VICTORIA NATURALIST

Vol. 21, No. 6

February, 1965



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

THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

Published by THE VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Vol. 21, No.6

FEBRUARY 1965

COVER PICTURE

by Enid K.Lemon

This month's subject, California Quail, Lophortyx californicus, (Shaw), is a native of western Oregon and California and was first introduced to Victoria area in 1860. Later, in 1870 and 1890, it was introduced again. Decendants from these three introductions have become very well established on southern Vancouver Island, with an occasional record showing they have established sparsely as far north as Comox.

The picture was taken early in the summer of 1964, at the top of the hill on Ten Mile Point. Camera fans may be interested to know that an Exacta camera, fitted with a 400mm lens and loaded with High Speed Ektachrome, was used to produce the original 35mm transparency from which the picture was reproduced.

COMOX BIRD CENSUS

In spite of two to three feet of snow and a strong morning wind, the annual count of Comox birds was successfully carried out on January 2nd. Seventy-four species and 4,800 individuals were recorded. The decrease in numbers, by comparison with last year, was due mainly to fewer people participating because road conditions were poor.

Highlights of the count were a marsh hawk, a snowy owl, a trumpeter swan and a large concentration of over 700 western grebes, in Comox Bay. Land birds, particularly varied thrushes and fox sparrows, were plentiful around feeders.

	SPECIES:	A A REAL BY	В	С	D	E	F	<u> </u>	<u>H</u>	<u> I</u>	<u>J</u>	_K_	122 <u>1L</u> 12	TOTAL
LOON,	Common		4	6	1	8	7	7		1		1	8	43
20011,	Arctic		3	B. OH.	IS . LOV	1	5	10					2	21
	Red-throated			7		2		6					2	17
GRERE	Red-necked	5	30	18		3	16	2				2	28	104
undbe,	Horned	10	20	18	29	12	95	102		19		10	17	332
	Eared	owill K. Link vo	20	9	3	4	29	3		1			6	55
	Western	30	200	108	36	263	64	76		5				782
		mantition loss	6	3	5	1			23,30	3				19
FULMAR		n avitan e ni	(ww(2)	Court Fort	of the	31	1							VACATE 1
	ANT, Double-cres	sted	2	24	22	52	4	oar 1		14			93	212
Alasie		ch .0081 bes 0	ta 187	12	.0881 2	79	131	67		15		3	1700	2009
		about at send t	30	14	bassal 3	2	7	6		2			51	115
HERON.	Great Blue	V gyadiuoalmo i	5	14	2	6	11		1	3			40	73
	Canada	showing they h	burnaea	Lanala	32					2		10		44
,	Black Brant	Las Comoda	draga a	nt 20 1	SULME.	- 371							6	7
DUCK,		18	14	52	34	529	338	64	251	821	260	350	28	2759
2001	Gadwall	all of ref no t		to got					1					ARREATE L
				37		-3	4		242	24	30	Tet	17	354
	Green-winged te		9	18	5				481	42	90	2	22	669
	American Widged		5	551	12	480	254	614	881	890	65	280	700	4762
	Shoveller		3	dolla el		18	48	4	15	7		2		98
	Redhead									7				7
	Ring-necked	30	25	1						75				131
	Canvasback	BINGED CELL MONOR		6	26	1								33
	Greater Scaup	3	10	245	94	329	1183	49		86		17		2016
	Lesser Scaup	to three feet of	24	of inel			54			2			alifornia	81
	Common Goldeney	re 5	18	29	17	51	81	76		73		4		354
	Barrow Goldeney				14	4				2				20
	•	babroser e4aw	40	435	125	145	244	103		16		26	300	1438
	Old Squaw	my deaf this year		19	2	47	49	4		2		100	50	173
	Harlequin	saumoed galta		g sigo3	3		132	21					258	417
	White-winged So	coter	2	189	42	24	60	52		7		3	280	635
	Surf Scoter		10	50		143	96	24		21		15	200	559
	Common Scoter					3	1			2				8
	Ruddy	85	2	140	a Lwo 3		19			164		6	Band-ta	419
MERGAN	SER, Hooded					13	7	2		31				84
1081111	Common					23	1	2	5	1530			6	1602
	Red-breasted	12			29	24	65	36		25			75	282
HAWK,	Goshawk									1			so-ralde	2
	Sharp-shinned			2		38		7 1		1	2			6
						1. 1.4							Hed-shi	

