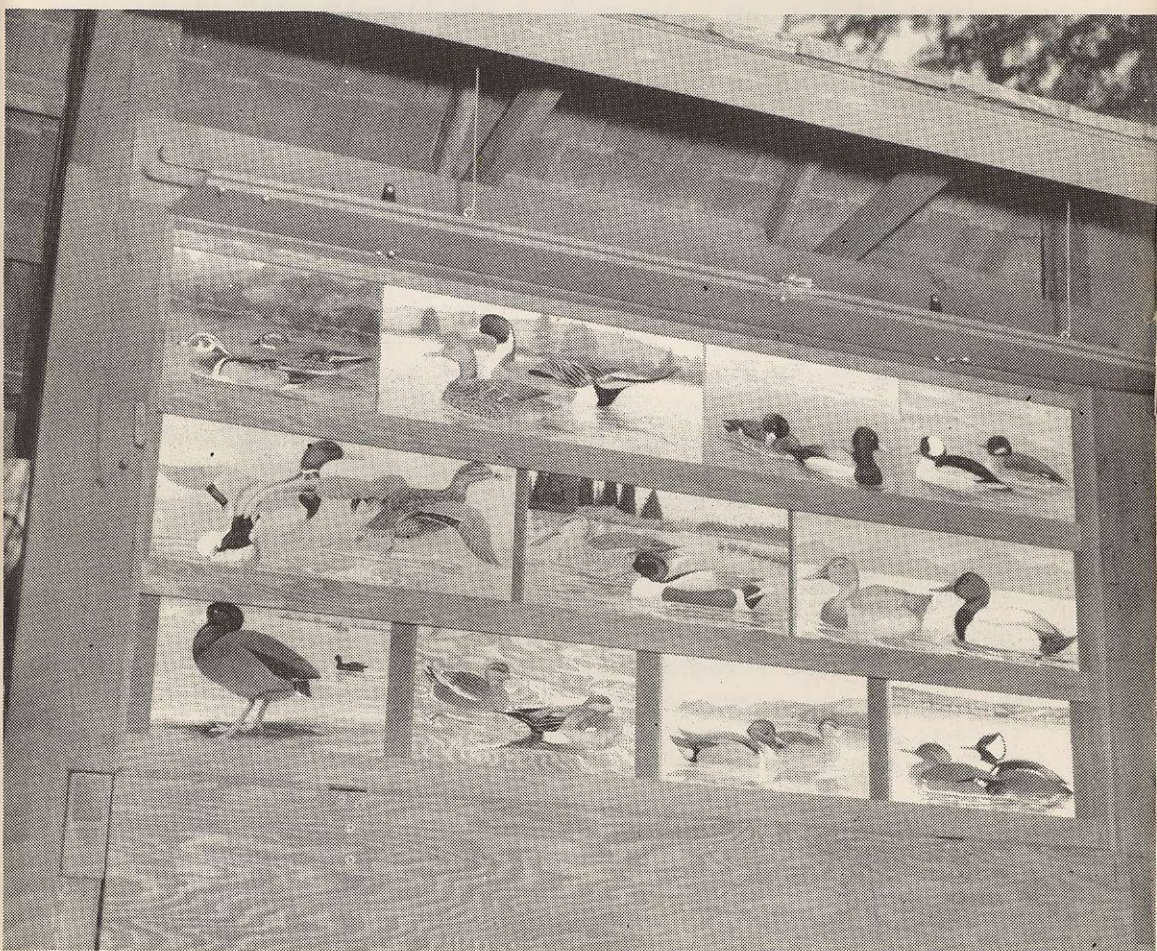


February, 1966
Vol.22 No.6

THE VICTORIA NATURALIST



published by the **VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Victoria B.C

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COVER PICTURE

For many years throughout the winter months various species of water fowl have been wintering in Beacon Hill Park. Thousands of people see them and many times the question is asked "What kind of duck is that?" It was suggested to the Parks Board that an illustrated bulletin board be placed near Goodacre Lake showing and naming the birds. From them the recommendation went to the City Council which approved. Mr. A.R.Davidson kindly offered to do the paintings. Just recently a shelter was erected and the paintings are now there for all to see, admire and use.

