

The  
**VICTORIA  
NATURALIST**

Vol. 19, No. 8

April 1963



(F. L. Beebe)

Swainson Thrush

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

OUR COVER

This is our summer thrush, arriving towards the end of April and the beginning of May. It nests here, and probably raises only one brood. By the time September comes in all have departed south again.

In appearance, as Frank Beebe's drawing indicates, it is very similar to the old country song thrush, and the local hermit thrush, which winters, somewhat sparingly, around Victoria.

They are quite common in their season, but oftener heard than seen, their low clear whistle betraying their whereabouts.

The description, as follows, given in W. L. Dawson's "Birds of California" is interesting: "This bird is the happy incarnation of the underforest, the authentic dryad of the Farther West; for wherever shaded waters empty into the blue Pacific, the shifting browns of this bird's upper parts melt and blend with the tints of fallen leaves, dun roots and the shadows of tree-boles cast on the brown ashes of fallen comrades. Not content, either, with such protective guarantee, this gentle spirit clings to cover, and reveals itself only as a flitting shade and a haunting voice."

Ornithologists have had considerable trouble naming this bird. At one time or another it has had three names: russet-back, olive-back, and Swainson thrush. For the time being the latter is its official name. Probably these birds have more geographical variations in plumage than most birds.

The oldest bird book in the Society's library here is one written by William Rogers Lord, published in 1901, in which it is called the russet-back. This small book has a curious dedication. "To all bird lovers, especially to the 'Knights and Ladies of the Birds' in the cities, towns and schools, and also to all those who shall come to find in the birds ministers of beauty and joy."

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THE MARCH COVER

Owing to a mixup of cuts, for which the writer must accept responsibility, the bird shown on the cover is an Emperor goose, and not a white-fronted. The Emperor goose is a very casual visitor to these parts, though it has been occasionally identified near Victoria.

A. R. D.

BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURE COUNCIL

The formation of a provincial nature council to give British Columbia naturalists a unified voice in conservation matters was approved in principle by representatives of seven natural history societies at a meeting at the Provincial Museum on February 23rd.

Further steps to form this council will be taken at a meeting in Kelowna on May 11th.

We agreed that this council is desirable, not only for conservation, but to co-ordinate the activities of naturalist groups throughout the province, and to aid in the formation of new natural history groups.

Attending this meeting were the following:

Arthur Morton and Bruce Devitt, of the Cowichan Valley Naturalist Society, Duncan.

Dr. J.E. Armstrong, Dr. V.C. Brink and J.Y. Neild, representing the Vancouver Natural History Society, Vancouver.

Dr. H.J. Hocking, Dr. Gwen Bray and Mrs Harold Lamoureux, the Central Okanagan Naturalist Club, Kelowna.

James Grant, North Okanagan Naturalist Club, Vernon.

Jack McDougald, of the South Okanagan Naturalist Club,

Dr. G.C. Carl and Mrs. Gladys E. Soulsby acted as representatives both of the Victoria Natural History Society and the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association, Victoria.

Mr. P.J. Croft, our President, was also present, as were York Edwards and David Stirling from the Provincial Parks Branch.

The next meeting, as mentioned above, will be held in Kelowna on May 11th and 12th, and the Central Okanagan Club would like some members of our Society to go as observers along with our official delegate.

The month of May is a wonderful time of year in the Okanagan, and I would advise our members to take advantage of this opportunity. Cars can be taken and expenses kept down. The Kelowna members will give us overnight billets

and a field trip on Sunday morning along with the Vernon people.

Please consider this invitation and let me know by the next meeting of this society, April 9th.

Gladys S. Soulsby  
Chairman

IRA EDMUND CORNWALL (1875 - 1962)

At the close of our Society's year it is fitting to pay tribute to a former member, the late Mr. I. E. Cornwall, who died on August 6 last, in his 88th year.