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - continued

SPECIES:	<u> </u>	ВВ	<u>D</u> C	3	<u>D</u>	<u> </u>	_F	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	J	<u>K</u> 1831	L TOTAL
HAWK, Cooper	11	1				1			1		1	Pilested	1 5
Red-tailed		1						1 1			1	1	11411 5
Eagle, Bald		2	2			1		2					2 9
Hawk, Pigeon		2	2 1		1						1		ANNOUSTA'S
Sparrow			201 in		12.	D.				1			· MAANAT
PEREGRINE FALCON										1			DJE YA1
GROUSE, Ruffed	-1	21			2636	4							8 X X X X 3
QUAIL, California	18	65	36		20	21	7	35	33	45	45	12	337
PHEASANT, Ring-necked	1		3		1	3	1	11 5	08 7	9	4	and 4 2 40 (1)	38
COOT, American	9	21	150		65	25	94	8		5	2	nen 3	
OYSTER-CATCHER, Black	31		59		93.	1	26	5					32
KILLDEER	3		17		4	89	26	26	21	51	12	26	8 283
PLOVER, Black-bellied	8						18					2	
SURFBIRD						8	10					6	
TURNSTONE, Black			15		1	37	167			4		15	
SNIPE, Common			48 0		2	1888	8	1	5	41	2		8 115
WHIMBREL						500						308	3
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	24					3	1	883 2	2003	47			8 64
SANDPIPER, Rock							8					1	
DUNLIN			62			4	38	48	45	102		80 20	
DOWITCHER			A			11				- 331		orword Abs I	6 11 6
SANDERLING						2.	8	3				bow 2 no-vet	13
GULL, Glaucous		1				-46							
Glaucous-winged	431	500	987		250	817	884	540	221	171	1300	49 200	
Herring	88	000	QA .		1 000	8	1	70 1 4	06442	1			8 22
California						6.8	1						
Mew -	2	45	537		370	154	429	83	80	29		3 15	0 1882
Heermann	2	-	00,		4			8 26	81 20			bearliv-bag	1. angazasa.m
MURRE, Common		1	201 2		2	2	472	1 15				256	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE
GUILLEMOT, Pigeon			3		o Yar	3	7	11				beigende men	25
MURRELET, Marbled			10			3	5			4		12	
Ancient						222	1					25	
AUKLET, Cassin												2	
Rhinoceros													1M MINERI
PIGEON, Band-tailed							3	8	5	18	5		3 42
DOVE, Mourning										2		Ned	2
OWL, Screech							1			A.ID			DA JAKWOI.
Great Horned						1	1						1 8 ,000 3
Short-eared						45.	. 52			1		. 57	
KINGFISHER, Belted		2	7		2	9		4	1	1			26
FLICKER, Red-shafted	11	12	25		4	14	30	15	19	26	20	14	6 196