The Victoria Naturalist is an appropriate place in which to express appreciation of another of "Davie's" contributions to nature lore and to express pride in his accomplishments! Congratulations! Ralph Fryer provided the cover picture. Thank you.

OUR TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

A circle fifteen miles in diameter, even though it is divided into twelve areas and searched by fifty-four people, is a lot of territory to cover, especially when, on this occasion, heavy snow, sleet and rain fell during most of the day, and some of the roads became impassable.

However, the enthusiasm of the observers overcame these difficulties and the list turned in at the end of the day is an indication that the Victoria district is favoured with a variety of bird life in winter which cannot be excelled in this country.

The number of widgeon, mallard, pintail and green-winged teal exceeds all previous counts, partly due maybe to the fact that heavier snows and colder weather further north had forced them into this district; also, no hunting was allowed this year in Central Saanich where the flooded farm areas provided feed for a multitude of these ducks.

The forty-one whistling swans were unusual. In all previous Christmas counts there is only one record of one swan.

The hermit thrushes too were found in large numbers which is remarkable as they are not common here. Thirty-four were seen against a previous high of nine.

The skylarks were spectacular. Last year's high count of 812 was exceeded by 157, the estimate this year being 969. Again the snow was responsible for most of these birds flocking together where feed was available.

May I congratulate the leaders on their thorough organization, without which a census such as this would have been impossible.

A.R.D.

A NEW BOOK

by A.H. Marrion

Mr. Geo.E.Winkler, one of our charter members, presented a book entitled, "The Earth Beneath Us", by Kirtley F. Mather, to the Victoria Natural History Society.

It contains 240 illustrations and 116 beautiful color photographs, taken in various parts of the world. It is written in clear understandable language, and those reading it will learn a great deal about the geological story of our planet.

The writer discusses such subjects as the development of the earth's crust and the various methods of erosion; the story of the rivers from their infancy to old age and the resultant effects on the landscape; the formation and destruction of mountain systems etc.

The concluding chapters make a survey of man's activities such as land clearing, dam building, mining, and the effects thereof and finally draws attention to the importance of an understanding of the earth as a source of food, fuel, energy, etc.

Prof. Mather is at present with the Geological Museum at Cambridge, Mass. and gives lectures at a number of Universities in eastern U.S. during the winter.

The book is published by Random House N.Y. and is priced at \$14.95

This is a book all our members should see and read.

CENSUS NEWS FROM OTHER ISLAND AREAS

Mr. & Mrs. G.B.H. Stevens and Dr. and Mrs. H. Grayson-Smith counted 2096 birds of 55 species on Pender Island, December 28, 1965. Highlights were 600 robins, 150 varied thrushes and 5 hermit thrushes.

Betty Westerborg reports no count at Comox in 1965 because deep snow made the roads impassable.

D.S.

AN APPRECIATION

by Gordon Hooper

As an enthusiastic birder, but one only beginning, I should like to express my sincere appreciation of the recent golden opportunity extended to people such as myself to learn more about local birds. I refer to the first "Bird Recognition Course" held during November and December 1965 at the University of Victoria's Gordon Head Campus.

The opening lecture by Murray Matheson dealt with the topography of a bird and was illustrated by excellent colour slides. We were each given an indexed drawing to memorize. Yorke Edwards then outlined the Course, explaining that we should follow Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds" right through, and gave his first lecture on loons. These talks, each profusely illustrated with projected pictures from authoritative books, then continued for the next four weeks. At the end of each lecture there was a most interesting Question and Answer period. The sixth and final lecture was given by David Stirling on the subject of the best places to locate different species of birds in the Victoria area..... but first we were given a written test to see what we had learnt from the Course.

A total of eleven pieces of free literature was distributed to each student, including reprints of two articles from the National Audubon Magazine, "Birding on Southern Vancouver Island" by David Stirling (surely a mine of information for birders of this area), and "Bird Finding in Manning Park, B.C." by R.Y. Edwards. Copies of the wonderfully useful "Migratory Bird Calendar - Victoria and District" by G.A. Poynter were also distributed.

