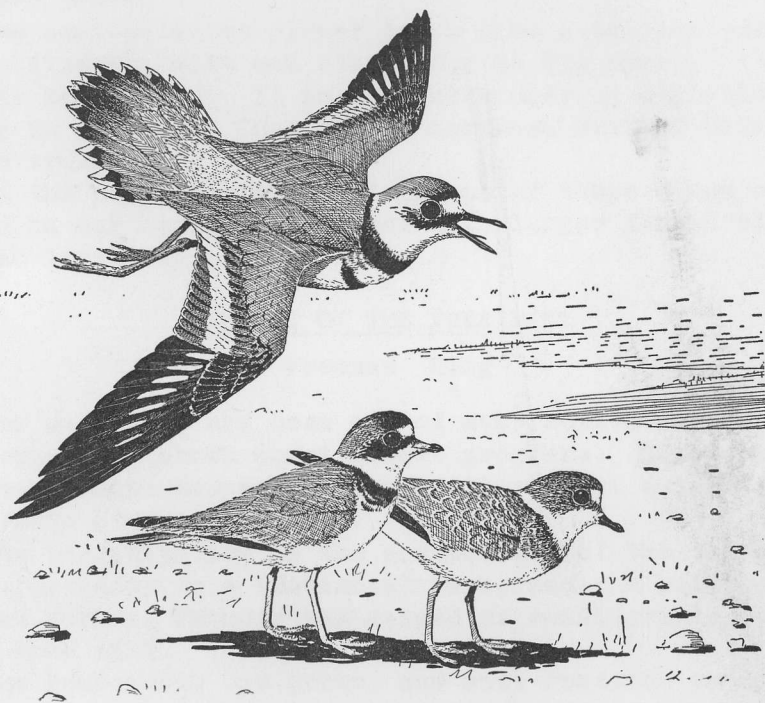


The  
**VICTORIA  
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September, 1960



Killdeer and Semi-Palmated Plover

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THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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THE VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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OUR COVER

The killdeer plover is a resident of this district, nesting in open fields, swampy lands, beaches and similar habitats. This is one of our most beneficial birds, its food being large insects, caterpillars and other destructive farm pests.

The semi-palmated plover looks like a smaller edition of the killdeer, with one black ring on its chest, the killdeer having two. It is seen here only on migration, nesting in the Queen Charlottes, northern British Columbia, and the arctic.

At the present time small groups of these birds can be seen on our beaches, together with larger flocks of western and least sandpipers.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Freeman King

The past year has been one of many activities, in which all groups have shown considerable progress. Conservation has been brought before the public to a great extent through the efforts of our Society.

The participation in the acquisition of the Thomas Francis property as a Provincial Park, and the building of the home for Mr. Francis has gained us considerable publicity and good will.

Our membership has grown, and must continue to do so, in order to give a lead to others in the field of natural history. During the year we have had some excellent speakers, and gained a great deal from them.

The Audubon Screen Tours have continued to be a success, showing that the people of Victoria district are in favor of such entertaining and instructive films. We can look forward to further success. We are in a healthy financial state, and as a registered society we hold a stronger status in the community.

During the coming year I would urge every member to put

forward every effort to further the aims and objects of the Society and to promote conservation.

I want to thank all members for their cooperation and tolerance in my efforts as your president. To the executive committee go my thanks for their guidance and helpful suggestions, which has made my task so easy.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF BOTANY FIELD TRIPS

by Miss M. C. Melburn.

Date	Area studied.	No. of plant species.	No. of observers
Apr. 18th:	Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary, Area I	57	44
May 18th:	John Dean Park	75	11
June 13th:	Goldstream Park	64	24
July 11th:	Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary, Area IV	53	14
Aug. 15th:	Sooke (Picnic area)	67	9
Nov. 7th:	John Dean Park (Fungus Foray)	62	35

Trips for the current season have all been planned, and are listed in the May 'Naturalist'. Members' suggestions for future trips would be appreciated.

#### BOTANY GROUP MEETINGS: - Winter 1959 - 1960.

Chairman - Emily Sartain.

All meetings took place at the Provincial Museum at 8 p.m.

