hayes.
- Tuesday  
Sept.22: BOTANY GROUP: Provincial Museum 8 p.m.  
Dr. Freeman King will speak on a botanical subject, also on the activities of the juniors during the summer.
- Saturday  
Sept.26: BIRD FIELD TRIP: Meet at the Oak Bay Boat House for a trip to Discovery Island, weather permitting. Please bring lunch. A large boat will be chartered and a small fee charged. Phone to leader - Alan Poynter for reservation. EV.4-8330.
- Friday &  
Saturday  
Oct.2nd  
and 3rd: AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR: At the Oak Bay Junior High School at 8 p.m., both nights.  
Speaker: Cleveland P. Grant  
Subject: Land of Early Autumn.  
(Season tickets for this season's Audubon Lectures can be obtained from the treasurer at the General Meeting on September 8th.)
- JUNIOR BRANCH:  
The Juniors will meet each Saturday at Monterey Cafe at 1:30 p.m. for Field Trips. Leader: Mr. Freeman King. Anyone who would like to join these trips is very welcome.  
Mr. King can be contacted at GR.9-2966.



# Victoria Natural History Society

OFFICERS, 1959-60

## *Honorary Presidents:*

HON. L. R. PETERSON  
*Minister of Education*

J. W. EASTHAM  
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