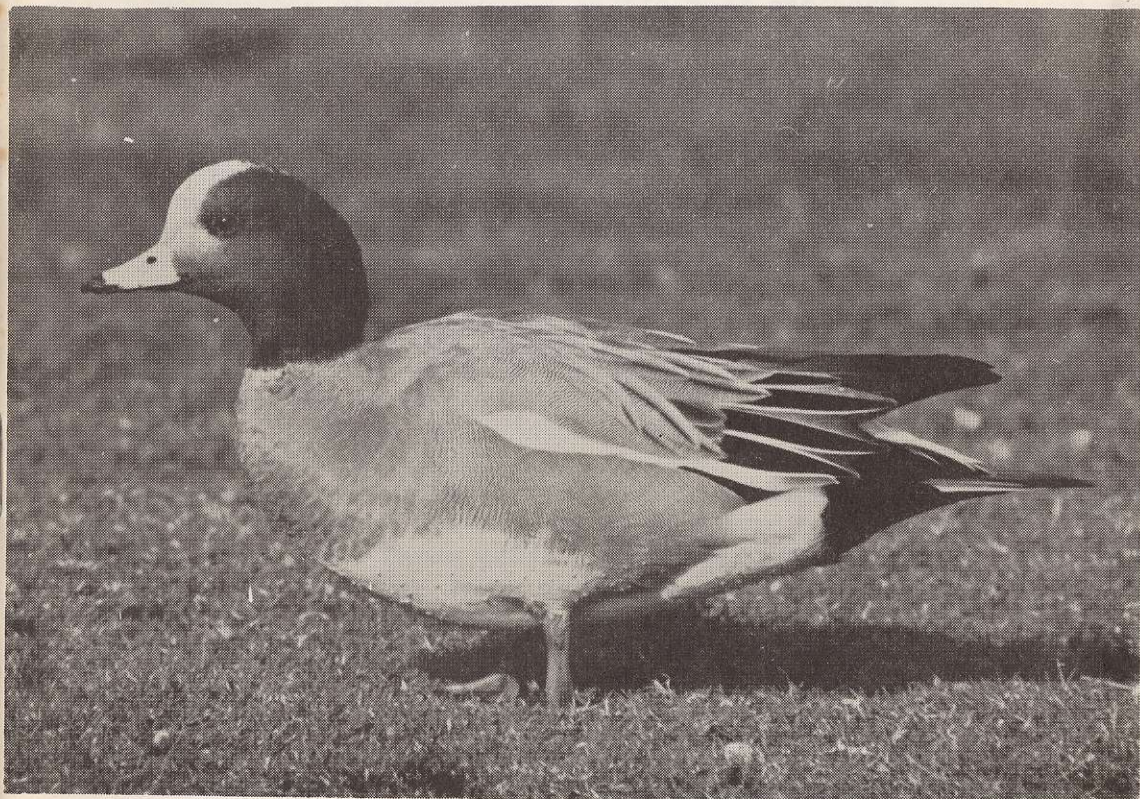


Mar., 1971
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THE VICTORIA NATURALIST



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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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EUROPEAN WIDGEON
(*Mareca penelope*)

Each year, bird watchers in Victoria anticipate seeing new and rare species of birds. Some never return, but others, such as the European Widgeon, seem to be increasing.

In the month of October the common Widgeon return for the winter in large numbers. Bird lovers begin to scan these flocks for the sight of one with a rusty head.

The male bird (our cover picture) can be identified by the predominance of rusty-brown on its head and neck, with a buffy forehead and crown. The flanks are grey, in comparison with the brownish ones of the Common Widgeon. The female European Widgeon is very difficult to identify. Its head is brownish, whereas the female Common Widgeon has a greyish tone to its head.

The normal breeding range for the European Widgeon is Iceland, Scotland, the Scandinavian countries, Northern Germany and Eastward through Northern Russia and Northern Asia. They winter in North Africa, Asia Minor, Indo-China, Formosa and Japan. It would appear, then, that Vancouver Island is far from their usual migration route. Until recent years, one or two European Widgeon were seen on the Saanich Peninsula each winter but last year nine of them were counted in one day.