Although he was best known as an authority on the Cir-repedia (barnacles), Mr. Cornwall was also keenly interested in the rocks, minerals and fossils of the southern Vancouver Island region, especially in his earlier period when he lived at William Head where for many years he was resident engineer at the Quarantine Station. Here he commenced a study of the local rock formations as a hobby, and soon became associated with Archdeacon Robert Connell, who was also a keen student of nature. The two friends eventually spent much of their spare time together in the field. They enjoyed many holidays working over the Sooke fossil beds near the mouth of Muir Creek, work which did much to bring this area to the notice of palaeontologists in other parts of the world. Several undescribed species of extinct animals were discovered, including a sea-cow which was subsequently named Cornwallius sookensis in tribute to Mr. Cornwall; in further recognition of his accomplishments he was made a Fellow of the Royal Geological Society.

About 1920 Ned Cornwall became interested in marine life, first working with sponges and then with barnacles, which he soon discovered were poorly known although of great importance in shipping. The remainder of his long life was devoted to their study, first as a hobby, and then, on his retirement from his post at the Quarantine Station in 1935, as a full-time research project. For a few years he worked at the Hopkins Marine Station at Pacific Grove, California, where he examined and identified the entire collection of barnacles sent to him from the National Museum in Washington, D.C.

Over the years he had published numerous papers on whale barnacles, systematics, anatomy, and new species, and more recently he contributed a popular guide to British Columbia barnacles which appears in the Museum Handbook series.

latterly he developed a technique of identifying barnacles by means of the growth patterns within the shell, a method of great value to palaeontologists and others dealing with shell fragments which can not otherwise be identified. His last contribution reviewed the new technique and added many more diagnostic patterns to the list now known. It was published by the Canadian Research Council just before his death.

Until last year Mr. Cornwall maintained contacts with marine biologists in many parts of the world and was a recognized authority in this field, a remarkable achievement for a person with no formal training in biology.

G. C. C.

#### THE HAIR SNAKE

by Adrian Paul, Hornby Island.

Perhaps one in ten people have heard of a "hair snake", perhaps one in a hundred have seen one. Some years ago I came across one swimming in a small pool in the middle of the road. It was about eight inches long, and could be roughly described as like a piece of thin, flexible, wire tapered at the front end. I lifted it out on a small stick. By the time I had carried it two hundred yards it was dead, so I put it in a small bottle filled with vinegar.

At that time I didn't own the 'Field Book of Ponds and Streams' by Ann Haven Morgan, but the next issue of the Family Herald had a nature note about the hair snake (sometimes called hair worm), in which the writer said "the old superstition which caused farmers to swear that a horse hair placed in water turned into a snake, has no truth in it".

A few days later I showed the specimen to a neighbour, who said that as a boy he had seen such creatures in a lake where he lived and had been told that they were derived from horse hairs. I have more recently discovered that quite a few people who lived in the Cariboo as children think, or thought, that hair snakes came from horse hairs. The life cycle would be interesting in that case!

#### (Editor's Note:

The "hair snake" is actually a parasitic round worm which spends part of its life inside a grasshopper or cricket. It is harmless to man.)

#### THE GEOLOGY OF OUR WATERFRONT

by A. H. Marrion

#### Article No.7. Dallas Road - Clover Point to Cemetery.

There are several things of interest to be observed in this section. First, do not be fooled by all you see. The 'erratics' were not all ice carried. Most of them were deposited to protect the Point from wave action. Some saxicava sea shells aroused my interest, until I realized that at one time an excavation had been dug and a stone wall erected for the placement of targets, when the waterfront here was a rifle range. A sewer trench leads out to the point, the making of which intermixed clay, till and soil.

Clover Point has been preserved because of the underlying rock, which in this area is known as the Vancouver volcanics. In Triassic or Jurassic times great amounts of lava, ashes and rock fragments were piled up over what is now Vancouver Island. This particular area received its share. Later the Saanich granodiorite intruded the volcanics. Now at Clover Point the consolidated, altered and folded volcanics show themselves as a remnant mass, which has successfully kept the waves from washing away the small area of overlying till and clay.

