



THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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PEA COCKLES

Although we often think of bivalve molluscs (Pelecypoda) as primarily marine animals, this is far from the case. There are many different freshwater species ranging in size from the huge Swan Mussels to the tiny Pea Cockles illustrated on this month's cover. The life-histories of many of these freshwater bivalves are quite extraordinary and there is at least one species that produces passably good pearls.

The tiniest of these molluscs are the Orb Cockles Sphaerium and the still tinier Pea Cockles Pisidium. We cannot be certain without a closer examination, but from their size, the animals on the cover are surely Pisidium. They occur in a variety of habitats, according to species, but, in the muddy bottoms of ditches and slowly-moving streams, or among the roots and leaves of waterweeds, they sometimes occur in astonishing concentrations. There they form an important part of the diet of some birds such as Mallards, which doubtless make good use in their diet, not only of the mollusc itself but also of its calcereous shell. Birds are also agents for the dispersal of these little cockles, which pinch themselves on to a bird's leg by snapping their two valves together.

The animals are fascinating to watch in an aquarium. They are far from inert, and they have a little foot which they protrude from between the two shells and use to clamber about among the waterweeds. The animals are hermaphrodites and produce almost fully formed young viviparously.

We would normally expect to find these animals in water of course, but Jack Ralph found the ones illustrated on the cover on the dry forest floor near Parksville. There are some extraordinary records of some species surviving for months in dried-up ponds, and the ones Jack found were probably from a locality that

gets flooded in the winter. Apparently the cockles are able to prevent desiccation simply by closing their two shells tightly together.

There are many different species, each doubtless with its own habitat requirements, and the group would undoubtedly repay a careful ecological study.

Story by Jeremy Tatum
Cover photo by Jack Ralph

KEEP THE BLUEBIRD FLYING

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the B.C. Division of the Canadian Arthritic and Rheumatism Society, C.A.R.S.

The Western Bluebird was formerly a fairly common bird on Vancouver Island, but is now quite uncommon, probably because of competition for nesting sites with the introduced Starling.

A printer's error? Two paragraphs from different magazines mixed up? No, these two paragraphs really are connected.

The symbol of C.A.R.S., the symbol of hope for sufferers from these crippling illnesses, is the bluebird, and, for the sheer joy of celebrating their twenty-fifth birthday, C.A.R.S. is organizing a Province-wide competition to build nextboxes for attracting bluebirds.

I am officially the coordinator of the project on Vancouver Island, but all the hard work locally has been done by Mrs. Florence Pratt, Mrs. Virginia Bartkow and Dr. Verna Vilkos. Several local concerns have also been most helpful. For example, Eaton's will provide window space for a publicity exhibit. Several firms have donated prizes, including Eaton's, the H.B.C., Munro's Bookstore, Simpson Sears, K-Mart and the Julian Book Store. I know there are some real goodies, such as Godfrey's Birds of Canada and the Larousse Encyclopedia of Animal Life, Larousse Encyclopedia of Wild Flowers of the World and others, which will be on display at Eaton's. One lumber firm, Messrs. Mitchell and Anderson of Sidney

have offered to give to the first five children that come in as much wood as they need to construct their nestboxes.

To enter, all you have to do is to build a nestbox suitable for bluebirds, and remember that judging is done on the basis of the most creative use of natural materials. Wayne Campbell recommends a 1½" hole 6" above the floor, and no perch. The rest is up to you. Bring your box to the Nature House at Miracle Beach, or to the Bowen Park Complex at Nanaimo, or the Evos Park Nature House at Duncan or to Francis Park Nature House in the period June 3 - 16 (Francis Park, June 3 - 24).

Principal Judge for the Vancouver Island competition will be Freeman King. The Day of Judgment is June 25, at Francis Park. Up-island boxes will be brought down in time for the competition by the competition organizers. You may have your box back, or you can donate it to the Victoria Natural History Society who will erect it in suitable territory where the bird group knows that bluebirds are likely to nest, or who may donate it to a camp for crippled children.

The very best boxes from Vancouver Island will be sent to Vancouver to take part in the grand Province-wide competition, judged by Professor Ian McTaggart Cowan and Fenwick Lansdowne, and top prizes include the splendid Fenwick Lansdowne books of bird paintings. There are three age categories, 6-16, 17-60, and 61 and up.

There is no entry fee, and C.A.R.S. is not even asking for donations. When it is all over, I shall probably send them a little something myself, and in case any of you feel likewise I'll let you know their address, which is: Canadian Arthritic and Rheumatism Society, 895 West 10th, Vancouver, B.C.