Bird watchers, visiting Victoria from other parts of Canada and the United States, are thrilled to be able to see this rare bird. Three years ago, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Strickling of St. Louis, Missouri. They wished to see some new species of west coast birds to add to their life list of 497 species for Mrs. Strickling and 499 for Jerry. We drove out to Esquimalt Lagoon where two European Widgeon had been sighted that morning. It was such a chilly, windy, wet day that we could scarcely keep the tripod or ourselves from shaking. We had almost given up when, with a last-minute panning over the lagoon, the rusty head was spotted. Jerry jumped up and down, shouting "Number 500 - and a 'bonus' bird at that!"

Anna Fryer
Photo by Ralph Fryer

(Extract copy from a letter recently received by
Mr. N.T. Porter from a Naturalist and
Conservationist in Brecon, Wales)

.....We are almost at the end of our European Conservation year, which has kept us fairly busy. Our main event locally was an exhibition on 'Man and the Countryside', which was held in Brecon for a fortnight in July and later went on tour round the country. This entailed much preparation but was very worthwhile, and I think, quite successful in getting the ideas of conservation across to the public. During the year, we have established five more nature reserves in various parts of the country to afford some protection to our declining plants and animals. CRAIG-Y-RHIWARTH, one of the limestone cliff sites established as a nature reserve about a year ago, contains our only Breconshire site for Purging Buckthorn (*RHAMNUS CATHARTICUS*), (a cousin of our CASCARA), food plant for the Brimstone butterfly, which we were lucky enough to see earlier this year.

Butterflies do seem to be making a slight recovery. We have had two sunny summers in succession, and this, combined with a reduction in the use of insecticides has probably helped them considerably. We have arranged for five stretches of wayside verges to be managed as nature reserves, and these should help butterflies like the Orange Tip, Grayling and common Blue.

Earlier in the year the boys of Christ's College, Brecon helped me to set up a nature trail in a wood near Brecon - on a less sophisticated scale than yours in Canada! We also organised natural history projects for the Breconshire Federation of Women's Institutes and the County Schools, and these aroused plenty of interest and persuaded many people to get out into the countryside and investigate things for themselves.....

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR

Violet-green and Tree swallows could be here in FEBRUARY. In MARCH, look for Black brant, Turkey vulture, Rufous hummingbird, Orange-crowned and Audubon warblers. Osprey were reported in March last year.

FALL MIGRATIONS

Last fall my wife and I motored from Toronto through New England, south along the Atlantic coast of the United States and thence home. We had hoped to see the autumn colors of the maples in New England but in this we were disappointed since an unusually mild, moist fall had delayed the color change and we saw only occasional trees showing the brilliance of foliage for which this part of the country is famous. Actually the oaks and dogwood further south were more colorful than the northern maples.

The same climatic conditions delayed the migration of the birds. At Cape May on the southern tip of New Jersey, long famous as a focal point for the fall migration, birding was disappointing, although we did see some hawks and a hawk netting and banding station. We counted sparrow, pigeon, marsh and broad-winged hawks and a peregrine falcon.

At nearby Stone Harbour on the Atlantic side of the peninsula there is an area of about two city blocks set aside as a heronry. Here the herons and other large waders come to roost after feeding in the nearby marshes. We spent about two hours in the late afternoon at the single observation point provided and watched the black-crowned night herons going out to the feeding grounds and the day feeders coming back. We saw dozens of Louisiana herons, little blue herons in several plumages, glossy ibis as well as common and snowy egrets.

On our way back to Cape May we saw on a sandbar in one of the channels in the marsh a group of Caspian terns and American oystercatchers. A single black skimmer was feeding nearby leaving a furrow in the glassy waters of the channel.

A few days later the weather changed. A cold front moved in from the north and its winds brought with them a flood of small birds. When we reached Nags Head on the outer banks of North Carolina we found it fairly jumping with a multitude of small birds. These outer banks are a string of sand islands off the eastern coast of the United States and at this point are covered by a dense growth of bayberry bushes, those shrubs whose berries yield the wax for lovely smelling bayberry candles. The berries are quite bitter to the taste but the birds like them and they

were feeding on them by hundreds of thousands. Unfortunately they insisted in flying across the roads at a height of a few feet and many were being killed by passing automobiles which couldn't avoid them.

