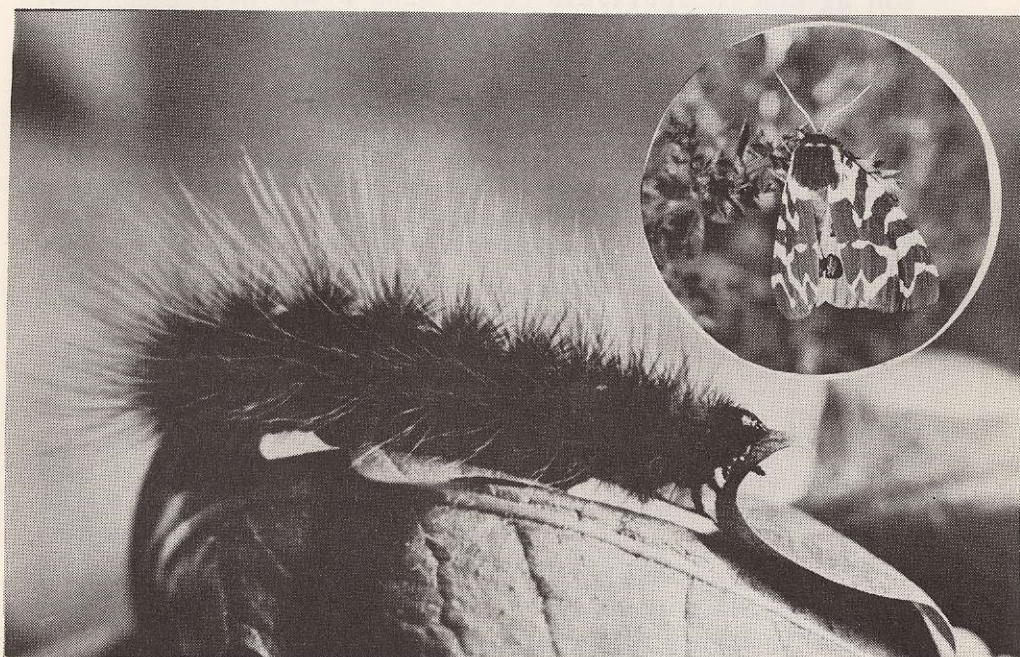


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TIGERS AND BEARS

The Arctiidae is a widely distributed family of moths, including a number of strikingly patterned gaudy insects known as Tiger Moths. The caterpillars are attractive, non-urticating, furry creatures often seen crawling rapidly across the road and known as Woolly Bears. In Canada the caterpillar known most frequently as the Woolly Bear is the well-known Isabella Moth (*Isia isabella*), but the name Woolly Bear was originally bestowed upon the furriest of all the family, the beautiful Garden Tiger Moth (*Arctia caja*). The moth has a Holarctic distribution and is not uncommon on Vancouver Island.

The caterpillar of a Garden Tiger is illustrated on the cover with a fine photograph obtained by Mrs. Bertha Gow, a new member of our Society. They can often be found in autumn when they are quite small, but it is best not to take them then, for they hibernate in this stage and are difficult to bring through the winter successfully. The one illustrated was found in early spring of 1971 at Blenkinsop Lake and it fed greedily on dandelion leaves until it was full grown, when Mrs. Gow photographed it. It pupated in a flimsy cocoon and when the moth emerged I obtained the insert photograph on the cover before releasing it.

The adult insect is quite spectacular. The fore wings are black and cream, the hind wings are scarlet with blue spots and the body is tiger-striped with red and blue. Novices stumbling across these insects often think they have found some rare and exotic creature, but in fact they are quite familiar to local entomologists. Some people like to kill them and store them in trays with pins. Usually there is no further purpose in this than personal acquisitiveness, and most people will prefer to leave them alone to live out their wonderful lives in the wild.