Note the whitish granodiorite at the point cutting into the darker volcanics. A displaced boulder is an excellent example of the contact. The terrific breaking up of the once solid mass of rock along lines of weakness is seen. However, not all is destruction. The covering of earth has protected the finest large area of glacial smoothing that I know of. The Park authorities should see to its preservation, and should enlarge the area by the removal of a little more earth. The surface is large and is beautifully smoothed, with fine north-south scratches. It also has several examples of rock chiselling - the removal of small areas of rock by ice movement and pressure, which causes wedge shaped cavities to be formed. The deepest part of each cavity is next to a rock crack at right angles to the direction of the ice flow. Locality - south side of boat-house.

Another delightful discovery on the south side is the red, brown and white mottled colour effect produced by the string-like and somewhat silicified intrusive rock.

A little further along there is a coarse conglomerate broken into three erratics of a rusty appearance, not commonly seen in this area, but of a type seen as basal conglomerate up-island. The "neck" is about twenty feet above

the beach and consists of nearly pure brown clay. At the high point, at the end of the sea-wall, it is covered with about twelve inches of stratified sand, then some gravels. The sea-wall protects a Beacon Hill type of till (20 feet to the top). It changes in character eastwards and becomes a brown clay, which, in drying on the surface, breaks up into squarish blocks, which in turn weather and form a vertical wall of balls about two or three inches in diameter.

### JUNIOR JOTTINGS

by Freeman King

Both groups of the Junior Branch have been very busy. They have cut and cleared two new trails at Francis Park, and have removed the debris from the existing trails. They have made a first class job, and are to be congratulated on their efforts.

The trip to Terrace Hill was more or less disappointing, as somehow we got off the track and managed to get on to the wrong hill. However, it was an experience for the group and perhaps a lot of fun.

The Leader Section went to Spectacle Lake where they had a joint meeting with the leaders of the Cowichan Valley group.

A new car pool has been set up, and parents will be receiving the new list shortly which will cover the period to September. Many thanks are due to the parents who help to supply the transportation for our outings.

Plans are started for our annual summer camp, which will be held from the 20th to the 28th of July at Goldstream Park.

### WREN BEHAVIOUR

by J. M. Barnett

In a wooded area with heavy underbrush, fallen logs, ferns and mosses, birds are generally scarce, and their presence is known only from a few call notes. In this kind of habitat the most likely bird is the winter wren, a singer that is only sometimes seen.

On February 26th, when the Tuesday group were strolling through such an area near Lochside, we heard the excited notes of one of these birds, and had the good fortune to see him in clear view.

He was a rich, dark brown above, with a russet vest, and

with his little tail stiffly erect he was hopping about some twigs on an old stump. He seemed to be quivering as he jerked around from side to side, and his whole body and every movement seemed to indicate indignation.

At first we thought our presence was responsible for his mood, but just then we heard a Bewick wren also calling excitedly in the same vicinity, and caught a glimpse of it among the underbrush.

As the two birds got closer together their excitement seemed to increase, and the winter wren hopped down into the thick cover and made toward the intruder. We got the impression that we were witnessing some sort of dispute.

Later, when we got home we looked up Bent's "Life Histories of Birds" and were surprised to read that the different wrens do not get along together.

We have never considered the little winter wren as an aggressive bird, but this one certainly looked the part, and undoubtedly what we witnessed was a territorial dispute.

Two weeks prior to this, when we were on the same road, several of the party both saw and heard a pair of Hutton vireos. The male bird was singing his spring song which is not at all similar to the song of the ruby-crowned kinglet, a bird he very closely resembles. Later, we heard both birds calling to each other across the road. This call too is unlike anything the kinglet produces, so we knew we had indeed caught sight of this seldom seen resident vireo.

### THE ALASKA FUR SEAL TREATY

by Doris Page

A number of members of the Society expressed interest in an item in the Victoria Times of January 17th headed "Open Sea Sealing New Aim Of The Japanese". An Associated Press report from Tokyo stated that Japan is expected to press for revision of the Four Power Sealing Agreement so that open sea sealing would be permitted. To quote from the Times "An official who refused to be identified said: 'the population has become so great there is need to revise the Treaty to allow seal catching on the high seas, otherwise fisheries resources will suffer'. He also said that the demand for seals is great in Japan and that fishermen want to be allowed to catch them."