September 22nd: Mr. Freeman King spoke on Wild Plants and their uses for food etc., with a display of interesting specimens. Mr. King also gave a review of his work with the Juniors, and of activities during their summer camp at Little Qualicum in July.

November 17th: Following up a Fungus Foray at John Dean Park on November 7th (leader: Miss M.C. Melburn) a 'Fungus Night' was held at the Museum. Questions were answered by Miss Melburn, specimens were brought in by members, and a display of paintings of fungi and lichens was given by Miss Sartain.

January 26th: Six of the Junior Leaders spoke on their various activities with their 'Skipper'. Mr. Freeman King spoke on coniferous seed production.

February 23rd: Professor C.W. Lowe spoke on Succulent Plants, giving a wonderful display of specimens.

March 22nd: Professor J.A. Cunningham spoke on Algae, displaying a great number of interesting specimens.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF GEOLOGY GROUP

by A. H. Marrion

A total of six lectures and six field trips was this group's contribution to the work of the Society during the past year.

At the 1959 Annual Meeting Dr. A.O. Hayes was elected chairman. Later, I agreed to take charge of the field trips.

The meetings were as follows:

- May 23rd: Field meeting exploring the cliffs at Island View Beach.
- Sept. 15th: Dr. Hayes commenced a series of talks dealing with the rocks of Vancouver Island.
- Sept. 19th: Field trip to Towner Point near Patricia Bay.
- Oct. 20th: Lecture by Dr. Hayes on the oldest rocks of South Vancouver Island.
- Oct. 24th: Field trip to Cordova Bay.
- Nov. 24th: Lecture by Dr. Hayes on the 'Vancouver Group'.
- Nov. 28th: Field trip to Foul Bay.
- Feb. 16th: Dr. Victor Dolmage of the Dominion Mines and Survey Branch; Subject, the Demolition of Ripple Rock, illustrated by his original pictures.
- Feb. 20th: Field trip to John Dean Park.
- March 15th: Lecture by A.H. Marrion. Subject: 'The Nanaimo Series of Upper Cretaceous Age'.
- April 19th: Lecture by George E. Winkler, his subject being 'The Birds and Animals met while prospecting in British Columbia.'
- April 23rd: Field trip to Island View Beach.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME CHAIRMAN

Mrs. E. G. Bousfield

Eight general meetings were held, the September and October gatherings in the Provincial Museum and the rest in the much larger cafeteria of the Douglas Building.

At three of these meetings we have seen and enjoyed some excellent coloured slides taken by our members, those participating being Miss Edith Valens, Mrs. M. Slocombe, Mrs. Lucy Parris, Phil Monckton, Barry Morgan and David Stirling. It is very encouraging that there are so many enthusiastic photographers in the membership, willing to share with us their work. It indicates, I think, an active interest in the very important subject of conservation.

Our guest speakers have been as follows:

- November: Dr. Victor B. Scheffer, Biologist with the U.S. Wildlife Service, subject 'Design in Nature'.  
 December: Mr. C. P. Lyons, an Audubon lecturer, Subject 'A year's travel in pictures'.  
 February: Mr. Willard Ireland, Provincial Librarian and Archivist. Subject 'Some early botanists in the Pacific Northwest'.  
 March: Major R.J. Kerfoot, recently in the Middle East as Truce Observer with the U.N.O. Subject 'Some flowers and biblical sights'.  
 April: Mr. Wilmer Gold of Youbou, who showed us his films on Vancouver Island, fauna, flora and interesting countryside.

The Botany, Geology and Ornithology groups held their usual meetings and field trips.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

by Alan Poynter

Fourteen field trips were held during the past year, as follows:

- May 9, 1959: To the Metchosin District and Witty's Lagoon.  
 June 6th: A trip to the south end of Shawnigan Lake.  
 July 4th: A chartered launch took the members to Bare Island and Sidney Island Spit.  
 August 1st: To the East Sooke district.  
 August 29th: A boat trip to Princess Margaret (Portland) Island.  
 Sept. 26th: Capt. Beaumont donated his launch and services for an expedition to Discovery Island.  
 October 17: To Island View Beach.  
 November 14: A bird tour of Victoria's waterfront.  
 December 12: To Beaver Lake Park.  
 January 2/60: The Annual Christmas Bird Census.  
 January 30: A tour of Esquimalt Lagoon and Thetis Park.  
 February 27: To Mount Douglas Park.  
 March 28th: A trip to Witty's Lagoon for spring migrants.  
 April 16th: To Towner Park and the northern tip of Saanich Peninsula.