My first feeling at the termination of this Course was that I had been extremely fortunate in attending. For people such as myself who have not resided long in British Columbia and are beginners in the fascinating hobby of birdwatching, it certainly presented a unique opportunity to learn from dedicated experts. My second feeling, in which I am sure all who attended the Course will join, was one of sincere gratitude to our three able lecturers, who gave so generously of their time and of their knowledge and experience, gained over a lifetime of birdwatching.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

SPECIES:	A	B	C	D
Common Loon		3	6	2
Arctic Loon			1	2
Red-throated Loon			6	
Red-necked Grebe	2	1	4	
Horned Grebe	5	12	38	13
Eared Grebe			10	5
Western Grebe	1		218	1
Pied-billed Grebe	5	2		6
Double-crested Cormorant		12	9	27
Brandt's Cormorant				
Pelagic Cormorant		1	21	5
Great Blue Heron	1		3	1
Whistling Swan				4
Canada Goose				47
Black Brant				
White-fronted Goose				3
Mallard	179	4	30	37
Pintail				
Green-winged Teal	1		8	
American Widgeon	106	4	177	22
Shoveler		2		
Wood Duck				1
Redhead				
Ring-necked Duck	8	46	5	
Canvasback	17	12	1	
Greater Scaup	1	15	187	50
Lesser Scaup	3	21		
Common Goldeneye	4	24	20	30
Barrow's Goldeneye				
Bufflehead	5	12	255	49
Oldsquaw			9	
Harlequin Duck			3	
White-winged Scoter		6	152	13
Surf Scoter		2	97	
Common Scoter			4	
Ruddy Duck	58		4	
Common Merganser	54	50		1
Red-breasted Merganser	44	3	24	8
Hooded Merganser	17	25	2	39
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3			
Cooper's Hawk	2		1	

VICTORIA, B.C., JANUARY 2, 1966

	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
	3	3	9		24		1	8	59
	5	1	20		3			60	92
	1	1	4				4	30	46
	2	22	6				2	10	49
	17	92	184		116	1	3	6	487
	3	16	4	1	8		2	6	55
	19	77	45		16		2	50	429
					18	1			32
	12	8	1	10	22			6	107
		2	16					550	568
	24	71	62		18			92	294
	4	1	2	2	3			14	31
					11		26		41
					13				60
								5	5
									3
	400	24	224	1013	271	83	2000	3	4268
				206		28	359	2	595
		2		305	5	52	500	17	890
	493	1286	175	1158	1156	389	2928	350	8244
	27	81	2	2	5	7	1	20	147
									1
					4				4
					80		18		157
	13			50					93
	358	568	92	5	63	4	21	250	1614
	2	34			9	20		6	95
	28	78	47		52	2	20	150	455
	3	2							5
	33	194	82	77	128	5	28	600	1468
	48	16	19		16		4	350	462
	10	74	23		2			300	412
	10	360	47		15		14	40	657
	100	57	28		99		24	25	432
								2	6
		1	2		20				85
					8				113
	34	132	16		42			35	338
	2	2	2	2	41				132
		1	1		2	1	2		10
			1		1	3	1		9

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - continued

SPECIES:	A	B	C	D
Red-tailed Hawk	2	3		
Bald Eagle	1	1	5	1
Marsh Hawk				
Peregrine Falcon				
Pigeon Hawk				2
Sparrow Hawk				
California Quail	8	72		10
Ring-necked Pheasant	4			1
American Coot	6	17	124	25
Black Oystercatcher			3	2
Killdeer Plover	2	6	8	7
Black-bellied Plover				
Surfbird				
Black Turnstone			41	26
Common Snipe	2			11
Whimbrel				
Greater Yellowlegs				
Rock Sandpiper				
Dunlin			2	21
Dowitcher				
Sanderling				
Glaucous-winged Gull	3620	150	1080	250
Western Gull				
Herring Gull		1		2
California Gull	2			
Mew Gull	2	2	325	159
Common Murre		1	1	
Pigeon Guillemot			1	
Marbled Murrelet				
Cassin's Auklet				
Ancient Murrelet				
Rhinoceros Auklet				
Tufted Puffin				
Band-tailed Pigeon				
Screech Owl				
Horned Owl				
Short-eared Owl				
Belted Kingfisher	1	3	3	2
Yellow-shafted Flicker				
Red-shafted Flicker	5	8	6	30