SPECIES:	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	0 <u>C</u>			_ <u>E</u> _	_ <u>F</u> _	G	<u>H</u>	_ <u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	Ba LL	TOTAL
WOODPECKER, Pileated	4	1			1							dráwned	2	8
Hairy		3	1			1						anwo(1)-		6
Downy		6	2			5	3	2	28 1	12	2		2	35
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied						4	1	4						9
SKYLARK			1		4			9	11	92		695		812
JAY, Steller		16								1	3		1	21
RAVEN	4	1	4			1 1	1	1		1	2	5	8	28
Crow, North-western	27	90	110		295	123	41	118	82	25	45	13	29	998
CHICKADEE, Chestnut-backed	17	20	11		40	32	27	73	21	14	20	2	8	285
BUSHTIT, Common	8.4					8	34		20			20		82
NUTHATCH, Red-breasted	4	3	1			2		2		1			00 81	14
CREEPER, Brown	3	6	ac 11			4		8	4	1				27
DIPPER		2												2
WREN, Winter	15	20	5		5	5	1	9	4	3	1	3	3	74
Bewick	3	2	1		3	2	3	2	5	4	TRAGE TOT	3	6	35
long-billed Marsh		8 8	7						1			1		2
ROBIN	41	110	1510		500	310	260	910	615	229	700	305	350	5840
THRUSH, Varied	28	102	258		37	49	12	218	114	101	260	29	2	1210
Hermit	20	2	1							2				5
BLUEBIRD, Western		5	7						3	20	6		18	59
KINGLET, Golden-crowned	27	11	6		17	16	12	28	18	31	25	2	50	243
Ruby-crowned	2	3			4	1	2	6		9		1		28
WAXWING, Cedar	2	J	41		46	2		18	57	34	15	155	38	406
			Absen				1	1						2
SHRIKE, Northern STARLING	13	50	97		70	57	60	612	342	137	100	97	1000	2635
SPARROW, House	5	65	14		8	61	55	24	58	1	40	25		356
MEADOWLARK, Western		00	9		5	4	1	1		4		4		28
		15	26	4164	1	6	3	6	20					77
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged Brewer		40	15			12		9		8				84
COWBIRD, Brownheaded		10	10					4						4
GROSBEAK, Pine						· San					1			1
FINCH, Purple	3	40			22	32		28	9	1	3	2	20	160
		4	24			4	28	18	4	22		177		281
House	130	6	170			30	20	74	30	12	80		150	682
SISKIN, Pine		0							7	2		3		12
GOLDFINCH, American			3			15		13	4	8	40		30	113
CROSSBILL, Red	1.4	40	7	10	11	17	17	15	5	30	15	12	1	167
TOWHEE, Rufous-sided	14	40	,	-	1.1	1	1,	10	TM , LIE		. 20 239		by A. A. B.	2
JUNCO, Slate-coloured	1	000	1/1		15	122	42	170	135	144	250	57	27	1405
Oregon	72	200	141		45	144	72	1,0		soft nes		14.425	Auta 8t	APP-SOLA

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS -(continued)

SPECIES:	A	<u>B</u> <u>B</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>D</u>	_ <u>E</u> _	FEET F	G	A. D H	I	Te vo	_K	.090 <u>L</u> .	TOTAL
SPARROW, White-crowned							4	1	2		6	hatdeald	13
Golden-crowned	15	32		7	5	6	9	14	10		6		104
Fox	8	52	2	4	8	5	3	3	11		5	1	102
Song	13	25	11	26	16	32	9	21	12	15	13	8	201
Total, Individuals	1182	2098	6372	2434	4417	5890	4542	3921	5424	3464	2604	11274	53623
Area Species, Totals	45	_66	_77	_59	76	76	77	47	83	37	53	79	

Total number of Birds --- 53,623

Seen in area count week but not on count day: Virginia Rail, Townsend Solitaire, Orange-crowned Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Snowbunting.

AREAS AND PARTICIPANTS: CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

Area "A": Prospect Lake - Highlands:
Mr. R. Mackenzie-Grieve, Mr. Freeman King, Miss L. Halsall,
Mrs. M. Winstone, Mr. D. Chapman.

Area "B": Glen Lake - Langford Lake - Goldstream:
Mr. & Mrs. T. Briggs, Mr. & Mrs. J. Palmer, Mr. E. Moody.

Area "C": Esquimalt Lagoon - Metchosin: Mr. F. Buffam, Mr. D. Stirling.

Area "D": Portage Inlet - Thetis Lake: Mr. R. Beckett, Mr. Wm. Adams.

Area "E": Beacon Hill Park - Gorge:

Mr. R. Fryer, Mr. Wm. Sendall, Mr. H. Warren, Mrs. G. Soulsby.

Area "F": Clover Point - Oak Bay:

Mr. G. A. Poynter, Mr. Wm. Reith, Mrs. L. Parris, Miss M. Melburn, Mrs. E. Bousfield.