#### THE ANNUAL PICNIC

by Freeman King

Saturday, May 14th, was a red-letter day for the Victoria Natural History Society, when approximately 140 members, including the juniors and their parents, joined together for a day's outing at Kirby Creek, Sooke. This place is a camp-site owned by the Victoria Division of the Girl Guides, and was at one time called the Coal Creek Ranch.

Cars left the assembly point at the Monterey Cafe at from 9 to 9:30 a.m., and made quite a cavalcade.

On arrival they were given a 'short short' welcome by the president; then each to their own choice went to the groups in which they were interested. A large group went plant hunting under the leadership of Miss M. C. Melburn. Over one hundred species of plants were identified. All those who went on this group really enjoyed it, and I feel certain learned a lot about plant life. The area in which we were was on the edge of the West Coast zone, so many plants of the Victoria were absent while other different varieties were noted. Hemlock and spruce predominated in the conifers.

This area went as far as the sea shore, taking in forest, hills, flat meadow land, swamps and creek banks, which gave a varied selection.

The bird observers went with Tom Briggs, and noted 51 species. Amongst those seen that gave the watchers a thrill was the wood phoebe, the Vaux swift and the Say's phoebe, which I believe was the first time it had been seen in these localities (See special article in this issue). A large bald eagle soared overhead, and looking down seemed to say 'what are you doing here in my domain'. This area does not lend itself to abundant bird life, as it is too dense; our songsters like the open country where the food they require is in plentiful supply.

The 'rock hounds' had a real field day, going away up the creek to the fossil beds, where a large number of specimens were dug out and brought for identification to Mr. Marrion, who was the real geologist of the party. Among the finds was a large chunk of petrified wood, which was thought to be a piece of an ancient pine.

It would be very interesting to know the history of the old ranch. There were still abandoned houses, shacks, and farm machinery lying about. The dreams and aspira-

tions that went into the building of a home in the wilderness - now the forest and jungle are reclaiming their own. Among the trees planted there years ago were white ash, prunes, apples, pears and quince; also a number of garden flowers that were gradually reverting back to the wild state.

I feel sure that the day was enjoyed by all, and we sincerely hope that when another year rolls around, we will have such another interesting day, and get out into the open, where we can see and feel natural history at its best.

#### BIRDS OF BARE ISLAND

In the summer of 1957, Gerry van Tets and another student from the University of British Columbia made a study of the nesting birds of this island. This proved so informative and interesting that the study has been continued each summer. A small hut for sleeping quarters was built, and hides were constructed at strategic points for close observation.

This island, named Mandarte on the hydrographic charts, is situated on the east side of Sidney Island; it is roughly one-half mile long and two hundred yards wide, and is part of the East Saanich Indian Reservation.

Mr. C. P. Lyons, of the Provincial Parks Branch, spent a day or two there in July of this year, photographing the bird life, and, for the record, obtained from the two students who are living on the island this summer, the following particulars of the numbers of nesting birds at the present time:

2000	pair	glaucous-wing gulls
350	pair	pelagic cormorants
150	pair	double-crested cormorants
97	pair	pigeon guillemots
2	pair	black oyster catchers
2	pair	tufted puffins
21	pair	northwestern crows
50	pair	song sparrows

A.R.D.

#### DANCE OF THE DRAGONFLIES

George A. Hardy

When I wish for peace and quiet from the noises of 'progress', I hie me to a certain woodland pond, or at the time of this particular visit, the site of one, as it dries up annually, leaving an expanse of peaty mud.

Here one sunny September day the only sound that reached my ears was the soft rustle of the wings of countless dragonflies as they engaged in nuptial display and oviposition.

For the most part they were coupled in pairs in that extraordinary manner known only to dragonflies, hovering close to the ground, swinging back and forth and round and round, accompanied by sharp downward flips; the swish of their wings and the ever changing glisten and twinkle as the rays of the sun were reflected from them was a most fascinating vision.