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - continued

E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
				1		1		7
		1	1	2	1	1	3	17
						2		2
	1						2	3
			1					3
			1		1	1		3
17	74	189	60	2	105	47		584
4	3	6	4	16	18			56
5	47	57	2	360	6			649
12	31							48
26	42	8	28	38	21	8	6	200
	18					3	30	51
2	7						50	59
17	74	3		6			120	287
1	1	5	57		5	6	8	96
							3	3
	5		1	6		1	7	20
	3						5	8
	13	2	2		10	216	50	316
	1							1
	7					2	3	12
260	745	516	639	759	275	67	500	8861
			1					1
	6	3	26	1	1			40
	1			3			2	8
46	515	187	605	40	5	30	300	2216
1	3	3		11		3	1200	1223
2	4	1		2			250	260
33	1						200	234
							8	8
	9			1			350	360
1	1						15	17
							2	2
		29		1			3	33
			1					1
				1				1
1		3	1				2	16
	3							3
13	33	26	23	8	33	2	4	191

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - continued

SPECIES:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
Pileated Woodpecker					1		2			1			4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					1								1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	2		1			1			1			6
Downy Woodpecker		4	1		1	4	5	2	4	1			22
Skylark	24		2		19	23	51		300		550		969
Steller's Jay	1	6		1									8
Common Raven	5	3	3				4	3		15		3	36
Northwestern Crow	59	20	111	218	38	25	74	328	269	48	28	25	1243
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	21	15	2	30	24	22	125	44	38	24	2		347
Common Bushtit		20		45	2	9	77	50	45	12			260
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	2			2								5
Brown Creeper	2	2		4	8	1	7	2		1			27
Dipper		2											2
Winter Wren	7	11	3	10	2	4	20	1	5	1			64
Bewick's Wren	6	2		5	6	5	10	3	9	1	2		49
Long-billed Marsh Wren			1								2		3
Robin	142	40	328	750	178	582	888	707	899	95	134	200	4943
Varied Thrush	16	83	78	150	35	73	303	39	76	55	39		947
Hermit Thrush	2	3	8	3	1	1	6	7	1	2			34
Golden-crowned Kinglet	18	15	2	36	21	9	63	32	3	15	2		216
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		7		2	3	1	2	1			3		19
Water Pipit												8	8
Cedar Waxwing			1	151	2								154
Starling	18	76	74	50	100	167	379	396	262	310	65	100	1997
House Sparrow		36	2	26	113	89	97	14	6	6	20		409
Western Meadowlark			10		3	16	1	1		22	6		59
Red-winged Blackbird	6		6			10	27	346			7		402
Brewer's Blackbird	14		4	2	2	4		6	34	72	88		226
Evening Grosbeak		20							1				21
Purple Finch	3	7	2	8	8	12	22	3	7	3	1		76
House Finch		14	8	1	28	66	67	28	74		14		300
Pine Siskin	20	20			3	130	106			2	24		305
American Goldfinch									8				8
Red Crossbill					3								3
Rufous-sided Towhee	16	28	14	11	7	21	57	9	31	31	9		234
Savannah Sparrow				1			1		1		1		4
Slate-coloured Junco						1	1						2
Oregon Junco	95	120	55	77	7	88	333	150	202	80	26		1233
White-crowned Sparrow	1						11	1			10		23
Golden-crowned Sparrow	34	19	9		1	20	23	12	12		15		145

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - continued

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS continued

<u>SPECIES:</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>
Fox Sparrow	9	35	9	7
Lincoln's Sparrow				
Song Sparrow	16	30	15	75
<u>Total, Individuals</u>	<u>4708</u>	<u>1163</u>	<u>3642</u>	<u>2579</u>
<u>Area Species Totals</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>61</u>

Total number of birds --- 54,345

Seen during period but not on count day:

European Widgeon, Rufous Hummingbird, Western Bluebird,
Northern Shrike, Townsend's Warbler, Gray-crowned Rosy
Finch, Snow Bunting.