J.B. Tatum

Cover picture by Mrs. B. Gow

EUROPEAN GRAY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix* L.)
(Part 2)

Since Gray Partridges were introduced solely for hunting purposes, I think it fitting to consider whether or not this sport could have any effect in limiting their numbers here. It is common knowledge that entire populations of game birds and other animals have been eliminated by hunting or commercial interests. Introduced Huns eventually disappeared mostly as a result of over-hunting even in good habitat in spite of their rapid rate of reproduction. Possibly local numbers were greatly reduced many years ago by hunting, but I have seen no sportsmen after the partridges in recent times. Considering that I have been very close to perhaps the entire covey on several occasions, I'm sure that one or two shots could have done away with most of the birds. It is for this reason - that the Huns still exist - that I cannot point the finger of accusation at shotgun enthusiasts.

Pen trapping could also take all that are left and if thoughtfully done, could crop any excess birds over the winter months. The idea of such collecting came to mind after seeing partridges, including a covey of over thirty, directly across the road from property in which wire cages were present. The cages were probably used for rabbits or other pets and they have now disappeared. Any scattered food would naturally attract wildlife, and numerous birds concentrated at this particular place. However, these birds and the Huns may have visited the yard to scratch and feed amongst the garden vegetables and ornamental shrubs. Just as there was no proof of hunting, the same must be said of trapping the partridges in cages.

I have seen no evidence of predation. Dogs, raccoons, rats, Great Horned and Snowy Owls, Peregrine Falcons and eagles would be interested parties. Any or all of these would take the Huns inconsistently or get all but a few, but it is difficult to believe that predators would lose interest once only a dozen birds were left. Only one dead bird has been reported - by Mr. Davidson - probably a road kill as he saw it on the edge of Beacon Avenue west of the present highway. Undoubtedly dogs, raccoons or rats could do away with some young birds but hardly all of them year after year, so what happened in 1966 when about twenty young were raised?

This leads on directly to nest mortality which has held my suspicions for many years because of haying and ploughing done persistently in the locality. Gray partridges live and nest in open fields. The nest is most likely next to a clump of grass or under some small shrub. Clutches of up to twenty and more eggs are usual and the incubation period is 3½ weeks. Laying and incubation cover at least a month and locally could take in most of April and part of May. The young, being precocious, are immediately on the move with their mother in search of food, but cannot fly for several weeks. Consequently, the nest and young are most vulnerable to farm machinery as well as predators for about two months. It is possible that every year the nests or recently hatched young would be destroyed by machinery? Once the eggs were hatched all the young could hardly be killed off before reaching the flying stage. One large or several small clutches were successful at least in 1966 when about twenty chicks reached full size by autumn. However, in the following two years these numbers were not evident and by 1969 only fourteen birds apparently remained. In view of all this, I feel that some other factor is involved, one which is the most acceptable to me at present.

The partridges are now confined to a very limited habitat which covers hardly a half square mile. Excluding buildings, roads and small woodlots their area could scarcely be 200 acres. This could be their problem as they are in direct competition for available food with a surprising number of other animals. Crows, pheasants, quail, starlings, robins, blackbirds, skylarks and many other birds and voles, too, all live or feed in the area. Diet for the Hun is much the same as for barnyard fowl with grain and insects the favourite items. Possibly they get something from the oaks, willows, thorns, lupines, ornamental shrubs and the various weeds and grasses which grow about the habitat.

Have I the answer here? Whatever the real reason, a small covey of European Gray Partridges still exists in North Saanich. My latest count was five birds in October 1971, and I would like to think that eight or nine others kept out of my sight during recent trips to the area. I don't intend to look too hard or too closely, and ask that others do the same. Let's not study them to death! Possibly I should have remained silent, but perhaps I've done the

right thing in bringing forth my observations and thoughts. I really hope so as these few precious Huns are all we have left of more than five hundred released so long ago.

One thing is certain. Black top, brush-cut grass and building projects are rapidly replacing the more natural ground cover of open fields, farmland, swamp and woodland which was so characteristic of one of the most beautiful localities in Canada. So what will be the first to go: partridges, skylarks or Easter Lilies?