The revellers were scattered all over the terrain in groups varying in size and density. One such covered an area sixty by twenty feet, and contained an estimated 2500 individuals. As this was but a tithe of the number scattered over about half an acre, the colossal figure of 30,000 individuals is not at all an over statement. These formed a veritable kaleidoscope of shimmering movement. When I walked slowly among them they merely moved out of the way, soon to close in around leaving me as an island in a sea of dragonflies. Ever and anon a couple would break away from the throng and with the neck of the female still clasped by the male by the pincers on the last segment of his body, the former commenced to lay her eggs with a swift downward jerk of the tip of her body, momentarily almost touching the ground. Once in a while one or more would alight on the ground either singly or in pairs, or an individual would go off on an egg-laying expedition of her own. The species concerned is a member of the large dragonfly family Libellulidae. It has a wing expanse of two inches and a body length of one and a half inches. The wings are glassy clear and with a small black dash near the tip of each wing. The body is of a dull crimson color. Practically the whole of the vast assemblage belonged to this one species, there being only a sprinkling of the larger devil's darning-needle, and the smaller damselfly. These last two prefer open water for their frolics.

Evidently this red-bodied kind is well adapted to shallow ponds that dry up every year. The eggs lie on

the bottom of the dried out pond unharmed until the autumn rains once more cover the area. The ensuing larvae or nymphs, as they are called at this stage, develop into the full-fledged dragonfly in late summer, so completing the life cycle.

Thus the dragonfly, all unwittingly, has afforded me a most pleasant and instructive hour.

#### REPORT ON THE JUNIOR BRANCH'S ACTIVITIES

by Freeman King

During the year we have held 48 regular weekly meetings, four of which have been held indoors, the rest in the form of field trips and expeditions, during which many places of interest have been visited. Subjects such as botany, mineralogy and biology have held the interest of the children.

Our Annual Camp, held at Little Qualicum Falls, was attended by 18 members.

The junior leaders have held extra monthly meetings in the form of expeditions to various places, as well as special meetings to formulate plans.

Owing to the ever increasing numbers we have had to divide the junior branch into two groups, from 9½ to 12 and those from 12 and over, each group taking alternate Saturdays for their trips.

Our Annual Party was a great success; over 150 attended.

Mrs. Kay Osbourne has been assisting me during the year and to her I wish to extend my thanks.

Our transportation problem has been solved through the efforts of Mr. G. Clendenning, who has pooled the cars, so that we have excellent arrangements on Saturdays for taking the juniors on their trips.

To the parents and to all those who have given me much help during the past year I tender my grateful thanks also.

In conclusion I might say that it has been a pleasure to work with such a wonderful group of youngsters, and I look forward to our outings.

#### AN ALBINO CROW

On July 10th last year a pure white crow showed up on Towner Park Road with its parents, both being normally coloured birds. This was reported in the September 1959 'Naturalist'. This albino crow disappeared a few days

afterwards.

This year, on or about August 3rd, at the same place, another full grown albino crow was seen. Like the previous one it is an immature, as it is still being fed by the adults.

The question is, did the same pair of crows produce two albino young in successive years?  
A.R.D.

#### AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

The Audubon Screen Tours will be held again this season in the Oak Bay Junior High School Auditorium, on two successive evenings, at 8 p.m. Admission will be the same as last year, namely Season tickets \$3.00, single tickets 75 cents; Students' season tickets \$1.00, single tickets 25 cents.

The first lecture will be held on the last day of this month, and season tickets will be available at the general meeting of the Society on September 13th.

The full programme is as follows:

Friday, Sept. 30th and Saturday October 1st.

Speaker: Allan Cruickshank.

Subject: "River of the Crying Bird".

Saturday, November 12th and Monday November 14th.

Speaker: Wm. Anderson.

Subject: "Design for Survival."

Friday, January 20th and Saturday January 21st.

Speaker: Robert Hermes.

Subject: "Animals at Home and Afield."

Friday, March 3rd and Saturday March 4th.

Speaker: Chester P. Lyons.

Subject: "The Right to Live".