Whether you want to help bluebirds, rheumatism victims or crippled children, now is your chance to do all three at one go. So get out these tools, watch the newspapers, and, if you need more information, please contact Mrs. Virginia Bartkow, 2772 Vantilburg Crescent, Victoria, telephone 478-5320.

Jeremy Tatum.

BIRD FIELD TRIP

The bird trip on Resthaven Hospital on March 18 was primarily for beginning birdwatchers. Only eight hardy souls joined Dr. Tatum for a successful morning in spite of an overcast sky and howling gale!

We worked our way around the shore to various bays and wharves, seeing water fowl such as: Common Loon in summer plumage, Western and Horned Grebes, (but no Eared Grebes), a small flock of Black Turnstones and Surfbirds, large numbers of American Widgeon and Black Brant, and several Oldsquaw. At Bazan Bay we were fortunate to see two pairs of Common Scoter in the company of Scaup.

We then crossed the peninsula to Brentwood Bay where the wind was not as strong. There we spotted a Pigeon Guillemot, Red-necked Grebes, and Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorants. In spite of the weather, 30 species were seen and the remaining four birders dispersed for lunch and to warm up.

-- Anne Knowles.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

How does one begin to personally thank many friends for a very handsome present, when you do not know their names? Therefore the only means at my disposal is one that seems so very impersonal -- a thank-you note in the magazine.

I can assure you all that the Carousel projector you so very kindly gave me on my retirement from the chairmanship of the Audubon Wildlife Films is very much appreciated. The kind remarks of our President, Dr. J.B. Tatum and the letters from Mr. Elvis J. Stahr and Mr. W.E. Gowan, the president and director of the lecture department of the National Audubon Society in New York were most welcome. To those who organized the scheme, I offer a special thank you.

I should be sharing my gift with many people. If it had not been for the wonderful co-operation I have received during the last 15 years, it would have been impossible to run the films.

-- Enid Lemon

SOCIETY FINANCES

An Executive Statement of Policy

The current session has been a busy one for the Executive of our Society, and one of its biggest tasks, in response to queries from members, has been to make a very thorough study of the financial position of the Society. The detailed position was examined by a Finance Subcommittee which presented a report with recommendations to the Executive; the Executive in turn examined the principles and implications of this report with the utmost care.

In preparing its recommendations, the Executive and its Finance Subcommittee examined in detail the financial statements and reports of the last few years, the minutes of the general and Executive meetings, the long-standing traditions of our Society, and its aims, purposes and future needs. The Executive is conscious of the need not only to serve the members in the best way possible, but also to maintain the purpose of the Society, which is to study and protect wild animals, plants and their habitats.

With these principles, together with the detailed facts and figures of all aspects of our financial affairs, the Executive and its Finance Subcommittee, after careful study, recommends the following guidelines concerning the use of the Society's funds:

1. The General Account of the Society, for which the main income is from dues, is to be responsible for the day-to-day running expenses of the Society, including the Victoria Naturalist, and income into this Account should be sufficient wholly to cover these expenses.

2. The Balance of the Audubon Account is to be divided into two parts:

- (a) A Reserve to guarantee the payment of the contract with the National Audubon Society for the following year's Audubon shows. The amount of this reserve should be sufficient to cover the amount of this contract.

(b) The Surplus funds, over and above the Reserve mentioned in 2(a), to be used or set aside for conservation or educational purposes, specifically including support of the Francis Park Board and the employment by the Board of a student or students.

It was decided that no portion of the Audubon Balance should be transferred to the General Account.

3. The Life Membership Account is to continue as a separate account in order to provide an annual sum in lieu of dues from the Life Members of the Society.

4. Commencing with the 1973 award, the University Scholarship is to be increased so as to equal approximately the interest from the bonds held in the Scholarship Account, and no part of the income from that account is to be transferred to the General Account.

5. The Publications Account is to be used on a revolving basis to fund, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, publications authorized by the Society, and profits from such publications may be used to increase the fund.

Copies of these recommendations will be deposited in the files of the President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Registrar of Companies.

-- Jeremy B. Tatum, President

SOCIETY FINANCES: A Comment

As editor, pro-tem only, and an old member of the Society, also a long time book-keeper, I am strongly opposed to the implications of the above statement on the Society's finances.

In my opinion, all revenue received, whether in the form of dues, donations or derived from the Audubon lectures, should be part of the general account, to be used to enhance the usefulness of the society.

Otherwise it seems inevitable that dues will be increased, which, considering the healthy state of our finances, is unnecessary.