AREAS AND PARTICIPANTS: CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUSArea A: Prospect Lake, Highlands

Mr. R. MacKenzie-Grieve, Mr. & Mrs. S. Mitchell,
Mr. & Mrs. K. Dobson, Miss G. Jackson, Mr. Freeman King.

Area B: Florence Lake, Langford, Goldstream

Mr. & Mrs. T. Briggs, Mr. J. Meiklejohn, Miss J. Hannay,
Mr. & Mrs. J. Palmer.

Area C: Esquimalt Lagoon, Metchosin, Witty's Lagoon

Mr. D. Stirling, Mr. F. Buffam.

Area D: Portage Inlet, Thetis Lake, Millstream Rd.

Mr. R. Beckett, Mr. Wm. Adams, Mr. R. Huckin,
Mr. Wm. Spriggs.

Area E: Beacon Hill Park, Esquimalt

Mr. & Mrs. R. Fryer, Mrs. G. Soulsby, Miss Leah Halsall,
Mr. H. Seymour, Mr. D. Gain, Mr. H. Warren.

Area F: Clover Point, Oak Bay

Mr. G.A. Poynter, Mr. A. James, Mrs. L. Parris,
Miss M. Melburn.

Area G: Gordon Head, Cadboro Bay, Mt. Douglas

Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Davidson, Mrs. G. Bell, Dr. G.C. Carl,
Miss J. Groves, Mr. E. Thorn.

<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
27	41	44	20	7		2		201
	1							1
13	54	76	31	18	33	17		378
<u>2751</u>	<u>6331</u>	<u>5038</u>	<u>6520</u>	<u>5842</u>	<u>1908</u>	<u>7417</u>	<u>6446</u>	<u>54345</u>
<u>71</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>57</u>	

Total Species - - - - 124

Compiled by:

David and Ruth Stirling.

AREAS, PARTICIPANTS, (cont'd)Area H: Swan Lake, Gorge, Panama Flats

Miss E. Lemon, Mrs. M. Slocombe, Mr. & Mrs. C. Morehen.

Area I: Blenkinsop Lake, Ritchets, Elk Lake

Mr. M. Matheson, Mr. T. Bell, Mr. & Mrs. G. Hooper,
Mr. J. Underhill, Mr. D. Gray.

Area J: Wilkinson Road, Quick's Pond

Mr. F. Beebe, Mr. & Mrs. D. Hancock, Mr. K. Hodson.

Area K: Martindale Rd. - Island View Beach

Mrs. R. Stirling, Miss B. Parlow, Mr. M. Miller.

Area L: Chain Islands - Discovery Island

Mr. C. Guiguet.

Juniors Participating:

Linda Slocombe, Patty McAfee, Gregg Sorenson, James Morehen,
Sean Newton.

Roving Photographers:

Mr. Wm. Reith and family.

THE SOCIAL SIDE

by Gwennie Hooper

The blizzard is over, the snow nearly gone,
The cold quite forgotten in a warm bright-lit room.
A chart on the wall hangs empty and white
But the bird counters plan to fill it tonight.

Out all day in wind-driven snow,
They appear one by one with faces aglow.
Satins and silks, lounge suits and ties;
Not really a birdwatcher's chosen disguise.

But tonight is the night of all nights of the year,
When birds can bring heartbreak as well as great cheer;
When the absence of one little bluebird can mean
A count that is lower than ever has been.

How many species? How did you fare?
Did you see those mute swans flying high in the air?
And the whistlers! Magnificent! Yes, please, I'll have punch.
In that worst blinding snowstorm we stopped to have lunch.