Ray Beckett

NATURE'S KALEIDOSCOPE

The afternoon of April 23rd was bright and sunny, with some cloud patches, but during this period rain fell quite heavily for a time, with the sunshine continuing. This is the condition in which rainbows appear.

Observing the phenomena, it was noticed that below the regular bow, the band of colours was repeated, seen more clearly when it crossed the cloud patches. This was a "double" rainbow, but as rainbows are not infrequent, the "double" effect rendered it more noteworthy.

On nearby trees raindrops were everywhere forming on leaves and branches, quite clear in the sunshine, even though the rain continued.

From time to time a drop of clear water would suddenly become bright red, like a miniature headlight, with rays streaming from it, but within a few seconds would either drop or become clear again.

Red was the most frequent colour, but similar drops of blue appeared and a few of yellow.

The rainbow and the coloured drops of rain are the effect of the refraction of light. Light rays are bent when passing from a medium of one density into a medium of different density, and the shorter waves of light are refracted - or bent - more than the longer, hence the bands of colour are formed.

Whilst the rainbow is an oft recurring phenomenon, it may be quite possible that few have seen the coloured raindrops, all of which are due to the refraction of light.

I.S.D.

GRIZZLIES

The grizzly bear is the world's largest carnivore (the polar comes next) and the strongest mammal in North America. At one time the grizzly ranged throughout western North America from British Columbia to Winnipeg and south to the Mississippi Valley. However, with the arrival of the white man in North America, the wilderness that was home to the grizzly began to disappear and the number of grizzlies diminished accordingly. Now those remaining live mainly in the Pacific Northwest.

The grizzly bear varies in size from 200 to 1600 pounds, he ranges from 5' to 8' in height, and his natural life span is twenty-five years. Many have a silvery appearance due to whitish tipping of their fur - hence the name "grizzly". The word "grizzly" seems to have an evil connotation. The Oxford dictionary mentions that the grizzly is "the large, fierce North American kind" of bear. The bear seems to have been judged and proven guilty and largely by those who don't know him. Nobody seems to have a kind word to say about the grizzly but this is due mainly to ignorance.

Female grizzlies den up in October or November. They give birth to one, two or three cubs every other year in late February or early March, after a ten-month gestation period. The cubs are born blind, hairless and helpless and weigh from one-half to two pounds at birth. The mother stays with her cubs that first summer and takes them to her den again the following autumn. The next summer the young cubs follow her around but the mother manages to get away from them long enough to breed. At this point she has to rid herself of them so that she can den alone that second winter in preparation for her coming brood. Occasionally a mother, like a human mother, will be loath to let her babies go, so she'll take them to her den a second time. She'll come out in the spring exhausted and worn to a frazzle with two sets of cubs.

All females go into their dens and stay there, but the males sometimes get up and prowl around, depending on the weather. Often they'll dig a hole in the snow, sleep for a week or so, get up, cavort for a while and then go to sleep again.

In hibernation the body temperature of the bear drops, its heart action slows down and its respiration decreases, but unlike some hibernating animals its physiological functions continue. The grizzly wakes readily if disturbed.

When he comes out of his den in the spring, he wears the coat he went in with, including the layers of fat. For four or five days he is not hungry, so he walks around exercising and readjusting his bowels and kidneys to the new regimen. Soon, however, he regains his appetite and eats constantly until he goes back into hibernation the following fall. He will eat anything that is available - salmon, berries, grubs, bees, bugs, mice and moose.

After hibernation and when his innards are clean he starts to remove his itchy winter fur. This he does by finding a good rubbing tree, scratching it until it produces pitch and then rubbing his neck in the pitch to get off the extra fur. For two weeks he rubs until his fur is matted with pitch, his skin rubbed raw, and he is spotted with open sores. After this his fur is allowed to grow luxurious and thick for fall. At this stage the bears are unusually wary and alert and stay well away from any humans.

