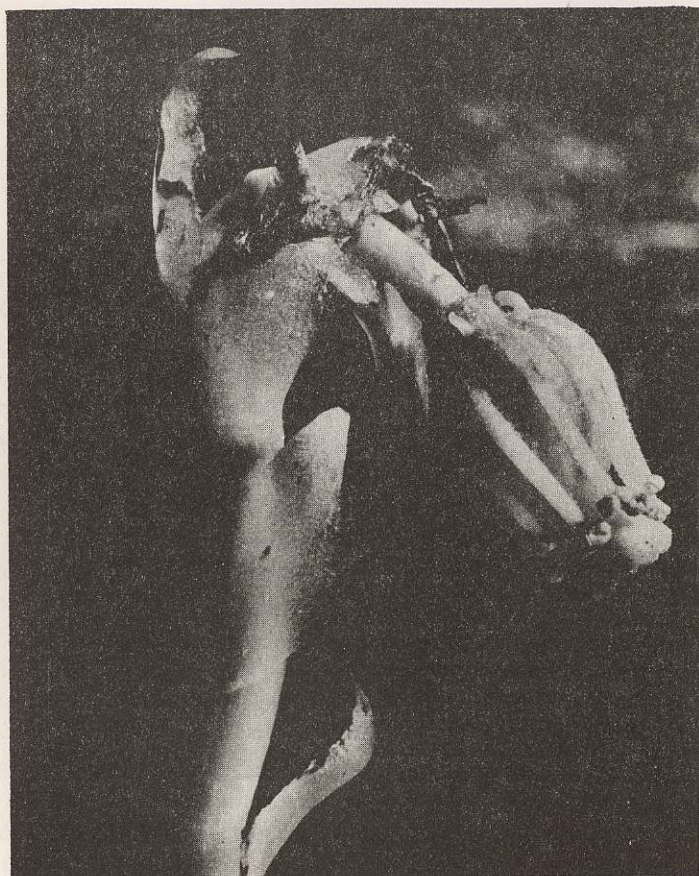


Sept. 1969  
Vol. 26, No. 1

# THE VICTORIA NATURALIST



published by the  
**VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Victoria B.C**

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COVER PICTURE

INDIAN PIPE by Enid K. Lemon

COVER STORY

INDIAN PIPE

Our cover picture is of Indian pipe, the whitish saprophyte which belongs to the genus *Monotropa*.

In the out of print Provincial Museum Handbook No.19, The Heather Family, (Ericaceae) in British Columbia, Doctor Szczawinski writes that the genus name "comes from the Greek monos (one) and tropos (direction), in allusion to the pendulous flowers turned to one side".

This saprophyte (from the Greek phyton, a plant, and sapos, dead or decaying organic matter) is sometimes called by the common names of ghost flower, corpse plant or ice plant.

The pendulous flowers become erect in fruit.

In British Columbia it grows in shady coniferous forests, and its season is from the end of June to August, depending on location.

It is found most commonly on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Although rare in the interior of the province, it was collected in 1954 by J.E. Calder from north of Hazelton. This locality, says Handbook 19, is most likely the northern limit of its range.

A Society member reports that on August 7 this year it was found just coming through the ground near Englishman's River.

The cover picture is a Sowerby black and white conversion from a coloured slide by Enid K. Lemon.

### SOME GEOLOGICAL MEMORIES

My interest in geology was aroused in my young days while camping at Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver. Here I found rounded stones which, when broken, yielded excellent fossils of fern, poplar and maple.

About 1911, I became acquainted with the Rev. Archdeacon Robert Connell who was ever ready to share his broad knowledge of plants and geology with me. During our many trips into the countryside, I received an excellent education in these subjects.

Interesting places we visited were:-

- 1) Goldstream to see the up-ended schists which dip to NE and are estimated to be 300 million years old. They were deposited in the sea, as muds, long before any present day mountains were formed.
- 2) Gordon Head - Here was exposed an ancient swamp, developed on older blue marine clays. Here we sought among its fossil reeds, twigs, woods etc. the shiny blue wing cases of a beetle. This deposit was formed about 34,000 years ago, and was later covered by about 160 feet of sands and gravels carried forward by outwash streams from the advancing ice front.
- 3) Gravel pits at Cordova Bay, Keating and Mount Tolmie In these pits could be seen the current bedded layers of sand and gravel, with various kinds of boulders. The most interesting find in the pits was the scarce molar, piece of bone or tusk of mastodon.
- 4) Glacial grooves on Mount Tolmie and Beacon Hill Water-front. Examining the glacial grooves and polished rock surfaces, we pondered the thickness, weight and grinding pressure of the ice moving from north to south. It left a British Columbia granite boulder in the Olympic Mountains at about the 2,000 foot level!
- 5) The extinct river channel - This channel was left by glacial waters which flowed from the Goldstream Valley, not north, but south to Esquimalt Lagoon. The land surface was about 300 feet lower than now and a delta formed at Colwood. When the ice melted away about 12,000 years ago, the land was upraised, exhibiting interesting features.