The chart's filling up, we move nearer to see:
Yellowlegs, kingfisher, goldfinch, towhee.
Crackers? No, thanks. Too excited to eat.
Do you think we might equal last year's marvellous feat?

The telephone rings. More robins and crows.
Nine-thirty already. My, how the time goes.
Hooded mergansers, bald eagles and quail.
Did anyone see a Virginia rail?

Now past ten o'clock, the phone rings out shrill.
The last report surely. The crowd stands quite still
As figures are added and species are read,
And hopes of a record flash into my head.

Total - one-twenty-three. Just missed it by one
Goodnight, Murray. Thanks, Peggy. Great Day. It was fun.

(Footnote: A western gull was mislaid (ugh!) and the final
count equalled the 124 species seen last year.)

DAYDREAMING

When it was all over and the compilation done I could not help speculating on the possible count of species for this area. We recorded 124 on count day and seven others were seen during the ten day period. Three species - ruffed grouse, blue grouse, and mountain quail are definitely here but were not found mainly because roads in the highlands were impassable. Mute swans and rock doves have feral populations here and should be on the list. Finally, a thorough search of certain habitats within the count area might bring in Hutton's vireo, pygmy owl, gray jay and horned lark. That is 140 species. Our record so far has been 127. Next Year?

David Stirling.

BIRD NOTESDecember 15, 1965 to January 15, 1966

by Grace M. Bell

A PALM WARBLER was seen by many observers on December 15th at Esquimalt Lagoon. The normal wintering ground is in the area of the Caribbean. It is officially recorded as a "summer visitant to the extreme northeastern part of the Province" (Munro and Cowan). A GADWALL duck, infrequent here, was in Panama Flats on December 3rd and three more at Martindale Road the same day. BLUEBIRDS highlighted the day after Christmas, being viewed at Blenkinsop Lake. (Starlings increase and bluebirds decrease! One DOWITCHER only has been reported so far this month - at Oak Bay.

The RUDDY DUCK, sometimes at Esquimalt Lagoon and Elk Lake, has put in an appearance at Oak Bay, where 12 were first noted on the 4th. The ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was at Cordova Bay on the 5th, while a HUMMINGBIRD surprised viewers in another part of this "evergreen playground," both birds being long overdue in the south. After the snowfall five WINTER WRENS sheltered beneath a canopy of shrubbery against a log in Francis Park. A RUFFED GROUSE viewed the wintery scene from a nearby stump. Again in the snowy weather SKYLARKS left their usual haunts: twelve were at Esquimalt Lagoon and twenty on the Oak Bay Golf Course. There was a BARN OWL at Blenkinsop Lake on

the 8th and four BAND-TAILED PIGEONS the same day on Cedar Hill Road.

A MAGPIE at the corner of Lansdowne and Cadboro Bay Roads on the 9th was indeed an odd occurrence, even more so than the several reports of the TOWNSEND WARBLER during the snowy weather. The NORTHERN SHRIKE, on the other hand, is expected at this time; the latest report is of one seen at Sidney on the 9th. The PINE GROSBELT is rare for this area, therefore it is gratifying to have noted seven on the 11th and 12th off Bedford Road. The GREAT HORNED OWL, to the sudden alarm of gulls, ducks, coots, etc., came into the parkland near the Oak Bay Marina on the 12th. A PEREGRINE FALCON on the 15th flew in a place where observers have previously watched two of them - Martindale Road. The last report:-

a SHORT-EARED OWL in Uplands Park on the 15th; and on the same date a pair of SPARROW HAWKS, over Lochside and the adjoining fields near Lohbrunner Road, supposedly in the dramatics of courtship display - circling, performing tumbling acts and frequently uttering distinctive calls.