With permission to enquire in the name of the Victoria Natural History Society into the truth of this report, I

phoned the Victoria office of the Dominion Department of Fisheries. The official to whom I spoke was interested to hear about the news report, and verified most of the background facts, but advised writing to the Area Director in Vancouver for figures on the fur seal herd. As I understood that the conservation methods used in the management of the fur seal herds, which had been close to extinction, were a model of their kind, I wrote for further information and received a letter from the Chief of the Protection Branch, enclosing a copy of the "Act to implement the Interim Convention on Conservation of the North Pacific Fur seals" and a Fisheries Fact Sheet issued by the Information Service, Department of Fisheries, Ottawa, with the reassuring message "if we can be of further assistance, please feel free to write".

In summary, Canada, the U.S., Russia and Japan signed an agreement on February 9th, 1957, due to be revised this year, which prohibits sealing on the high seas and allows only Russia and the U.S.A. to take sea skins commercially on land; Canada and Japan being allowed 15% of the catch. The Fact sheet gives a most interesting historical background of the fur sealing. In the past, although the Russian and American seal hunts were carried out on the breeding grounds in their respective territories, other countries which had no rights on the breeding grounds were killing seals while they were in the water, which is known as pelagic sealing. This was a wasteful practice, because as many as four out of five carcasses were lost as they sank. In the Pribilofs, the Russians had restrictive killing regulations put into effect by their government in 1834, when the herds had become seriously diminished. Consequently, as a result, when the islands were sold to the U.S.A. with Alaska in 1867, the increased herds were estimated at from two to five million seals. By 1911, they had dropped to about 125,000 and in that year an international agreement was signed by the U.S.A., Great Britain (for Canada), Russia and Japan. All killing in the Pribilofs was to be done by the U.S.A., Canada and Japan to receive 15% of the skins. However, in 1940 Japan wished to withdraw, alleging that the seals were migrating along the Japanese coast devouring food fishes in enormous amounts. Research by the United States government proved that the majority of fur seals followed the Canadian - U.S. coastline to and from the southern California waters, where they wintered. Stomach analyses disclosed negligible

quantities of food fishes were taken, the food being mainly squid pollock and seal fish, with very few salmon. A 1942 agreement replaced the 1911 one, and further Canadian legislation in 1948 kept up the wartime agreement with the U.S.A. Though more than 60,000 young males are taken annually under the present treaty, the herd continues to maintain its number from year to year.

The males which weigh about 500 pounds, arrive at the rookeries in April and May and establish themselves on the site, where for the next three months, with no time to eat, they keep vigil over their harems, where only the females and pups are allowed. The females arrive in early June, and within a few days each gives birth to one pup. Mating takes place a short time after, the period of gestation being approximately one year. One bull may have a harem of forty females, none of which are permitted to leave him until mating has occurred. It is the young males, segregated from the rest in a 'bachelor club' that are hunted. Trained Aleuts, supervised by officials of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, separate the three-year-olds from the others in the 'hauling grounds' and drive them inland a short distance. Despite 150 years of hunting by man, the seals have no fear of him, and are driven as easily as a flock of sheep. Killing involves clubbing which gives the minimum of suffering, unlike the east coast shooting methods of hunting the Harp seals. Pelagic sealing involves waste in lack of selective killing, and there used to be great losses when pregnant females and nursing mothers were taken, the pups being left to starve, as a mother fur seal will not adopt any other pup.

Killer whales and hookworm, as well as man, are enemies of the young seals.

The fur seals are not to be confused with the common hair seals, which are widely distributed and are not valuable as fur.

The seals of the Pribilofs comprise 80% of the fur seals of the world. There are other populations on the Commander Islands off Siberia, and in the eastern part of the Sea of Okhotsk, areas under Russian jurisdiction. Other species are found on Lobos Island, Uruguay, and off the Cape of Good Hope, and in limited numbers in the Antarctic.