Friday, April 7th and Saturday, April 8th.

Speaker: Laurel Reynolds.

Subject: "New World Rediscovered".

A matinee has been arranged by Miss Enid Lemon in conjunction with Mr. R. Kipling, Principal of the Oak Bay Junior High School, for the four last lectures. These are being held for the students of the school only, the financial arrangements having been made by the School Board.

Be sure to remember to purchase your season tickets at our General Meeting on Tuesday, September 13th.

SUMMER BIRD NOTES

by Alan Poynter

On May 28th while travelling the marine drive at Ross Bay I noted an exceptionally large loon. I stopped the car but even without binoculars I could see the upward curve of the bill, significant in the species of the yellow-billed loon. (see Taverner's "Birds of Canada"). At 100 feet I could make out the brownish markings on a dirty white body. Even without the identification of the bill, it was much different than the common loon. Miss E.M. Hopkins, a new member of our society, happened along, and I pointed out all the main features, but was unable to contact an experienced birder to verify the find before the bird left the vicinity. There are only three records of this species of loon having been seen in British Columbia.

On August 14th, I saw one immature Franklin gull at Foul Bay. After half an hour, it took off, enabling me to see the distinct wing pattern which helped to confirm the identification.

The barn owl has always been a much sought-for bird here, but is seldom seen. However Ken Brown, an enthusiastic junior member, saw one in June and phoned to let me know, so I dashed out and we followed it on a hunting excursion an hour before dark, and were fortunate enough to see it make several drops on prey from a hovering position. We later searched several old barns and tree holes for a nesting site, but were unsuccessful.

On August 1st, I went into a rail swamp off Mount Douglas Cross Road and found an adult barn owl sitting high in a Douglas fir tree. There were a lot of feathers on the ground, including two pinions, and a trail of small feathers stuck to the dead branches all the way down the tree. I felt sure that a barn owl had been shot out of the tree quite recently. A liberal collection of pellets was under the tree, the old ones having dried out showing many skulls of rats and mice. I took home thirteen solid pellets and broke them open to find the skulls of 21 rats, 3 mice and 2 birds, probably a robin and a sparrow. There was no sign of game birds, farmyard poultry, pet cats or little children. We have certainly lots of scope in the field of educating people in some of the laws of natural history.

At the time of writing, this barn owl, with a mate only fifty yards away, can be seen any time in the same tree.

NEST RECORD SCHEME: Anyone with cards please return them to Alan Poynter at the Sept. meeting.

A SIGHT RECORD OF THE SAY PHOEBE (Sayornis saya)ON SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND

by David Stirling

A Say phoebe was observed at close range by many members of the V.N.H. bird group at Kirby Creek on May 14th. This bird seemed quite tame and was perched on upturned driftwood from which it made frequent sallies in the pursuit of insects. Its preference for open habitat, fly-catcher actions, size, blackish head, and black tail identified it as a Say phoebe. The normal range of this species is in arid or open country from Medico north into the Peace River district of Alberta. In British Columbia it is moderately common in high country throughout the coast range and the interior, north to Cassiar, Haines cut off and Spatsizi Plateau. Munro and Cowan (A Review of the Bird Fauna of British Columbia, Prov. Mus. 1947) list Say phoebe as a scarce transient on the southern British Columbia coast. The only Victoria record listed is a specimen taken in July, 1890, and there is one specimen record taken by the late R.M. Stewart in the Queen Charlotte Islands in 1943.

In the summer of 1957 a bird answering to the above description was seen by a group of observers at Point-No-Point, a few miles west of Kirby Creek.

THE WHOOPING CRANE

We hear much about these vanishing birds nowadays and about the efforts being made to prevent the species from becoming extinct; yet their decline must have been rapid.

The other day I was talking to a Mr. Robert Marshall, of Victoria, who had lived in Saskatchewan in the early days, and he told me that in the years prior to 1912 these birds used to migrate every spring by the thousands to the region where he then lived, which was the Quill Lakes district.

Mr. Marshall stated they always kept themselves separate from the sandhill cranes, each species arriving in flocks of a few hundred at a time, but settling in a different part of the terrain.