The most numerous species were white-throated sparrows and myrtle and palm warblers. With them were smaller numbers of white-crowned sparrows and an assortment of other warblers. We counted yellowthroats, black-throated blue and black-throated green warblers and I have no doubt there were many more which we did not identify. Thrushes were also quite numerous. Most seemed to be hermit thrushes with a few Swainsons and grey-cheeked varieties.

The migration of water birds still seemed to be delayed although we saw long skeins of scoters flying south just off the coast. The nearby Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge had a good number of Canada and Snow geese and some of the larger shore birds but only a scattering of ducks. We did see here small flocks of a hundred or more black skimmers, usually accompanied by a few assorted terns. There were also a few brown pelicans fishing in the more open waters.

Throughout all the eastern part of our trip eastern blue jays were numerous and obvious. We saw our first mockingbird of this trip on Cape Cod but from there to Texas mockingbirds vied with the blue jays for attention. Both were colorful, noisy, cheeky and ever present. Another bird which, while not so obvious, always seemed to be around was the yellow-shafted flicker. Of course robins were usually there too.

Along the Gulf of Mexico we saw a number of scissor-tailed flycatchers, usually sitting on telephone wires and sometimes accompanied by tropical kingbirds. At Gulfport, Mississippi, there was a gathering of at least two thousand black skimmers on a sandy beach adjacent to a marina. As often happens they were accompanied by a number of terns, mostly elegant terns.

At the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico it was a real thrill to see thousands of sandhill cranes, thousands of snow geese as well as white pelicans, Canada geese, many ducks and shore birds.

Bluebirds seem to like the higher altitudes. At Santa Fe, New Mexico, altitude 7000 feet, eastern blue-

birds were perhaps the most numerous bird. They like feeding on the seeds of the Oneseed juniper which is common in that area. We also saw there Oregon, slate-colored and gray-headed juncoes.

At Grand Canyon, Arizona (also at an altitude of 7000 feet), the western bluebird was perhaps the most numerous bird. They were feeding on the seeds of the Utah juniper. At Santa Fe I kept thinking that I saw a few western bluebirds with the eastern bluebirds. Perhaps there is some mingling of the two species in the mid-continent.

At the Grand Canyon I was fortunate to find a flock of twelve wild turkeys less than half a mile from a paved road. They were somewhat slimmer than the domestic variety and were very quick on their feet, seldom taking to the air.

Finally, at Point Lobos State Reserve south of Carmel in California we had a good look at sea otters for the first time. There are said to be between six hundred and one thousand sea otters along the coast of northern California. On one day we saw ten in the kelp beds off Point Lobos. Some were playing, some were eating shellfish with a rock on their chest to break them, some were sleeping.

At the end of it all we two fall migrants were glad to reach our winter resting place in Victoria.

A. Douglas Turnbull

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We regret to announce the resignation of Mr. A.D. Turnbull, our Vice-President and Program Chairman. As many members know, Mr. Turnbull is President of the Friends of the Provincial Museum; in fact it was largely through his efforts that this Society came into being. The Victoria Natural History Society has always worked happily with the Provincial Museum and until recently there has been no conflict of interests. However, in view of the criticism voiced recently by many members of the Society with regard to the Museum's policy of collecting bird specimens, Mr. Turnbull felt it was no longer possible for him to hold office in both organizations.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Ruth Stirling, phone 385-4223, for undertaking to look after our programs for the balance of this season.

January 25, 1971

The Editor
The Victoria Naturalist
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

We have read with interest a recent article by Herb Warren in "The Naturalist" on rhododendrons on Vancouver Island.

Apparently Mr. Warren was not in contact with local management at our Northwest Bay Division who could have provided him with the answers to some of the questions that he posed, hence our letter. Also, your readers may be interested in our plan for the area.