Difficulties caused by the golden nematode control in the flooded Martindale Road area need not restrict the birding fraternity from viewing many species - including the magnificent WHISTLING SWANS. Stay on the road and sweep the flats and hillsides with your binoculars for skylarks, hawks, meadowlarks, goldencrowned and white-crowned sparrows and ducks, ducks, ducks -

Contributors to the above records: Mr. & Mrs. T. Briggs, A. Poynter, R. Fryer, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Robertson, E. Howland, Mr. & Mrs. Walker, S&L Newton, Mrs. Ford, F. King, Mr. & Mrs. Davidson, Dr. & Mrs. Sparling, R. MacKenzie-Grieve, and M. Matheson.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Have we had a hard winter? The answer is "NO", at least for this extreme southern tip of Vancouver Island. Perhaps those of us who took part in the Bird Census might be inclined to give a different answer, however, at least 23 wild plants growing along Dallas Road, Beach Drive, Cedar Hill X Road and Uplands Park have been warm enough to be in flower as of this date i.e. January 13th. They are:- broom, gorse, groundsel, perennial daisy, dandelion, gumweed, sow thistle, pineapple weed, scentless mayweed, yarrow, storksbill, cranesbill, shepherd's purse, wild

radish, jointed charlock, hedge mustard, thale cress, petty spurge, chickweed, lamb's quarters, field woundwort, cow parsnip and spring gold. It is interesting to note that the first 21 of these plants are the hardy descendants of hardy immigrants; the other two (cow parsnip and spring gold) are native. No doubt all these plants felt the moderating influence of the nearby salt water.

Finally, it must be added that from Francis Park comes the report of a blue violet in bloom found where it was well protected by a light covering of dry leaves.

M.C.M.

THE RED FOX

by Adrian Paul

How many foxes have you seen in the wild state in British Columbia? I have seen two in fifty years. The first was on a gravel bar in the Kitimat River, the other was within a mile of the center of Williams Lake. In the latter case the fox was accompanying someone's domestic cat, which was crossing the Chilcotin Road very early in the morning. The cat did not seem to want its company but the fox wanted to go along. We stopped the truck and watched. The cat, having crossed the road, turned and walked parallel to the road passing within forty feet of us, with the fox travelling nearby.

One of my neighbors had a fox visit his house and barnyard regularly at night apparently for the sole purpose of playing with the dog.

One time when I was going through the open pine forest I came upon a fox burrow. It had four entrances. All the house cleaning was done through one entrance which had a big heap of fox droppings just inside. By putting my ear to the ground I was able to hear the pups down below, yapping as they played together, but I saw no parents.

ADDRESSES PLEASE

If you have changed your address in the last few months please inform the secretary, Mrs. F.A. Sherman, of your new location. It is very important that the mailing list be correct.

MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPSEXECUTIVE MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 1.

In Dr. Carl's Office,
Provincial Museum - 8 p.m.GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 8

Douglas Building Cafeteria,
Elliot Street - 8 p.m.
Speaker: Mr. J. Corner.
Subject: Indian Pictographs in
the Interior of British Columbia.
Illustrated with Slides.BOTANY MEETING:

Tuesday, Feb.15.

Provincial Museum - 8 p.m.
Speaker: Freeman King.
Subject: Identification of
Deciduous Trees and Shrubs
in Winter.BIRD FIELD TRIP

Saturday, Feb. 19.

Meet at Monterey Parking Lot
9:30 a.m., or Portage Inlet on
Island Highway at 10 a.m. Bring
lunch and Field Guide.
Leader Mr. M. Matheson.JUNIOR GROUPMeet every Saturday at Monterey
Parking Lot, Douglas & Hillside
1:30 p.m. for Field Trips.
Leader: Freeman King.
Phone: 479-2966.BELIEVE ME, THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENED

Even seagulls get into that "giving" spirit at times. Recently Mrs. Christine Henderson's small daughter dropped a stuffed animal out of the third storey apartment window. Mrs. Henderson rushed downstairs to pick it up but just as she stooped to do so a seagull swooped down, snatched it up, and flew off with it. Four days later Mrs. Henderson heard a tap, tap on the window and looked up to see the same seagull with the same stuffed animal, rather badly chewed, sitting on the window sill he put the toy down and flew off.

Believe it or not, this actually did happen.

-- Copied from the Oak Bay Leader.

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