As they are a large bird it was inevitable that some were shot for food. Mr. Marshall said that he had tried them himself, but they had proved to be tough eating, and that a young sandhill crane was much to be preferred.

A.R.D.

SWAMPLAND

by Alan Poynter

We have lost four more swamps. Last year we lost one off Cedar Hill Cross Road, now one in the Saanich municipal yard. Another small swamp was drained on the Patricia Bay Highway. This year we saw the end of Rithets Swamp, as the ditch diggers cut deep scars through a naturalists' paradise. Also a small swamp at the corner of Douglas Street and Rogers Avenue is rapidly being filled in for use as a housing development.

To appreciate a swamp one should get into it. Although much can be seen by sitting quietly on the side, to wade in will open up an entire new field of natural history. I can only speak of the birds, the mosquitoes, leeches, swamp grasses and the physical labour involved, but it is worth the effort. The Douglas Street swamp covered only a couple of acres or so; half of it was in bullrushes, reeds and the very dense sedge peculiar to our wet meadowland. The rest was open meadow, flooding in spring but drying out in the early summer. This swamp was a haven for many bird species; yellowlegs, least and western sandpipers, dowitchers, snipe, pectoral sandpiper, black-bellied and semi-palmated plover, with killdeer nesting in abundance. There was even a solitary sandpiper seen there this year. The winter duck population moved out in April and May to make way for the migrants and summer residents. Green-wing teal stopped in quite large numbers, and could be seen on the edge of the open water along with the blue-wing teal, always close to the cover of the reeds or with a clear flight to safety.

Here, on April 23rd last, were a pair of cinnamon teal. I gave them two weeks to lay and begin incubation, and on May 7th it took me almost three hours to find the nest. The duck slipped off the eleven eggs into the water, where I positively identified her as a cinnamon. I think this was the first nesting record for Vancouver Island and the Western Regions of British Columbia. One week later I found the nest crushed under the grass where someone had passed. The birds built again, and, I believe, successfully raised a family.

During nesting season the male teal and mallards take wing when approached, but the females slide quietly off the nests and slip away, usually unseen, into the cover. Go into the reeds and you can wade up to within a few

feet of these before they burst out in a vertical climb to join the drakes in the air.

You will always be harried by the red-wing blackbirds, even knocked off your feet into the algae-covered pools, but move quietly and you can see the muskrats cutting down their feed or building up their houses.

At least one pair of sora rail nested this year, but I suspect the Virginia rail was left without a mate. These birds will 'whinny' or 'peck' when approached, leaping into the air to drop only a few yards further over into the cover again. They are worriers and will stay close to the nest to peep out at you between the reeds. If you step back only ten feet and stand still they will return to the eggs in their nest just inches above the water.

But all that is past. Next year the birds will return to find concrete and blacktop, hardly a good substitute for our best and most exciting bird habitat.

A WELCOME LEGACY

Many years prior to the formation of the present Victoria Natural History Society in 1944, a group of interested naturalists met in Victoria under the name of the Natural History Society of British Columbia. This group carried on for many years but was dissolved, I believe, shortly after the termination of the great war, leaving at the Bank of Commerce here a small deposit, which apparently they had forgotten. It was not until this summer that the head accountant at the bank contacted our treasurer to see if there was any way of transferring the amount to the credit of our Society. Actually, of course, this money had nothing whatever to do with us, but through the co-operation of Mr. Wm. A. Newcombe, who was a member of the original group, and the Bank of Commerce, an amount of \$41.37 was deposited in our account at the National Trust.

A.R.D.



BIRD PROTECTION

In December of 1958 a brief was presented to the Minister of Recreation and Conservation by this Society, asking that legislation be passed for the protection of hawks, eagles, and owls in British Columbia. In the following spring this was done, an amendment being made to the Game Act in the following words:- "No person shall take, injure, destroy, or have in his possession any nest or eggs of any bird whatsoever, save and except ravens, crows, magpies, blue jays, Japanese or European starlings and English sparrows".

On May 17th last our Society wrote to the Hon. E.C. Westwood, Minister of Recreation and Conservation, pointing out that no mention of this new legislation was made in the Game Regulations sheet issued to hunters, and that the only mention of birds other than game birds in this sheet was the following:

"Don't shoot harmless wildlife; practice on crows, magpies and that ilk". Naturally enough, hunters assume that all predatory birds come under this heading.