First, we can assure you that a sign has been in place on the site since 1960 warning that the rhododendron is protected by Statute.

The south side of the lake was logged around 1960, with the immediate area of the rhododendron patch reserved from cutting. Road construction below the lake in 1966 affected the drainage and in 1967 a culvert was installed which restored the natural drainage. Unfortunately, in the interim, some trees along the shoreline affected by flooding have died.

In 1968 most of the snags resulting from flooding were felled and in September of 1970 the remainder of the snags near and in the rhododendron reserve were felled to reduce fire hazard and improve the appearance of the area.

Coincidentally, the beaver moved in and dammed the creek outlet which undoubtedly added to the flooding problems. Arrangements are being made with the Fish and Wildlife Branch to live-trap and relocate the beaver to prevent further flooding damage.

Also, now that the snag-felling is completed, it is planned to fill-plant with shore pine to provide the partial shade which the rhododendron prefers.

May we take this opportunity to reassure your readers that McMillan Bloedel is aware that this is a unique site of considerable interest to botanists and naturalists and that efforts have been made to preserve it. In this regard we would welcome suggestions from your readers.

Yours very truly,

G.L. Ainscough
Assistant Chief Forester

FLORAL COMMUNITIES AT CLO-OOSE

When surgeon and botanist Archibald Menzies visited Nootka on H.M.S. *Discovery* in 1792 he found everywhere a woody shrub unknown to his distinguished colleagues Sir Joseph Banks and Sir William Hooker. When David Douglas stepped ashore at Baker's Bay in the mouth of the Columbia in 1824 the first plants he noticed were Menzies' discoveries of thirty-two years before: salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) - (the latter is called "cowshet" by the Nitinats).

The ingenious Indians often turned what seems to us a nuisance to good effect. Besides eating the fruit of salal and cowshet they consumed the foliage too! The young shoots of the salmonberry they ate as tender greens in spring. The tough, glossy leaves of salal they masticated only. The juice soothes hunger pangs.

These shrubs are only two of several flowering plants on the West Coast Trail. By May the richly fragrant clusters of the Red-berried elder (*Sambucus racemosa*) are scenting the moist air in the forest gloom amongst Alder and sometimes immense Sitka spruce. In the open clearings of the Indian reserve lands these creamy pendants seem to excite Wilson's warblers and American goldfinches to sing, twitter and pursue one another all day.

Early in April the exquisite pink Easter Lily (*Erythronium smithii*) flowers in crowded communities amongst the roots of salmonberry on the Indian reservations. Literally dozens of the diminutive Rufous Hummingbirds pursue day-long battles until territorial boundaries for the vivid pink salmonberry blossoms are settled. On some days late arrivals create extraordinary mischief; by afternoon all the contestants are totally exhausted and one can see them alighting for a moment to rest, with hearts visibly palpitating, beaks tilted downward and eyes shut with apparent weariness.

The beginning of June brings an abundance of small flowering plants and tender, succulent growth - soon riddled by voracious insects. On the old Cannery Trail between Clo-oose and Nitinat tidal gorge, the closely-packed bouquets of *Cornus canadensis* are like late alpine snow along the cedar boardwalk. In the shaded forest along the route Green-flowered Bog Orchid (*Habenaria hyperborea*) and Single Delight (*Moneses uniflora*) are

noticed by experienced botanists.

In the areas where Swamp Lantern glowed in March, starry little Foam Flowers (*Tiarella unifoliata* and *trifoliata*) catch the passing sunbeams in the dim forest depths. Where the strong odour of the Stink Current (*Ribes bracteosum*) prevails clouds of tiny midges whirl like atoms around an unseen nucleus, usually pursuing their dervish dance in a sunlight shaft. Associating with the Foam Flowers are Claspingleaved Twisted Stalk (*Streptopus complexifolius*) and Western Spring Beauty (*Claytonia sibirica*). Amongst them a relative of the Lady Fern with feathery pinnae dwells together with the broad, sometimes four-foot long leaves of the arum. Where these plants give way, the heart-shaped Wild Lily-of-the-Valley is beginning to form agate-coloured beads.