There is no need to go to the moon for specimens! For there is much free, healthy pleasure in studying local geology. Fuller details of local geology may be found in "A Naturalist's Guide to the Victoria Region", obtainable from the British Columbia Provincial Museum.

A.H. Marrion

### OAK BAY NATIVE PLANT PARK

On June 27, six volunteers from the V.N.H.S. and three municipal officials converged on the Park. All agreed that extensive thinning of trees and shrubs was necessary and we were invited to tag those we thought should be removed. Our offer to prune and weed was gratefully accepted. In the next two hours, armloads of wall lettuce and hundreds of seedlings of *Daphne laureola* were removed. The next day municipal work crews swung into action.

We hope to do some planting in the fall. Some native trees have grown so tall and lanky that it would be a good idea to start new ones. Seedlings, or saplings, of Pacific dogwood, cascara, vine or Douglas maple would be welcome. More shrubs such as elder, hazel, false box, stink currant and salal are needed. There is plenty of black twinberry but no orange honeysuckle. The only ferns at present are sword and lady fern - others should do well. We'd like to see an attempt made to introduce skunk cabbage and also any plants that might flourish in a shady pool. Vanilla leaf, yerba buena, wild ginger, bunchberry, rattlesnake orchid could be planted in the shady areas and kinnikinnick, chocolate lily, camass and sisyrinchium in the sunnier parts.

We are not ready yet. We are just asking members to remember the N.P.P. if they know where suitable native plants may be legally obtained.

This project of tending the N.P.P. will be a continuing one if it is to amount to anything. More volunteer workers will be needed. The Park will always be something of a compromise, but we can at least show our appreciation to the donor and preserve its original character for posterity.

Katherine Sherman

CHARLES WILLIAM LOWE - 1885-1969

Professor C.W. Lowe was born in Birmingham, England on January 2, 1885. After graduating from Birmingham University, he continued his studies toward a Master of Science Degree which he completed in 1915.

Shortly thereafter Professor Lowe moved to Canada and joined the teaching staff of the University of Manitoba as a lecturer in Botany. He held this position until 1931. He became Associate Professor in 1937 and continued teaching until his retirement in 1950.

He then moved to Victoria where he soon became active in the Victoria Natural History Society, serving first as Chairman of the Botany Section, 1951 to 1954, and then as President until 1956. During this period and until recent years he was a regular contributor to the Victoria Naturalist with articles on botany especially concerning fresh-water algae, his particular field of interest.

He was a quiet, soft-spoken, friendly man who was always willing to help when called upon. He will be missed by his fellow members.

G. Clifford Carl

## BOOK NEWS FOR NATURALISTS

Murphy, R.W.	Wild sanctuaries
Smart, W.M.	Riddle of the universe
Keeton, W.T.	Biological science
Hahn, E.	Zoos
Davis, P.D.C.	Animals that changed the world
Duijn, C van	Diseases of fishes
Travers, R.	The Tasmanians
Life (Chicago)	Wonders of life on earth
Soule, G.	Under the sea
Wells, M.J.	Lower animals
Lyne, G.	Marsupials and monotremes of Australia
Brock, S.E.	More about Leemo
National Geographic Society	Vanishing peoples of the Earth
Leakey, L.S.B.	The wild realm: animals of East Africa

BARN OWL BREEDS AND WINTERS IN VICTORIA

The North American race of the cosmopolitan barn owl, *Tyto alba pratincola*, has generally been considered an uncommon breeding resident in southwestern British Columbia. More specifically, the record given here is the first published account of barn owl nesting in Victoria, B.C. Munro and Cowan (Review of the Bird Fauna of British Columbia Special Publications No.2 Provincial Museum 1947) gives Crescent Beach as the only B.C. nesting record. The A.O.U. Checklist further adds Ladner and Duncan, Vancouver Island.

On April 29, 1968, the authors were given three downy young barn owls, estimated to be between seven and fifteen days old. They were found in an old abandoned water tower in the Cadboro' Bay area of Victoria.

During the unusually severe winter of 1968-1969, three barn owls were reported dead in various parts of Victoria and the Saanich peninsula. One was found dead at the authors' residence at Island View Beach. All barn owls in this area were not killed however. On the evening of February 15, and on April 21, 1969, sightings were made of a live barn owl at Island View Beach.