In reply Mr. Westwood advised that this year particular attention will be given to the wording of these Game Regulations, and that the editor of the "Wildlife Review", an excellent publication of the Department of Recreation and Conservation, will be requested to publicize what birds are now protected by Dominion and Provincial regulations.

A.R.D.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It will be noticed, from the back page of the cover, that two group chairmen have been added to the list.

Our President succeeded in having Dr. John A. Chapman, Entomologist for the Dominion Government, Forest Biology Laboratory, act as chairman of an entomological group, and Mrs. Gladys Soulsby, our former president, will head a committee having as the objective the formation of a federation of natural history and associated societies.

Up to the present time, we have been unable to find a geologist who will carry on the good work started by Dr. A. O. Hayes and Mr. A.H. Marrion. In this regard we would welcome the assistance of any member willing to help continue this important branch of our Society.

REPORT ON WITTY'S LAGOON

by A. R. Davidson

Last January, at a meeting of the Society, the writer was asked to try to have Witty's Lagoon and the adjacent district made into a bird sanctuary, as this area is becoming quite a popular residential area, and the conduct of some hunters is not conducive to the safety of the picnickers or the local residents.

Consequently a letter requesting the establishment of a sanctuary was written to the Provincial Department of Recreation and Conservation, and a reply was received from Dr. David Turner, the deputy minister, that his department had long been interested in the possibility of acquiring suitable lands in the Lagoon area as a Provincial Park, but that to date all efforts to negotiate with the owners of the land had been unsuccessful.

Then the matter was brought to the attention of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Mr. Alvin Hamilton, who arranged for Mr. R. D. Harris, an official of the Canadian Wildlife Service, at Vancouver, to look over the situation. In the meantime, through the efforts of Mr. G. H. Mitchell and Mr. E. Newton, both of Witty's Lagoon Road, a petition signed by all the available residents of the area, fifty-two in all, was sent to the Minister at Ottawa. However, after much correspondence, our request for a bird sanctuary was turned down.

The most recent letter in this correspondence is from Mr. G. H. Mitchell who wrote on June 5th as follows:-

"I have just returned from a meeting of our Recreation Commission where I brought the contents of Mr. Westwood's letter to you before those present.

Our Chairman said that about ten days ago he was in Mr. Westwood's office and had an unofficial talk about the proposed Provincial Park at Witty's Lagoon. It would seem that everybody is in favour of such a move, except the Witty family who own the land. Negotiations are continuing with them.

You may rest assured that people in this area will not stop protesting until the shooting nuisance is curbed at Witty's Lagoon.

From one angle or another, results will eventually be obtained if we persist."

And there, for the present, the matter rests.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

1960

Saturday:  
Sept. 10th: BIRD FIELD TRIP: To Discovery Island, courtesy of Captain Beaumont. Meet at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Ripon Road, at 10 a.m. Please contact Mr. T.R. Briggs, GR 7-1945 for reservations. Bring lunch.

Tuesday,  
Sept. 13th: GENERAL MEETING: At the Cafeteria in the Douglas Building near the Museum at 8 p.m. Guest Speaker: G. Clifford Carl, Director of the Provincial Museum. Subject: "Pacific Patterns".

Friday,  
Sept. 30th  
and Saturday  
October 1st: AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR: At the Oak Bay Junior High School Auditorium at 8 p.m. on both nights. Speaker: Allan Cruickshank. Subject: "River of the Crying Bird".

\* \* \* \* \*

The Juniors will meet each Saturday at the Monterey Cafe at Hillside and Douglas Streets, 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.

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The Treasurer will be on hand at the General Meeting in the Cafeteria on Tuesday, September 13th, with season tickets for the new series of Audubon lectures, and to receive the dues of members of the Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Victoria Natural History Society

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*Minister of Education*

J. W. EASTHAM  
*Former Provincial Plant Pathologist*

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P. M. MONCKTON - - - - 1957-58  
MRS. G. E. SOULSBY - - - 1958-59  
RALPH FRYER - - - - - 1960-  
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