Along less crowded, drier trail margins grow a Saxifrage with ruby stems and exquisitely formed, five-petaled white flowers that are touched with pink at the stamens. Their peppery fragrance further distinguish them from the Tiarellas.

Beside the open, sunny banks of the Chockweat River grow that relative of the honeysuckle, the Black Twinberry. Its yellow blooms and glossy berries attracted naturalist Jose Moziño who named it *Lonicera nutkensis* as he, Sesse and the artist Echeverria were collecting at Nootka in 1792. Nearby thrives the Nootka Rose which lends spicy fragrance to the brine-laden air.

The park-like paths in the vicinity of Chockweat are distinctive in their borders of deep, pale green club mosses. The tropical *Selaginella*, a feathery club moss is there in abundance. The sumptuously deep Sphagnum is often laced with sweetly-scented Twinflowers.

Where the trail runs to sandy clearings the ground cover sometimes called Indian Tobacco (*Arctostaphylos wauersii*) with its pinkish globe flowers - later bright red berries - and glossy, deep green leaves is the characteristic plant. Tiny, azure-blue Veronicas grow in spots on the fringes in thin-layered moss. Another attractive moss of open sand surfaces is one with ruby-hued seta and dainty capsules filled with vivid green spores. Deer Ferns inhabit the deep mosses near the Chockweat. Sword and the lacy relative of the Lady Fern thrive luxuriantly. Above in the branches of Western Hemlock the epiphytic Licorice Fern (a *Polypodium*) makes its home in moss pillows.

June days, sometimes drizzling, occasionally hot, bring a varied community of sand-loving plants into flower on the dune. First to open are the pink cones of the Beach Morning Glory (*Convolvulus soldanella*) with their populations of minute, red insects. In the vicinity are numerous Beach Silver Top (*Glehnia lieocarpa*) with their pinnate leaves and creamy flowerlets in closely-packed studs. Around the forest fringe grow the Yarrow (*Achillea lanulosa*) - sometimes confused before efflorescence with strong smelling Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) growing on the steep shoulders of the dune. A healthy patch of Sand Verbena (*Gabronia latifolia*) resemble some desert plants. Its brilliant yellow clusters, sticky surfaces are strange in this part of the world. Its stunning fragrance is stronger and richer than honeysuckle. A heather also grows beside it.

Long roots of Mace-headed Sedge criss-cross the expanse in a vain attempt to check drifting sand. The dune's fringes are in spring softened by verdant mosses and the Bearberry ground cover. The berries attract Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning Doves and Ruffed Grouse. Migrating Sandhill Cranes and Canada Geese settle down for a rest on the dune in the fall.

Behind the driftwood zone thrive the purple pulse, Beach Pea (*Lathyrus maritimus*) and the Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria glauca*) living closely with Beach Morning Glory and Crimson Indian Paint Brush (*Castilleja Miniata*). On the nearby beach trail Tansy and Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*) grow in the bracken, sometimes accompanied by the lilac-tinted Douglas Aster.

By October the only remaining blooming plant is the Sea Rocket. Its simple, mauve-coloured flowerlets lend a cheering accent to the season's end. Unique are its long stems set with close-ranked, green seed cases. Their hard, shiny surface is protection against the pounding winter sea.

Jim Hamilton

Jim Hamilton has spent more than twenty-five years at Clo-oose and is a frequent contributor to the weekend *Colonist*.

ed.

GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 24: This meeting began, as many others have done, with the routine business followed by a talk by the speaker of the evening. Our guest was Dr. Jack Littlepage who gave a description of the phosphate problem for the layman. He asked his listeners to cast a suspicious eye on simple solutions to the problem, and to make reason, not emotion, direct their consideration of the long-term possibilities of various solutions offered. Following the talk, Mrs. Sherman introduced Dr. George Cotter who was in Victoria to present his "Wings of Summer", and Mr. Harold Hosford, whose weekly bird column is now appearing in the *Victoria Daily Times*. From this point the meeting was given over to consideration of a proposed motion, prepared by the executive and read by the secretary, intended to present the view of the Victoria Natural History Society on the question of collection of birds for scientific purposes. The two contrary views were ably presented by Dr. Jeremy Tatum on the one hand, and Dr. Bristol Foster on the other. Each was given seven minutes and the discussion took on the appearance of a debate. Jeremy, with a very carefully prepared argument, spoke strongly in favour of the strictest control of all collecting for whatever reason, and maintained that the motion as presented to the meeting did not go far enough. Bristol Foster, on the other hand, contended that collecting accounted for a very limited number of bird deaths, and in general he presented the well-known museum point of view. The airing of opinions was worth while, but no firm conclusion was reached. The motion was tabled for further study by the executive.

GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 9: Continuing on from the January 24 meeting, the President announced that a committee had been formed to further study the question of bird collecting with a view to formulating Society policy. Members of the committee are: Rod Muirhead, Jeremy Tatum, Ralph Fryer, A.R. Davidson, and Mr. Comer of Duncan. Freeman King made a rousing appeal to the members present to consider the great variety of worthwhile projects that are deserving of time and effort, and urged them not to let their energies be wasted. He suggested that bird watching and identification should lead to study of habitat and environment; that study should be made of municipal action on matters of concern to naturalists; that Wildlife Week should get support; that local conservation efforts need guidance and

support. As usual his wise counsel received the appreciation it deserved. Mrs. Forrest of the "Friends of Beacon Hill Park" was given a few minutes to explain the objectives of that group. Then, after an introduction by Enid Lemon, Dr. Marc Bell spoke on "Environment 100" which by now is well known to all Victorians. At the conclusion of his talk which was illustrated by a film produced by Crawley Films called "A Matter of Attitudes", a motion supporting Doctor Bell's group was passed.

Please note that from now on, Executive Meetings will be held in the Board Room of the Provincial Museum. This is a privilege extended to all member Societies in the Friends of the Provincial Museum. Ever since we had to vacate Doctor Carl's office in the old Museum, we have been meeting in the very comfortable rumpus room at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Prior. We have benefited from their hospitality for nearly three years, and the whole Society owes them a debt of gratitude. Thank you again Stan and Gladys!

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM

Our Audubon treat for January was a trip to Scandinavia with John Bulger, who interspersed his narrative with a lot of good folksy humour that had the audience in the palm of his hand. While at times the "Scandinavian Saga" was more of a travelogue than a nature film, this was perhaps necessary to give us the atmosphere of the countries and an insight into the people. The beauty of the scenery would be difficult to match, and the wildlife were shown against magnificent backdrops. We were given some idea how the people of these countries are managing their natural resources, and apparently avoiding at least some of the mistakes being made on this side of the water. Mr. Bulger claimed that swimming was quite pleasurable in the harbour of Helsinki, a city of half a million people. The last film of the season will show us quite a different environment - that of Death Valley, but it will be a long time before we will forget those lovely, fresh, green Scandinavian countries and their fine looking blondes.

THE EDITOR'S MAILBOX ...

The letter received from Mr. G.L. Ainscough, Assistant Chief Forester of McMillan Bloedel Limited should be of interest to all members.

Ruth Stirling's article last month prompted a letter from Mrs. Eve Smith, R.R.1, Port Washington, South Pender Island, and we are only able to quote some excerpts. She writes... "I did not have to read twice to get the message! I read it more than twice because I enjoyed it so much and laughed loud enough to disturb my little dog who looked up in alarm. ... I find really alarming the argument that specimens must be collected so that they may be seen by many thousands of people, who might not otherwise see such a bird. We are being conditioned to accept wild creatures as a "resource" and be satisfied if they are in Parks, Game Reserves or Game Farms or Zoos, so that humans can see them. I am more satisfied if I know that they exist in their wild state even if I never see them.... people can see beautifully coloured photographs of all creatures so that they can know them." Mrs. Smith recommends to our readers *The Great Auk* by Allan Eckert.

