

*The*  
**VICTORIA  
NATURALIST**

Vol. 21, No. 6

February, 1965



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

THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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Vol. 21, No. 6

FEBRUARY 1965

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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.

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## CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

| SPECIES:                  | A  | B   | C   | D   |
|---------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|
| LOON, Common              |    | 4   | 6   | 1   |
| Arctic                    |    | 3   |     |     |
| Red-throated              |    |     | 7   |     |
| GREBE, Red-necked         | 5  | 30  | 18  |     |
| Horned                    | 10 | 20  | 18  | 29  |
| Eared                     |    |     | 9   | 3   |
| Western                   | 30 | 200 | 108 | 36  |
| Pied-billed               | 1  | 6   | 3   | 5   |
| FULMAR                    |    |     |     |     |
| CORMORANT, Double-crested |    | 2   | 24  | 22  |
| Pelagic                   |    |     | 12  | 2   |
| Brandt                    |    | 30  | 14  | 3   |
| HERON, Great Blue         | 1  | 5   | 14  | 2   |
| GOOSE, Canada             |    |     |     | 32  |
| Black Brant               |    |     | 1   |     |
| DUCK, Mallard             | 18 | 14  | 52  | 34  |
| Gadwall                   |    |     |     |     |
| Pintail                   |    |     | 37  |     |
| Green-winged teal         |    | 9   | 18  | 5   |
| American Widgeon          | 30 | 5   | 551 | 12  |
| Shoveller                 |    | 3   | 1   |     |
| Redhead                   |    |     |     |     |
| Ring-necked               | 30 | 25  | 1   |     |
| Canvasback                |    |     | 6   | 26  |
| Greater Scaup             | 3  | 10  | 245 | 94  |
| Lesser Scaup              |    | 24  | 1   |     |
| Common Goldeneye          | 5  | 18  | 29  | 17  |
| Barrow Goldeneye          |    |     |     | 14  |
| Bufflehead                | 4  | 40  | 435 | 125 |
| Old Squaw                 |    |     | 19  | 2   |
| Harlequin                 |    |     | 3   | 3   |
| White-winged Scoter       |    | 2   | 189 | 42  |
| Surf Scoter               |    | 10  | 50  |     |
| Common Scoter             |    |     |     |     |
| Ruddy                     | 85 | 2   | 140 | 3   |
| MERGANSER, Hooded         |    | 5   | 9   | 17  |
| Common                    | 22 | 11  |     | 2   |
| Red-breasted              | 12 | 1   | 15  | 29  |
| HAWK, Goshawk             |    |     |     |     |
| Sharp-shinned             |    |     | 2   |     |

## VICTORIA, B.C. DECEMBER 27th, 1964

| E   | F    | G   | H   | I    | J   | K   | L    | TOTAL |
|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| 8   | 7    | 7   |     | 1    |     | 1   | 8    | 43    |
| 1   | 5    | 10  |     |      |     |     | 2    | 21    |
| 2   |      | 6   |     |      |     |     | 2    | 17    |
| 3   | 16   | 2   |     |      |     | 2   | 28   | 104   |
| 12  | 95   | 102 |     | 19   |     | 10  | 17   | 332   |
| 4   | 29   | 3   |     | 1    |     |     | 6    | 55    |
| 263 | 64   | 76  |     | 5    |     |     |      | 782   |
| 1   |      |     |     | 3    |     |     |      | 19    |
|     | 1    |     |     |      |     |     |      | 1     |
| 52  | 4    | 1   |     | 14   |     |     | 93   | 212   |
| 79  | 131  | 67  |     | 15   |     | 3   | 1700 | 2009  |
| 2   | 7    | 6   |     | 2    |     |     | 51   | 115   |
| 6   | 1    |     | 1   | 3    |     |     | 40   | 73    |
|     |      |     |     | 2    |     | 10  |      | 44    |
|     |      |     |     |      |     |     | 6    | 7     |
| 529 | 338  | 64  | 251 | 821  | 260 | 350 | 28   | 2759  |
|     |      |     | 1   |      |     |     |      | 1     |
|     | 4    |     | 242 | 24   | 30  |     | 17   | 354   |
|     |      |     | 481 | 42   | 90  | 2   | 22   | 669   |
| 480 | 254  | 614 | 881 | 890  | 65  | 280 | 700  | 4762  |
| 18  | 48   | 4   | 15  | 7    |     | 2   |      | 98    |
|     |      |     |     | 7    |     |     |      | 7     |
|     |      |     |     | 75   |     |     |      | 131   |
| 1   |      |     |     |      |     |     |      | 33    |
| 329 | 1183 | 49  |     | 86   |     | 17  |      | 2016  |
|     | 54   |     |     | 2    |     |     |      | 81    |
| 51  | 81   | 76  |     | 73   |     | 4   |      | 354   |
| 4   |      |     |     | 2    |     |     |      | 20    |
| 145 | 244  | 103 |     | 16   |     | 26  | 300  | 1438  |
| 47  | 49   | 4   |     | 2    |     |     | 50   | 173   |
|     | 132  | 21  |     |      |     |     | 258  | 417   |
| 24  | 60   | 52  |     | 7    |     | 3   | 280  | 635   |
| 143 | 96   | 24  |     | 21   |     | 15  | 200  | 559   |
| 3   | 1    |     |     | 2    |     |     | 2    | 8     |
|     | 19   |     |     | 164  |     | 6   |      | 419   |
| 13  | 7    | 2   |     | 31   |     |     |      | 84    |
| 23  | 1    | 2   | 5   | 1530 |     |     | 6    | 1602  |
| 24  | 65   | 36  |     | 25   |     |     | 75   | 282   |
|     |      |     |     | 1    |     |     | 1    | 2     |
|     |      | 1   |     | 1    | 2   |     |      | 6     |





## CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - continued

| SPECIES:                   | A   | B   | C    | D   | E   | F   | G   | H   | I   | J   | K   | L    | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|
| WOODPECKER, Pileated       | 4   | 1   |      | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2    | 8     |
| Hairy                      |     | 3   | 1    |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |      | 6     |
| Downy                      |     | 6   | 2    |     | 5   | 3   | 2   | 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   | 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   | 34  |     | 20  |     |     | 20  |      | 82    |
| NUTHATCH, Red-breasted     | 4   | 3   | 1    |     | 2   |     | 2   |     | 1   |     |     | 1    | 14    |
| CREEPER, Brown             | 3   | 6   | 1    |     | 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   | 1   | 3   | 6    | 35    |
| long-billed Marsh          |     |     |      |     |     |     |     | 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                     |     | 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             |     |     | 41   | 46  | 2   |     | 18  | 57  | 34  | 15  | 155 | 38   | 406   |
| SHRIKE, Northern           |     |     |      |     |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |      | 2     |
| 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        |     |     | 9    | 5   | 4   | 1   | 1   |     | 4   |     | 4   |      | 28    |
| BLACKBIRD, Red-winged      |     | 15  | 26   | 1   | 6   | 3   | 6   | 20  |     |     |     |      | 77    |
| Brewer                     |     | 40  | 15   |     | 12  |     | 9   |     | 8   |     |     |      | 84    |
| COWBIRD, Brownheaded       |     |     |      |     |     |     | 4   |     |     |     |     |      | 4     |
| GROSBEAK, Pine             |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |      | 1     |
| FINCH, Purple              | 3   | 40  |      | 22  | 32  |     | 28  | 9   | 1   | 3   | 2   | 20   | 160   |
| House                      |     | 4   | 24   |     | 4   | 28  | 18  | 4   | 22  |     | 177 |      | 281   |
| SISKIN, Pine               | 130 | 6   | 170  |     | 30  |     | 74  | 30  | 12  | 80  |     | 150  | 682   |
| GOLDFINCH, American        |     |     |      |     |     |     |     | 7   | 2   |     | 3   |      | 12    |
| CROSSBILL, Red             |     |     | 3    |     | 15  |     | 13  | 4   | 8   | 40  |     | 30   | 113   |
| TOWHEE, Rufous-sided       | 14  | 40  | 7    | 11  | 17  | 17  | 15  | 5   | 30  | 15  | 12  | 1    | 167   |
| JUNCO, Slate-coloured      | 1   |     |      |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |      | 2     |
| Oregon                     | 72  | 200 | 141  | 45  | 122 | 42  | 170 | 135 | 144 | 250 | 57  | 27   | 1405  |

## (continued) - CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

## CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS -(continued)

| SPECIES:                    | A           | B           | C           | D           |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| SPARROW, White-crowned      |             |             |             |             |
| Golden-crowned              | 15          | 32          |             | 7           |
| Fox                         | 8           | 52          | 2           | 4           |
| Song                        | 13          | 25          | 11          | 26          |
| <u>Total, Individuals</u>   | <u>1182</u> | <u>2098</u> | <u>6372</u> | <u>2434</u> |
| <u>Area Species, Totals</u> | <u>45</u>   | <u>66</u>   | <u>77</u>   | <u>59</u>   |

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.

| E           | F           | G           | H           | I           | J           | K           | L            | TOTAL        |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
|             |             | 4           | 1           | 2           |             | 6           |              | 13           |
| 5           | 6           | 9           | 14          | 10          |             | 6           |              | 104          |
| 8           | 5           | 3           | 3           | 11          |             | 5           | 1            | 102          |
| 16          | 32          | 9           | 21          | 12          | 15          | 13          | 8            | 201          |
| <u>4417</u> | <u>5890</u> | <u>4542</u> | <u>3921</u> | <u>5424</u> | <u>3464</u> | <u>2604</u> | <u>11274</u> | <u>53623</u> |
| 76          | 76          | 77          | 47          | 83          | 37          | 53          | 79           |              |

Total species ----- 124

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.

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.





MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPSEXECUTIVE MEETING:

February 2. Dr. Carl's office, Provincial Museum,  
8:00 P.M.

GENERAL MEETING:

February 9. Douglas Building Cafeteria, Elliot St.  
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:

February 20. Monterey parking lot (Douglas and  
Hillside) 9:30 A.M. or Colwood Plaza  
10:00 A.M. Bring lunch.  
Leader: Murray Matheson.

BOTANY GROUP:

February 24. Provincial Museum.  
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.

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