The southwestern portion of the British Columbia coast is generally north of the latitudinal distribution for barn owls. But the dry, mild weather of the Mediterranean climate of the Puget Sound lowland biotic area undoubtedly accounts for the northern extension of the barn owl's distribution.

Two of the owlets collected April 29, 1968 were kept confined together in a pen at the Wildlife Conservation Centre. There they produced six eggs in February 1969. These were broken and fertility was not ascertained. A second clutch of eight eggs was laid in early April. These were fertile, but the embryos died at an early stage.

David A. Hancock and Lyn Hancock

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THOSE ANNUAL DUES: In mid-August, our Treasurer, Mr. E.E. Bridgen, 2159 Central Avenue, Victoria, reported that many membership dues were still unpaid. Technically, such dues are payable any time after our fiscal year ends on April 30. Membership fees are on the back cover.

### ON THE PROPAGATION OF ANIMALS

Sooner or later, whether studying the animals themselves in their natural environment, or their anatomical structure in the laboratory, the question arises as to how they reproduce themselves.

It is generally understood that most animals are divided into male and females and that fertilization occurs when the male sperm is introduced and unites with the female ovum, and that this is accomplished mostly by sexual union. Most mammals then bear living young while the birds lay eggs which, after varying periods of incubation, develop into young birds as a result of this union. However there are other, perhaps lesser-known, ways in which animals, particularly the lower forms, reproduce themselves.

While there are many of the latter following the general pattern of the higher forms, there are others which go through several intermediate or larval stages before reaching the adult form. Then there are those simple forms which reproduce by simply dividing themselves (fission) by conjugation or budding or a combination thereof, as well as by self-fertilization or even by parthenogenesis or development from unfertilized ova under certain conditions or stages of development.

There do not appear to be any hard and fast rules about the propagative methods of the various species of similar type of animals. For instance, insects such as butterflies and moths go through the well known stages of larva, pupa and adult. This does not mean that all insects use the same method. Many, like the grasshoppers, leave the egg as a small form of the adult and only go through a number of moults before reaching the true adult stage. Still others, like aphids and some flies, incubate the eggs within the body and produce living young.

While many insects deposit their eggs and forget about them, there are others which make elaborate nests for, and lavish a good deal of care on, their offspring. This does not only apply to the propagation of insects!

Among the fishes we also find those which scatter their eggs at random, others which lay larger eggs and attach them individually in their cases to seaweed; still others which build nests and give parental after-care to their young. There are also some that are viviparous.

The numerous worms also have numerous methods of reproduction ranging all the way from simple fission to the most complicated intermediate larval stages. There are forms where the male worm is parasitic on the female and there are many other ways, too numerous to mention.

It is seen then that the reproduction of animals is not just a simple matter of sexual union and laying eggs but consists of many variations and elaborations of the basic pattern which are often of great interest to naturalists who are usually people of insatiable curiosity, especially as so many observations still have to be made and recorded.

Anthony Dehen

### ON THE EDITOR'S DESK

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS: the program for the five films in this season's series is on page 12. Season tickets, adults \$3.50, students \$1.00 will be on sale at the September 9 General Meeting.

MUSEUM HANDBOOKS: Many of these have been out of print. But No.9, The Grasses of B.C. by W.A. Hubbard will be available again soon. A new handbook, No.28, on Mosses by W.B. Schofield will also be available soon.

ORIGINAL PAINTINGS BY MAJOR ALLAN BROOKS: By the time the magazine reaches members, the Provincial Museum's exhibition of such paintings should be on and is scheduled to continue until September 14. This is an important exhibition held to mark the centenary of the birth of Allan Brooks. For our March, 1969, magazine, David Stirling wrote a biographical article on this well-known wildlife artist.

SEA OTTERS BACK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERS: On July 31, 29 sea otters were released on Bunsby Island near Brooks Peninsula in the northern section of the West Coast of Vancouver Island. On August 14, the official report was that all are probably alive. This contrasts with the fact that of the 30 sea otters released in Washington, at least 14 died. The theory is that the West Coast release site was more suitable habitat.