The eyesight of grizzlies is only mediocre. Until the white man came, the bear had no need of his eyes for defense. He cannot distinguish a motionless form at anything but close range. Often a grizzly will come towards an object simply to have a better look rather than with malicious intent. However, his ears are very sharp and his nose incredibly sensitive. A bear will normally wind a human being and be well out of the way long before the person arrives on the scene.

One hears of the scratches and bites made by grizzlies on certain trees. These are probably done through simple excess energy and a feeling of well-being while the bear is walking through the woods.

It has been said that the cubs are the only grizzlies who climb trees. This is not so. However not all bears will climb - if one is in the situation of running from a provoked grizzly he would be well advised to attempt to make it up a tree than not to try at all!! The grizzly is also capable of swimming strongly.

Naturally grizzlies are not one hundred percent predictable - who is? However, it is true that if warned of your presence bears, like all wild animals, will keep away from humans. It is necessary to understand that the grizzly usually minds his own business and is docile until threatened. Civilization is threatening the bears and their wilderness habitat. Let's make an effort to let those remaining splendid beasts live in peace.

Ann Eberts

GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 1971

Ninety-eight attended the meeting held in the Newcombe Auditorium.

Following the reading of minutes of the previous meeting, three announcements of note were made.

Doctor Sparling informed members that \$5,000.00 had been realized to date for the G. Clifford Carl Memorial Bursary Fund and that further support can be given by attending the various functions (to be announced) this winter sponsored by the Friends of the Museum. Perhaps it could help to realize another \$5,000.00.

Mrs. J.A. Maxwell came forward as co-ordinator for a car pool to provide transportation for members to and from meetings. (see below)

Mr. Cy Morehen put in a very good plug for the 1970 Bird Report book and suggested buying second or third copies as Christmas gifts for those interested friends elsewhere.

After business was adjourned Mrs. J. Woollett entertained with really fine slides of intertidal life at Clover Point, the Breakwater, and Long Beach. Sea anemones, barnacles, crabs, and many species of starfish were captured by this topnotch photographer. It is truly a pity that more members were not present to experience Mrs. Woollett's forty-minute presentation.

To close the pleasant evening, refreshments and talk were shared in the museum staff coffee room.

Ray Beckett

TRANSPORTATION TO MEETINGS

Any members who would like to help by driving others to meetings, either regularly or on occasions, are asked to leave their names with Mrs. Maxwell (384-0083) or Mrs. B. Dickieson (477-1034).

Members who would like a ride can call the same numbers, preferably at least the day before the meeting.

BIRD FIELD TRIP - OCTOBER 16, 1971

About three dozen people gathered on a bright sunny Saturday, October 16, for a trip that was to take us to a number of places in the Metchosin area.

Our first stop was Witty's Lagoon. The estuary there held a variety of ducks - Green-winged Teal, Mallards, Pintails and others - and some shorebirds - Killdeer, Dunlin, and Black-bellied Plover. But most delightful were the squawks of several Ravens who flapped and glided over our heads, calling to one another all the time.

We then moved south on Metchosin Road to Taylor Beach, where we ate our lunch on the shore. The sea held a large number of grebes and scoters, and some loons. Three Common Snipe flew overhead.

Driving back on Taylor Road, after lunch, our leader, Dr. Jeremy Tatum, spotted a Peregrine Falcon hunting over the fields. A number of people were able to get a good enough look at this uncommon bird to see its black moustaches. On stopping to look at the Peregrine, we saw several other hawks, adding the Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and Pigeon Hawks to the day's list.

We then moved on to our next stop which was All-bridge Point, near Beechy Head. This was a new birding area for many on the trip, and after some initial hurdles, it yielded a lovely walk along the cliffs. The birds there, however, were very similar to those of Taylor Beach with the addition of some Buffleheads, a noisy pair of Belted Kingfishers, and some stately Great Blue Herons feeding on the kelp offshore.