Another series of letters resulted from Freeman King's story on the salmon in the December issue. One of the most recent new members of the society wrote and asked about the statement that salmon find their way back to the streams where they were spawned, by navigating by the stars. Freeman obligingly replied with an explanation. The most rewarding result was that Miss Stevenson then did some research on her own, so we are just going to let you read Freeman King's letter, and then the letter from Miss Stevenson, who assures us that she is going to follow up her study.

The Editor, Victoria Naturalist

I have just joined the V.N.H.S., and have been reading past numbers of the *Naturalist*, supplied by Mr. Bridgen, with interest.

In the December issue, on page 50, the statement appears that salmon find their way back to the streams where they were spawned by navigating by the stars. This seems pretty fantastic. Is there any evidence in support of this theory?

Yours sincerely,
(Miss) S.J. Stevenson

541 MacKenzie Avenue
January 26, 1971

Editor, Victoria Naturalist

In reply to your enquiry about the salmon and their migration:

At the Federal Fisheries Lab at Departure Bay - Nanaimo - they have tanks that contain fish from the different river systems, and a map of the area from which they came.

Overhead there is placed a compass so that fish can be watched as to their destination; if the tank is moved the fish will keep to their systems.

It is quite evident that the fish have a "radar fix with the heavens" within themselves, as they do not deviate from their allotted route. There have also been studies made out at sea which show that the salmon navigate by the stars. It is also evident that the fish feed during the day and travel at night.

If anyone is interested I am sure that the staff at the Lab would be pleased to show them around.

Yours sincerely,

Freeman King

1908 Billings Road
February 3, 1971

The Editor, The Victoria Naturalist

In an article by Freeman King, which appeared in the December issue, there is the statement that when returning to their native shores for spawning these fish use the stars for navigation. This was based on data supplied by the Federal Fisheries Laboratory at Nanaimo, though the exact nature of the experiments which established that the stars are the only aid employed is not quite clear.

Another theory is put forward by Matthieu Ricard in his *Les Migrations Animales* (translated as *The Mystery of Animal Migration* and published by Hill and Wang, New York, 1969). He maintains that salmon and other fish navigate by the sun. He cites as proof experiments conducted by Dr. Arthur Haslar in Lake Mendota, Wis., with a migrating fish, the white bass. A large tank was installed in the lake and the movements of the fish were studied by underwater observation. On sunny days they were able to keep to

a constant course all day, but they were confused if it was overcast. Stellar navigation is not mentioned, though in the section on birds the author says that the stars are used by night and the sun by day, describing various similar experiments in proof. He also gives several cases of birds and animals reaching their destination with no external aid, not even visual observation, and sums up the whole problem of migration on page 128 by saying, "The question is still not totally resolved and a final answer is still some way off."

Ricard points out that we must not regard the use of celestial bodies by migrating species as similar to man's ability to orient himself by astronomical calculation. He compares it rather to the performance of mathematical prodigies, who have no idea how they arrive at their instantaneous answers to complicated problems. And it does seem as if we shall have to admit that birds and fish may possess powers we don't fully understand or share.

It's a fascinating subject, but I don't want to suggest more research. We often do harm by our curiosity - ringing is a traumatic experience for anything as highly strung as a bird, and the capture and confinement of large numbers is bound to cause casualties. So perhaps we should just leave a bit of mystery about migration and similar wonders of the non-human world.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) S.J. Stevenson

THE TRUCK DRIVER'S PIGEONS

1. I should like to know which species of pigeon was involved and this must be supported by a full field description made at the time of the observation.
2. Did the driver have a licence that permitted him to keep 200 pigeons in an airtight container, and what was the purpose of this experiment?
3. The driver fails Physics 100.

J.B. Tatum

Because of the painstaking research that has gone into his reply to our problem posed in the January issue we have awarded first place to Doctor Tatum. His prize is "tenure" in our Society for as long as he pays his annual dues.

ed.