Prior to 1913 all skins were shipped to England, where

the firm of C. W. Martin handled them. In recent years the Fouke Fur Co. of St. Louis, Missouri, has been processing the skins. These are the only two firms in the world who undertake the highly specialized techniques required to produce the pliable furred leather that can be styled as easily as cloth.

#### BLACK OYSTER CATCHERS

These are odd birds. When I first saw them in Victoria I didn't believe my eyes. They are as black as a crow and about the same size, but they have a long coral coloured bill, a red eye and pink feet. Also, their habits are about as odd as the look of the bird. Go down to our waterfront, at Clover Point, or in Oak Bay, and you will most likely hear a loud rapidly repeated call and then see two, four or six of these birds alighting on the rocks, and, at this time of the year, as they are courting, they will start posturing and bowing to each other, continually making these loud calls.

The other day Dr. Carl had a letter from Mrs. Daphne Stevens of North Pender Island, in which she relates the following episode:

"This evening at 10 p.m. we had a phone call from Mrs. Geoff Jennens, who said they had an interesting and unusual experience. They were in their living room when there was a tap, tap, tap at the window, and on the sill was a black bird with a long red bill, which they recognized as a black oyster catcher. The house is a stone throw from the water on South Pender Island. It was probably attracted by the bright light of the gas lamp on the table. They nest in this area. He flew away but returned at intervals to tap on the glass, but finally left. We think this is an interesting visit from a shore bird not ordinarily in contact with human beings".

Last December, for the first time, a Christmas Bird Count was taken on the Pender Islands, and reported in the February issue of the magazine.

A. R. D.

#### BEAR HILL PARK

In spite of the rapid increase in our population, and the consequent new subdivisions, schools and buildings of all sorts that are springing up all around Victoria, there are still many undisturbed places to be found where one can find beauty and peace, birds and flowers.

During the past five years the Municipality of Saanich has been quietly acquiring pieces of woodland to be put aside as parks. One, which is somewhat larger than the average, is sixty-four acres on Bear Hill. This area is directly north of Elk Lake, and is approached by way of Oldfield Road and Bear Hill Road. A comparatively new trail leads to the top of this hill, rather steep in places, but once there, the view is magnificent - Keatings Valley at one's feet, and the rest of Central and North Saanich beyond. In the distance Mounts Sicker, Brenton and Prevost beyond Duncan; Tzouhalem; also Mount Tuam on Salt Spring Island and most of the Gulf Islands, with a background of distant mountains.

The trail has been carefully made, and it, and the surrounding areas, are thickly carpeted with Easter lilies, peacocks and other flowering plants (at the time of writing, mostly in bud), then most of the local shrubs, Indian plum, rosy spiraea, Oregon grape, red-osier dogwood, ninebark, snowberry, ocean spray, etc. and some really fine trees, Douglas fir, balsams, dogwood, arbutus, yews, and others.

A nice bit of natural country this, and it is pleasant to think that it will be preserved exactly as it is, providing the people who visit it respect its beauty.

A.R.D.

#### THE SWAN-NECK PROTOZOAN

by C. W. Lowe

Among the many fascinating forms of life found in that very primitive group, the Protozoa, is one of the Ciliata known as *Lacrymaria olor*, the Swan-neck Protozoan of microscopists. Like all protozoans it is a one-celled animal without a definite cell wall. Its body is soft and

exceedingly elastic. In common with many others of the ciliates it has a large nucleus, a macro-nucleus, which may be divided into smaller nuclei. There are two contractile vacuoles, anterior and posterior. It is holotrichous with spirally striolated lines of cilia which are very active. There is a definite anterior and posterior end, and the anterior end is amazingly elastic -- it can be extended into a long slender neck with a terminal plug-like tip. In the contracted state it would be one-tenth of a millimeter or less in length, but when searching for food the anterior end can be extended like a neck to ten times the original length. The neck is then only one five-hundredth of a millimeter thick.