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## BIRDS FOR THE RECORD

by G.N. and G. Hooper, 2411 Alpine Crescent (477-1152)

Sabine's gull (1) - Clover Pt. -	Apr. 15 -	
Black-legged kittiwake (1 imm.) - Clover Pt. -	Apr. 15 -	Ralph Fryer
(1 imm.) - Clover Pt. -	May 2 -	Allen Poynter
Common tern (1) - Clover Pt. -	Apr. 19 -	
(1 imm.) - Clover Pt. -	July 5 -	Allen Poynter
Glaucous gull (1) - Clover Pt. -	Apr. 19 -	
(first seen Apr.1)	Dr. and Mrs. D.B. Sparling	
Black-throated gray warbler (2) - Exeter St. -	Apr. 30 -	Roy and Margaret Wainwright
(1) - Ascot Dr. -	Aug. 10 -	Henry and Vera Walker
Blue-winged teal (2) - Ascot Dr. -	May 3 -	
Townsend's solitaire (1) - UVic -	May 4 -	Allen Poynter
Sora (1) - Ascot Dr. -	May 10,12 -	Allan Schutz
Lapland longspur (1) - Oak Bay Golf Course -	May 13 -	Joan Hannay
Bullock's oriole (1) - Gordon Head Rd. -	May 13 -	Tuesday Group
(1) - Beacon Hill Park -	May 16-20 -	Allan Schutz
Sandhill crane (1) - Burnside Rd. -	May 17 -	Allen Poynter
(1) - Pat Bay Airport -	May 17 -	Bird Group
Northern mockingbird (1) - Metchosin -	May 17 -	
Vaux's swift (1) - Goldstream Flats -	June 4 -	Allen Poynter
Caspian tern (2) - Clover Pt. -	June 27 -	Clifford Carl and Ralph Fryer
(2) - Pat Bay -	June 29 -	A.R. and Eleanore Davidson
Tufted puffin (1) - Clover Pt. -	July 12 -	Allen Poynter

Long-billed curlew (1) - Emerald Place - Aug. 11 -  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Poynter

Summer residents:

Purple martin (1)	Apr. 27
Black-h. grosbeak(1)	May 7
Common nighthawk(1)	June 4

Winter resident:

Horned grebe (1)	Aug. 7
Myrtle warbler(7)	Apr. 27
Wandering tattler(3)	May 2
Hermit thrush(1)	May 4
Western & Least(100)	June 29
Heermann's gull(2)	July 5
Greater yellowlegs(3)	July 5
Semi-p.plover(4)	July 31
Baird's sandpiper(2)	Aug. 2
Black turnstone(2)	July 5
Short-b. dowitcher(1)	July 5
Rhinoceros auklet(100)	July 12
Surfbird(8)	July 16
Wandering tattler(1)	July 19
Black-b. plover(11)	July 31
Ruddy turnstone(2)	Aug. 5

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JUNIOR JOTTINGS

As always, the summer was a busy time at Francis Park. Barbara Chapman and I were park naturalists, and we'd like to thank the Victoria Natural History Society for paying us to do a job we both thoroughly enjoy.

Our routine tasks were to change displays, put up trail signs and answer the questions visitors asked us. Also, until the fire brigade came, Barbara Chapman and another Junior watched over a fire that broke out on the Prospect Lake Road at almost the same spot as last year.

One of the summer's highlights was when about forty children from the International Village visited us. With their leaders and interested friends this meant a group of about seventy. The language barrier seemed to vanish in an atmosphere of friendly, eager interest.

We also acted as guides for a group of visiting photographers who went to Goldstream.

It was a happy summer and one to remember.

Genevieve Singleton

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A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE B.C. NATURE MEETING  
AT COMOX - APRIL 26, 27, 1969

We were on our way to Comox by six o'clock on the Saturday morning. It was a magnificent drive so early in the morning with the air still cool and moist, and deep darkness where the sun had not yet reached. Along the way, we saw a pileated woodpecker hard at work on a telephone pole, and where the road passed close to the water we saw several herons, a pair of mergansers, dozens of black brant and many other coastal shore birds.

The winter-damaged arbutus was especially startling when seen alone in open fields, and added a red-brown note among the green trees along the road.

We arrived in Comox soon after nine and completed motel arrangements. After a short coffee break, Victoria delegate, Mr. H.D. Walker, and Miss Maureen Collins joined the Nature Council meeting for the discussion of a new constitution.

Vera Walker and I went along the Puntledge River near Courtenay on a nature field trip. Soft greens and softer grey-blues and muted reds patterned the forest scenes before us. We saw the somewhat unusual pink Easter lily, Erythronium revolutum, and also saw some places carpeted with white Erythroniums, trilliums, yellow wood violets, and Oregon grape. Alder trees, hung with moss and ferns, encircled a skunk cabbage swamp. Pine siskins, song sparrows and orange-crown warblers sang above the general chatter of the river.