BIRDS FOR THE RECORD

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

Common scoter (1) - Ogden Point -	Jan. 5 -
Yellow-billed loon (1) - Bowker Avenue -	Jan. 15 -
(1) - Finnerty Cove -	Jan. 17 -
(1) - White Rock, Ten Mile Pt. -	Feb. 14 -
(Finnerty/White Rock sightings appear to be same bird)	
Black-legged kittiwake (1) - Sidney -	Jan. 16 -
Spotted sandpiper (2) - Gordon Head -	Jan. 17 -
(2) - Whiffin's Spit -	Jan. 30 -
A.R. and Eleanore Davidson	
Common raven (30) - Francis Park -	Jan. 23 -
(Death in the forest?) Freeman King and Junior Group	
Lincoln's sparrow (5) - Swan Lake Road -	Jan. 23 -
Gadwall (2) - Swan Lake -	Jan. 23 -
Ron Satterfield and Keith Taylor	
(1m, 3f) - Ascot Drive -	Feb. 13 -
(1m, Feb. 9, Tues. Gr.)	A.R. and Eleanore Davidson
White-fronted goose (2) - Cattle Point -	Jan. 27 -
Muriel and Linda Slocombe	
Glaucous gull (1) - Panama Flats -	Jan. 31 -
Snow bunting (1) - Esquimalt Lagoon -	Feb. 1 -
Keith Taylor	
White-throated sparrow (1) - Tipton St., Colwood -	Feb. 4-6 -
Harold Hosford	
Tufted duck (1) - Clover Point -	Feb. 7 -
Keith Taylor	
(Seen at Oak Bay, Feb. 11, KT; Hood Lane, Feb. 13, ARD)	
Western meadowlark (1) - Roy Road -	Feb. 13 -
A.R. and Eleanore Davidson	
Trumpeter swan (110 or more, immatures and matures) at mouth of Salmon River, Kelsey Bay, Feb. 1. (Reliably reported to ARD)	
<u>Winter residents</u>	
European widgeon (3) - Panama Flats (KT) -	Jan. 31
(1) - Ascot Drive (TG) -	Feb. 9
Ring-necked duck (12) - Elk Lake (DBS) -	Jan. 6
Barrow's goldeneye (1f.) - Oak Bay (MS) -	Feb. 3
(Yellow bill)	
Ruddy duck (200) - Esquimalt Lagoon (ARD) -	Jan. 23
Long-billed dowitchers (2) - Nr. Swartz Bay (ARD, KT)	Jan. 30
Bonaparte's gull (flocks up to 25) - Clover Point, Hood Lane, etc. (KT) -	Jan. 16-30
Water pipit (1) - Bowker Avenue (KT) -	Jan. 15

PROGRAM FOR MARCH 1971

Executive Meeting: 8:00 p.m. Provincial Museum
 Tuesday March 2 Board Room

Audubon Wildlife Film: Kent Durden presents
 Thurs. March 4 at 8 p.m. "Death Valley: Land of Contrasts"
 Sat. March 6 at Newcombe Auditorium (Provincial
 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Museum, south entrance)
 Note: First night
 showing is Thursday
 March 4

General Meeting: 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium
 Tuesday March 9 (Provincial Museum, south
 entrance)
 Kerry Joy will speak on
 "Mount Edziza: British Columbia's
 Unique Landscape"

Bird Field Trip: Meet at Mayfair Lanes Parking Lot
 Saturday March 20 (north side) 9:30 a.m. or
 Martindale Road and Welch Road
 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch.
 Leader: Rod Muirhead 384-6005

Ornithology Meeting: 8:00 p.m. Room 216 Oak Bay Junior
 Tuesday March 23 Secondary School

Tide Pool Explorations: Cattle Point in daylight. Meet at
 Sunday March 28 Cattle Point at 9:30 a.m. for a
 morning finding marine plants and
 animals. Wear rubbers and carry a
 stick. F. King: 479-2966
 D. Stirling: 385-4223

Junior Group: Meet every Saturday 1:30 p.m. at
 Mayfair Lanes Parking Lot
 (north side) for field trip.
 Leader: Freeman King 479-2966

MUSEUM EVENTS

Heritage Court 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium
 Presents: "Pacific Paradox"
 Friday March 5 by Dr. A. Sutherland Brown

Friday March 19 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium
 "Roving Three Continents"
 by Dr. Bristol Foster

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