This stretching is done quickly and gracefully with curves and loops, and to observe it is quite as entertaining as watching a ballerina dancing. The tip of the neck is slightly enlarged. It can be described as a rounded peg surrounded by a circle of cilia slightly longer than the rest of the cilia and only occasionally active. This wonderful accomplishment is of great help when searching for food. Apparently it ingests food particles by the peg terminating the neck and, when it contracts, the food is passed into the main part of the body where the food is assimilated.

There were a number of these interesting little animals in a sample of mixed living and dead algae taken from Thetis Lake in mid-November of last year (1962). In a few found in a lagoon on Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, some years ago, there were a number of living green algae within the body and there may have been a symbiotic relation between the two organisms as in some other protozoans.

### " GUARDIANS ALL "

by Dorothy Palmer

Concern for the bald eagles comes to us from many parts of this continent, yet here we fell trees on whose time-ravaged tops our baldies built their nests; we fell them on recent and contemplated subdivisions, on municipal park lands, on individual home acres. In Thetis Park one of the old eagle nesting trees is recently cut down; it may be left lying to its natural decay, to nourish the invisible soil

life on which all life depends. In Thetis Park many other ancient giants are recently chain-sawed to death; the trees were punky here and there, - the quick death sentence was probably punkier.

Much destruction of our trees, soils and wildlife comes from ignorance, apart from greed and the mis-construed "march of progress". Paul Hendry has said that man no longer owns land in fee simple; but he does, - in all those aspects on which all life depends, as well as the esthetic values he may deem replacable. The time is in sight when man will lose this freedom to destroy "his own"; awareness that disaster approaches us through our abuse of nature is gradually reaching our thoughts.

Marston Bates has said, "Ethical, esthetic and utilitarian reasons all support the attempt to conserve the diversity of nature. It is the morally right thing to do, ... and provides insurance against ecological catastrophe." Fear of Nature's reprisals could make us stop and think, - might lead to man sharing life with all Nature as our primitive peoples used to do.

Standing beside the giant aboriginal trees which rise out of the ravine in Eove's Park, at Westholme, our gentle lady of Eove's said, "I never felt they belonged to me, they have always been a trust I was privileged to watch over". The magnificence of these few forest giants is breath-taking; they rise out of the ravine depths, towering far above our heads, reaching up to meet the breezes which rustle through the topmost branches. Far down below the stream babbles over rocks amid showering sword ferns; mossy fallen giants athwart the brook give birth to dainty fronds of lady ferns, to many types of mosses, to filigreed huckleberries. The sun filters past the mighty trunks, dappling the undergrowth of ferns, salal, huckleberry and all the eons of rich debris on the forest floor, where unseen little creatures root around and wrens chatter from low perching twigs. Fir cone husks, the chattering squirrels' calling cards, pile up here and there, and huge humps far up on the great trunks are evidence of squirrel work long years ago. Cradle knolls of former giants are soft underfoot, covered in mosses and ferns, nurseries for many seedling conifers. Overhead, kinglets chitter happily, woodpeckers tap around favoured old tree trunks, and vast decaying old snags are beautiful in dappled shade with their



their wealth of feathery ferns, mosses and huckleberries. All this and so much more is ours for all time, in the safe-keeping of us all, through the altruism of an idea in the heart of one who loved beauty and the ways of peace and the face of nature.

Another such was our own Tom Francis who gave Francis Park into our safe-keeping, that his forested home lands should be kept for all time in the natural conditions for which he denied himself materially in his lifetime, whose life encompassed the natural beauties of his wooded wonderland. As with our lady of Eove's he had no academic knowledge of ecology; both have had so much more, - both had and have an inner perception of Nature, and all that it implies, which comes to those who are "unhurried and wise".

Francis Park Nature House gives our young naturalists the chance to show visitors that "To look at any object in Nature and see it in its own right is the key to a fuller apprehension of the mystery and significance of all of life".

(John Collis).