This officially ended the trip, but a number of observers stopped in at Esquimalt Lagoon on the way home. There, between them, they saw 16 Horned Larks, 11 Lapland Longspurs, and a Snow Bunting to add to the day's list.

Barbara McLintock

MOTHER'S NIGHT OUT or FIVE LITTLE FINCHES
AND HOW THEY ALMOST DIDN'T GROW

It was about 8:15 p.m. that July evening when we went to say goodnight to the family of House Finches nesting in a tall juniper just outside our upstairs window. The five nestlings were there all right but the female finch had not yet returned. We checked again at 8:30 p.m. Again at 8:45 and 9:00. Still no mother. We began to worry. Was something wrong? Three times we circled the house searching for a finch who might have struck a window. No dead or injured finches.

Now it was 9.30. All other small birds were gone. All were silent. Only Mother Finch was still away from her nest. This was truly serious. The helpless nestlings were huddled in the nest, barely discernable in the dusk.

At 10:00 p.m. in desperation we telephoned Dr. Jeremy Tatum for advice. There followed a long, involved discussion: What could have happened to the mother? Does the male take over in cases of emergency? If we left them alone would the nestlings die of exposure during the night? Should we bring them in? If we did, what would we feed them? How often? How could we feed them properly? What were their chances of survival? (Very slim, Doctor Tatum thought). We decided to leave them alone for the night and review the situation in the morning.

Hoping they would survive but fearing that they would not, we finally went to bed and troubled sleep. Early next morning we went with faint hearts to the window. We expected to see five dead little finches. Dead? Indeed not. There was Mother Finch feeding her lively family. All was well.

We are still wondering - did Mother Finch, weary of looking after her demanding young, decide to have a night out? Or does the female finch, having had enough of sleepless nights in a crowded nest full of bouncing nestlings, leave them at night on their own when they are big enough to keep each other warm? Does she then spend the nights on a more comfortable perch nearby? We do not know the answers to these questions but we do know that the best thing to do when nestlings seem to be abandoned is - leave them alone.

What a calamity it would have been if we had taken the little birds in that night only to have the parents

looking for them next day. In our care, they would not likely have survived but, leaving them alone, we gave the mother a chance to come back and feed her family. We had the privilege, thanks to Doctor Tatum's good advice, of watching those five little finches develop and grow strong. Finally, about ten days after that July evening, they flexed their wings and, under the guidance of both parents, left the nest and flew away. Now, when we see them at the feeders, we are glad we left them alone that night.

Gladys and Bill Abbott

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. B. Gow	2859 Scott Street
Mr. and Mrs. S. Mitchell	3930 Braefoot Road
Mrs. Mary M. Lines	Maple Bay, R.R.1, Duncan, B.C.
Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Clarke	3535 Redwood Avenue
Mrs. Kay Clarke	3780 Savannah Road
Mrs. R.W. Morton	208-1035 McClure Street
Miss Heather Hayler	2519 Amherst Avenue East Sidney, B.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley C. Hall	2647 Dunlevy Street
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Campbell	4014 Cedarwood Street
Mr. and Mrs. G. Gardner	7090 Brentwood Drive Brentwood Bay
Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Brigham	2053 Frederick Norris Road Victoria

THE EDITOR'S MAIL BOX.....

We make no apology for all the stories about Grizzlies. Ches Lyon's story and D. Belton's in October started Ann Eberts on a little research and we think you will find it interesting.

Incidentally, we find that we cannot print long letters from our readers, and as editing tends to take away from the intent of your message, our suggestion is: "Keep it short, and just give us the punch lines!" But keep them coming. At least we know you are thinking.