The Council meeting's reports were very disturbing and frustrating to me. Everything moved so slowly with no major changes made. I wished I could help. I spoke to Freeman King about it, and he said, "Just what do you young people want? Just what do you want? Involvement? Well, what does that mean? You're here, aren't you? You're learning something, and now it's your job to make others aware of what's happening. Go out and speak to other young people. But remember this. There is no substitute for experience and training."

Dianne Bersea

This article is run in the hope that at other meetings of this type, we may see an increasing number of young people who will inherit the world we leave them. As Freeman said - It's involvement.

Editor

As Society members will see from the Newsletter sent out with this number of the magazine, the former B.C. Nature Council is now called Federation of British Columbia Naturalists. Mr. H.D. Walker, our Society's delegate to the annual meeting at Comox on April 26, has sent the magazine his report of the meeting. As the Newsletter gives a summary of this meeting, I have cut our delegate's report most brutally. One point not mentioned in the Newsletter summary was that Mr. Potts reported on Mr. Berkley's garden in Nanaimo. It is hoped that this property with its many exotic trees and shrubs will one day become a park. The attention of Society members is particularly drawn to the Newsletter summary of the annual meeting as it was, reports Mr. Walker, one of the most successful in interest and enthusiasm that he has had the pleasure of attending.

Editor

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Books of interest to naturalists, recently added to the stock of the Greater Victoria Public Library: May 1969

- Roughley, T.C. Fish and fisheries in Australia
- Stonehouse, B. Penguins
- Lawrence, L.G. Electronics in oceanography
- Feininger, A. Trees
- Stracey, P.D. Tigers
- Gillett, K. Australian Great Barrier Reef in colour
- Bordes, F. Old Stone Age
- Salmon, J.T. New Zealand plants and flowers in colour
- Evans, H.E. Life on a little known planet

## PROGRAM for SEPTEMBER 1969

Executive Meeting: 8:00 p.m. at home of Mrs.S.Prior  
 Tuesday September 2 1903 Shotbolt Road

General Meeting:  
 Tuesday September 9 Douglas Building Cafeteria at  
 8:00 p.m. Dr.John E. McInerney  
 will speak on "Pacific Salmon  
 To-day".

Bird Field Trip:  
 Saturday September 13 Witty's Lagoon for Shore Birds.  
 Meet at Douglas and Hillside  
 9:30 a.m. or Esquimalt Lagoon  
 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch.  
 Leader: A.C.Schutz 386-0541

Junior Group: Meet every Saturday 1.30 p.m. at  
 Douglas and Hillside for field  
 trip. Leader: Freeman King  
 479-2966

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AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS - 1969-70

On October 2, 3 and 4, we start our 24th season of Audubon Wildlife Films. This year, each lecture will be presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. in the Newcombe Auditorium.

Last year I mentioned that we hoped to have numbered, reserved seats. This, we've found since, is impossible as we lack a central ticket office. Instead, we plan to rope off the central portion of the auditorium for season ticket holders. I hope that this will save the ushers and myself from some embarrassing moments.

The full program will be:-

Oct.2,3 & 4 - Bristol Foster - "Down South - Up the Nile"

Nov.13,14,15 Edgar T.Jones - "Fabulous Africa"

Jan.29,30,31 William A.Anderson -"Our Unique Water  
 Wilderness - the Everglades"

March 5,6,7 - Charles T.Hotchkiss - "Tidewater Trails"

April 2,3,4 - Harry Pederson - "Village Beneath the Sea"

Season tickets (\$3.50 adult and \$1.00 student) will be available at the September 9 General Meeting. Also I'll be needing more ushers for this season. Will you help?

As Freeman said - It's Involvement. Enid K. Lemon



# VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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<i>Botany (Winter)</i> —Mrs. J. M. Woollett, 624 Harbinger Avenue - - - - -	384-4836
<i>Entomology</i> —Dr. John A. Chapman, 962 Lovat Street - - - - -	384-5568
<i>Ornithology</i> —A. C. Schutz, 2060 McNeill Avenue - - - - -	386-0541
<i>Audubon Wildlife Films</i> —Miss Enid Lemon, 1226 Roslyn Road - - - - -	385-4676
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<i>Junior Group Assistant</i> —Mrs. K. Osborne, 1565 Begbie Street - - - - -	385-8164
Mrs. Lorraine Jones, 1833 Beach Drive - - - - -	592-0501
<i>University Liaison</i> —Dr. W. E. M. Mitchell, 2171 Granite Street - - - - -	383-2579
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Annual Dues, including subscription: Single, \$3; family, \$5; juniors, \$2.

Life Memberships: Single, \$50; husband and wife, \$75.

Junior membership is restricted to those not under 9½ years and not over 18 years.

Dues and changes of address should be sent to the Treasurer.