In Francis Park, in Eove's Park, the bald eagles may build their nests for all time undisturbed, woodpeckers may tap out superfluous larvae, squirrels may scamper and spread conifer seeds, plants and ferns may continue to grow a delighting luxuriance and the deer may look up at us with soft, liquid eyes, unafraid.

A Scottish poet said with truth, "The deer looked at man and saw only arrogance". Perhaps our Nature Sanctuaries may produce a posterity with a better understanding of the Laws of Life.

#### INDIVIDUALISM IN TREES

We sometimes read accounts of the curious doings of birds and animals, but not so often of the unusual "habits" of some trees.

There are two good examples of this to be seen locally. One is at the end of Gordon Head Road, near the sea, where two Garry oaks, separated by approximately twenty feet, are connected by a horizontal branch about five feet from the ground. The branch is perhaps seven or eight inches in diameter and shows no indication that it is the work of man,

nor from which tree the branch starts.

The other example is on Clayton Road in North Saanich where two Douglas fir trees, leaning toward each other, have merged into one tree about twenty-five feet from the ground. The trees are possibly about one hundred years old, and stand three or four feet apart at the base.

If any of our readers have noticed any outstanding trees in this locality which do not conform to the usual pattern, it would be appreciated if they could be recorded in the magazine. Personally I have twice measured Garry oak trees which were eighteen feet in circumference, but I also feel sure the windblown Garry oaks at Cattle Point haven't grown at all in the last fifty years, which was when I first saw them.

A. R. D.

#### A HAPPY ENDING

One day in March we visited the stables near the Uplands Golf Course, where Mrs. Soulsby wished to place some boxes for the bluebirds which often nest in this area.

While I was speaking to Mrs. Carley, she told me what I thought was an interesting tale of a skylark. (Mr. & Mrs. Carley operate the Victoria Riding Academy on Cedar Hill Cross Road).

It appears that last summer one of the girls who exercise the horses found a young skylark with a broken wing. The bird was brought in to Mrs. Carley, who bandaged the wing, and advised that the patient should be caged and looked after for fourteen days. The bird thrived under their care, but as the fourteenth day approached it got more and more restless. Finally, on the day, they took the bandages off, carried it outside and put it on a mound of earth. The skylark kept quite still, looking about it in all directions for some minutes, and then flew quite strongly, rising into the air skylark-fashion until it was out of sight.

A. R. D.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

1963

Saturday,  
April 6th: BIRD FIELD TRIP: This meeting will start from Lohbrunner Road where it crosses Lochside. Go up Blenkinsop Road to Lohbrunner, opposite Mount Douglas Park. Cars will meet at the Monterey Parking lot at Hillside and Douglas Streets at 9:30 a.m. or at Lochside at 10 a.m. Bring lunch.  
Leader: T. R. Briggs.

Tuesday,  
April 9th: GENERAL MEETING: At the Douglas Building Cafeteria at 8 p.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. W. G. Burch of the B. C. Forest Products, who will give an illustrated talk on the new forestry and modern methods of logging.

Saturday,  
April 13: BOTANY FIELD TRIP: Meet at the Monterey parking lot at 1:30 p.m., for a field trip to Thetis Park.  
Leader: Miss M. C. Melburn.

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The Juniors will meet each Saturday at the Monterey Parking lot at 1:30 p.m. for field trips.

Leader: Mr. Freeman King.

Anyone who would like to join these trips is very welcome.

FRANCIS PARK: The Nature House will be open on Sundays from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Conducted trail nature walks will be given. If special parties would like tours, please contact Freeman King at GR.9-2966.

REMEMBER the WORK BEE at Francis Park on Saturday, March 30th. We need your help. Phone Freeman King.

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THE GREAT HORNED OWL: This bird, or birds, as there may be more than one, first seen in the middle of December, is still around. The latest report came from Alan Poynter who saw it on Rockland Ave., close to Oak Bay Avenue, at 6:15 p.m. on March 18th.

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# VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## OFFICERS, 1962-63

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*Minister of Recreation and Conservation*

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*Former Provincial Plant Pathologist*

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