BIRDS REPORTED

by M. and L. Slocombe, 3134 Henderson Road (592-9047)

Imm. Franklin's gull (1) - October 10	-----	Clover Point
Least sandpiper (1) - October 16	-----	Esquimalt Lagoon
Golden plover (2) - October 16 and 17	----	Oak Bay Golf Course
Rock sandpiper (1) - October 17	-----	Clover Point
		Ron Satterfield
Western bluebird (6) - October 20	-----	Spender Road
		M. Pickford and L. Roberts
Heermann's gull (22) - October 21	-----	Clover Point
Oyster catcher (64) - October 23	-----	Oak Bay
		A.R. Davidson
Northern shrike (1) - October 23	-----	Alpine Crescent
		Mrs. Hooper
Short-billed dowitcher (3) - October 23	----	Oak Bay Golf Course
		Ron Satterfield
Ring-necked duck (12) - October 30		Florence Lake
Snow bunting (2) - November 4		Clover Point
		E.K. Lemon
Pine grosbeak (4) - November 6		Bedford Woods
		R. McKenzie-Grieve
Common scoter (4) - November 6		Towner Bay
		A.R. Davidson

ADDENDA

A Brambling has been reported at Reifel Refuge - a first for B.C. if it proves to be wild.

Mr. Davidson spotted twelve skylarks on campus and five dippers at Goldstream which is welcome news. Norman Fatt reports Beaver Lake has been sheltering large numbers of geese, including one White-fronted goose.

Mr. and Mrs. G.J. Jackson's garden might be dubbed "Woodpecker Haven" - all three of our local species appear to have nested successfully nearby and are frequent visitors.

Doctor Houston has had luck spotting raptors. A Saw-whet owl took a ten-minute sojourn in his chicken run, a Cooper's hawk dispatched one of his tame pigeons and he reports seeing a pigeon hawk frequent the downtown area - its favourite perch is the antenna atop the Medical Arts Building.

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 1971

- Executive Meeting: 8:00 p.m. Board Room 104M
 Tuesday December 7: Provincial Museum
- General Meeting: 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium Pro-
 vincial Museum (south entrance)
 Tuesday December 14: Mr. J.E. Underhill ponders the
 fate of an area where people and
 nature compete for a very limited
 water supply as he presents:
 "Some Thoughts on
 The Okanogan Valley"
- Duncan Bird Count: Compiler; J.J. Comer
 Saturday December 18: R.R.1, Duncan
- Pender Islands Count: Compilers; Mr. and Mrs. A. Brooks
 Tuesday December 21: R.R.1, Port Washington
- Victoria Bird Count: Compiler; J.B. Tatum (contact be-
 fore December 19 if participating)
 Sunday December 26:
- Vancouver Bird Count: Compiler; W.C. Campbell, Department
 Sunday December 26: of Zoology, U.B.C.
- Comox Bird Count: Compilers; Mr. and Mrs. S. Belsom
 Monday December 27: Box 308, Comox
- Ornithology Meeting: 8:00 p.m. Board Room 401
 Tuesday December 8: Provincial Museum

According to latest reports from the United States environmental protection agencies, coloured paper tissues do not contribute to pollution problems or reduce septic tank and sewage system efficiency. "There is no problem with the consumer using coloured tissue," the U.S. Federal Environmental Protection Agency says. Coloured tissue warnings have now been removed from the "beware" lists offered by both private and public protectionist agencies.

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Ornithology: Rod Muirhead, 3431 Salisbury Way - - - - - 384-6005
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Ornithology Records: Dr. Jeremy Tatum, (see address above)
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Friends of the Museum: Dr. D.B. Sparling, #9-1354 Beach Dr. - - - 598-4262
A.D. Turnbull, 3614 Cadboro Bay Rd. - - - 592-6025
Publicity: Harold Hosford, 450 Tipton St. - - - - - 478-5794

"The Victoria Naturalist"

Editor: Roy D. Wainwright, 3250 Exeter Road - - - - - 592-1310
Assistant Editor: Mrs. David Stirling, 3500 Salisbury Way - - - - 385-4223

Annual Dues, including subscription: Single \$3; Family \$5; Junior \$2
Junior Membership is restricted to those not under 9½ years and not over 18 years.

Financial Year is May 1 to April 30.

New members joining after January 1 - half fee.

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