Area "G": Gordon Head - Ten Mile Point:
Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Davidson, Dr. G.C. Carl, Mr. & Mrs. P.
Monckton, Mrs. B. Hughes, Mrs. P. Raymond.

Area "H": Swan Lake - Wilkinson Road.
Mr. R.Y. Edwards, Miss E. Lemon, Mrs. M. Slocombe.

AREAS, PARTICIPANTS, CENSUS, (cont'd)

Area "I": Blenkinsop Lake - Elk Lake
Mr. M.C. Matheson, Mr. A. Hockly, Mr. J. Underhill,
Mr. J. Rushton, Mr. D. Gray, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. D. Nielson.

Total species ---- 124

Area "J": Wilkinson Road - Prospect Lake Road. Mr. F. Beebe, Mr. & Mrs. D. Hancock.

Area "K": Martindale Road - Island View Beach. Dr. J. Tatum, Mrs. R. Stirling, Mrs. G. Bell.

Area "L": Trial Island - Chain Islands. Mr. C. Guiguet.

Juniors participating:

Nancy Chapman, Michael Winstone, Lyn Bain, John Parris Jr., Derek Lundell, Sean Newton, Linda Slocombe, Keith Hodson, Shirley Martin.

Compiled by:

David and Ruth Stirling.

BIRDS FOR THE RECORD

Fulmar (1)-- Dec.27 -- Clover Point -- G.A.Poynter & Party.

Western bluebird (59) -- Dec.27 -- Various localities.

Seen by six bird count parties.

Gadwall (1) -- Dec.27 -- Carey Rd., -- R.Y. Edwards.

Varied thrush -- Unusually large numbers everywhere
(see count total).

Goshawk (1) -- Dec.27 -- Blenkinsop Lake -
Murray Matheson's party.

JUNIOR JOTTINGS

by Nancy Chapman

Exams, Christmas and cold, wet weather slowed Junior Group activities, but did not stop them. A few of the older members took part in the bird count and enjoyed it very much. We thank the Senior members who were kind enough to take us along and teach us something about our feathered friends.

On January 2nd, younger members of the Junior Group found Clover Point very interesting. Many different birds were seen on shore, on the rocks and in the water -- black turnstones, killdeer, mergansers, horned grebe, loons, buffleheads, redhead ducks, ruddy ducks, cormorants, and various gulls.

A species of lichen was found which, although not marine, was growing completely submerged in sea water. This proves how hardy these plants are! We also noticed 10,000 year-old glacier scores on the shore rock.

Various species of shellfish were found and examined. The beach was covered with logs, many of which showed workings of teredos and pinworms. An interesting specimen of seaweed was found which was completely covered with tiny, round snail shells. Kelp was examined with interest especially the large root-like anchors which held the plants to the rocks.

I would like to take this opportunity to speak on behalf of all Junior Group members by saying "Thank you" to "Skip" for all the time and energy he has spent on us during the past year. It was greatly appreciated.

BOOK REVIEW

by R.Y. Edwards

The Atonement of Ashley Morden by Fred Bodsworth, published by Dodd, Mead and Co., at \$6.95

I don't often read novels. An occasional whodunit and an annual cowboy epic are usually my limit. But Fred Bodsworth's novels are an exception. I suppose this is partly because he is my friend, and partly because he is one of Canada's really good naturalists. But the largest part of my enthusiasm results from his books having a strange power over me. I cannot put a Bodsworth book down until the last scene is done, and when it is all over I wish it would still go on and on.

Several chapters of The Atonement of Ashley Morden are not for Sunday school reading, but neither are many writings that most of us accept as valuable parts of our world. The brutality of air raids and of concentration camps and the insanity of the cold war that followed them are in this book, and if you avoid reading of distressing things like these, by all means keep your head in the sand. But Bodsworth has not included these bits of recent history simply as shockers. They are part of the experiences of naturalists who are treated badly by this crazy world of men. In the final analysis, it is our world of men that is shocking. Bodsworth has simply described some of it for us to see.

Naturalists will understand the message in this book, and they will read some of their own private thoughts here too. In my case, there are two aspects of this story making it special. The first is that it is by a naturalist about naturalists; but I hasten to add before I mislead, that this is no gentle nature yarn. It is about Canadians caught up in world events, with some nature woven in. The second special feature is the ending. I'm simple enough and old-fashioned enough to want happy endings to my novels. I want to close the book with the smile of satisfaction that goes with "and they lived happily ever after". I was not only smiling when I closed this one, I was a bit misty-eyed as well. That is even better.

MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

EXECUTIVE MEETING:

February 2. Dr. Carl's office, Provincial Museum,

8:00 P.M.

GENERAL MEETING: Douglas Building Cafeteria, Elliot St.

February 9. 8:00 P.M. Speaker: Dr. L.G. Saunders.

Subject: "A Biologist in the Tropics"

Illustrated.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS:

February 12. Oak Bay Junior High School 8:00 P.M.

February 13. Speaker: John D. Bulger.

Subject: "New England Saga".

BIRD FIELD TRIP: Monterey parking lot (Douglas and

February 20. Hillside) 9:30 A.M. or Colwood Plaza

10:00 A.M. Bring lunch. Leader: Murray Matheson.

BOTANY GROUP: Provincial Museum.

February 24. Speaker: Ted Underhill.

Subject: "Berries of B.C."

JUNIOR GROUP: Meet every Saturday at Monterey

Parking lot (Douglas and Hillside)

at 1:30 P.M. for field trips.

Leader: Freeman F. King.

Phone: 479-2966.

THANKS

The thanks of all bird counters go to Mr. and Mrs. Murray Matheson for holding open house during the evening of December 27. Warmth of Matheson hospitality provided a comforting sequel to a successful but chilling bird count day.

* * * * * * *

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OFFICERS, 1964-65

Honorary Presidents
HON. W. K. KIERNAN
Minister of Recreation and Conservation

MR. J. W. EASTHAM
Former Provincial Plant Pathologist

Honorary Life Members
DR. G. CLIFFORD CARL
MR. GEORGE A. HARDY
MR. FREEMAN F. KING
MR. ALBERT R. DAVIDSON
MR. GEORGE E. WINKLER

Past Presidents

ROBERT CONNELL .		1944-48	A. O. HAYES		 1956-57
G. CLIFFORD CARL .		1948-49	P. M. MONCKTON		1957-58
GEORGE A. HARDY .		1949-50	MRS. G. E. SOULSBY		1958-59
MRS. R. G. HOBSON -		1950-52	RALPH FRYER		1960
J. A. CUNNINGHAM		1952-54	FREEMAN KING .		1960-62
C. W. LOWE · · ·		1954-56	P. J. CROFT · · ·		1962-63

President

MISS ENID K. LEMON 1226 Roslyn Road Vice-President

FREEMAN F. KING Telephone 479-2966

Editors

W. D. REITH 6882 Wallace Drive Brentwood Bay, B.C. Telephone 474-2223

Secretary
MISS EDITH VALENS
Telephone 385-8855

G. CLIFFORD CARL 410 Queen Anne Heights Telephone 383-8524

Treasurer

J. L. RIMMINGTON Telephone 384-9257

Librarian

A. R. DAVIDSON Telephone 384-9595

Chairmen of Groups

Programme M. POPE Telephone 479-2374

Publicity
H. D. WALKER
Telephone 477-2851

Botany MISS M. C. MELBURN Telephone 384-9052

W. H. WARREN Telephone 383-5163

Federation
MRS. G. E. SOULSBY
Telephone 386-5028

Ornithology
M. C. M. MATHESON
Telephone 383-7381

Entomology DR. JOHN A. CHAPMAN Telephone 384-5568

Audubon Lectures
MISS ENID K. LEMON

Junior Group

> Geology A. H. MARRION Telephone 384-1983

Annual Dues, including subscription: Single, \$2.00; Family, \$3.00; Junior, \$1.00; Life Membership, \$30.00; Life Membership, husband and wife, \$50.00.