-- A.R. Davidson

IN MEMORIAM ARTHUR HERBERT MARRION

Our society lost a valued member in the death of Mr. A.H. (Bert) Marrion in February 28. We knew him as an expert geologist, as chairman of the once active geological section, as one of those men who gave so much to the society and helped to bring it to the forefront of natural history societies in Canada with his interesting and knowledgeable writings and lectures.

Mr. Marrion joined the society in 1944, and so was a charter member. From April 1954 to May, 1965, he was on the executive, retiring from that position for health reasons.

He contributed many articles for the Victoria Naturalist for 20 years -- 1947 to 1967 --, one of his series being a complete outline of the waterfront geology from the Outer Wharf to Hollywood Crescent, which was covered in eight articles.

Expert geologists are scarce. Since his retirement, we have no one to carry on his work, which at that time was an essential part of the society.

Most of his friends knew him as a well-loved -- and active -- member of the Emmanuel Baptist Church for about 60 years. Curiously enough I was a member back in 1913, though I never met him until I joined the society in 1948.

The members of the Victoria Natural History Society extend their sympathy to his family in their loss. He will be missed.

-- A.R. Davidson

BEHOLD THE TIMID MOUSE

The vagrancies of a lecture tour take one to New York occasionally. A further ignominy is to descend to the grimy nether regions in search of a subway train.

Two track levels beneath the city's traffic its a ferocious din of screeching wheels as brakes clamp tight on metal and expresses rocket past. Every few minutes, all day, all night, this fearsome clamour goes on.

Out of a tiny hole beneath a rail a mouse scampers. It expertly checks candy wrappers for a trace of chocolate, flips open papers, sniffs into cartons.

Then as a pitiless crescendo of sound announces a train thundering in at 40 m.p.h., the searcher, with split second timing, scurries into a depression beneath a track. Two inches over an ounce of conditioned mouse 10 tons of slamming wheels pound on iron to bring the monster to a shuddering stop.

-- Chess Lyons.

* * * * *

At the General Meeting of the Society on Tuesday April 10th, an address was given by Dr. P. Warrington on the nature of northern British Columbia, ranging from the Alaska Highway to Stewart. This lecture was well illustrated with slides of plants, mammals, geology and birds, and was much appreciated by a large audience.

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MORE HONOURS FOR V.N.H.S. SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Members will be pleased to hear that further honours have been conferred on Willa Noble and Andrew Harcombe, both former winners of the Natural History Society Scholarship.

Willa was selected to be one of the 50 students in Canada who this year will receive the "1967 Science Scholarship" of \$5,500 each. The National Research Council of Canada scholarship won by Andrew is valued at \$4,050.

Congratulations, Willa and Andrew!

-- Rosemary Picozzi

THE EPISODE OF THE SAW-WHET OWL

On the afternoon of the 22nd of January a small owl was found in a garden on Central Avenue by a small boy, Paul Shorting, who lived in the house. It had been caught by the leg in some netting and apparently had been struggling to free itself for some time, as it appeared exhausted. Mrs. Shorting managed to free the owl and brought it into the house, putting it into a small cage. Then she phoned a friend, who notified Grace Bell who called on me, and we went to the house immediately.

There was the little owl, gazing solemnly at us, and it really is a small bird, about an inch shorter than a robin. We were fairly sure it was a saw-whet, a bird few of us had ever seen. It is on our bird checklist all right, but marked 'rare'.

Word got around, birders arrived, all very anxious to see it. And the children of the house were just as interested as we were. By this time Mrs. Shorting knew she had an unusual bird, and was very patient with her influx of visitors, one of whom was Fenwick Lansdowne, who confirmed the identification.

Harold Hosford also came out and took the opportunity of securing its portrait, an excellent way of proving its identity to sceptical birders, and there are many of us. In the meantime Mrs. Shorting had managed to induce it to eat some meat, and as it had patently recovered, it was taken into the garden - by that time it was getting toward evening - and released, and away it flew into the darkness.

I might add that this was my first sighting of a live saw-whet owl in all the years of birding. We have found one or two during their migrating season, but only as victims of our fast moving traffic, the last one a year ago on Dallas Road.

-- A.R. Davidson

WILL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDS ON APRIL 30th, SO DUES FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR ARE NOW PAYABLE

NATURALISTS CAN 'DO SOMETHING'

The recent press announcement quoting the Department of Recreation and Conservation Minister's concern for predatory birds and his banning of further capture of Peregrine Falcons demonstrates once again the fact that naturalists can indeed do something to preserve wildlife.

The Minister's action came about largely in response to letters from aroused naturalists. Mrs. A.C. Brooks, of Pender Island, was courageous enough to write to the Minister expressing 'shock' in learning that one of the few remaining viable Peregrine Falcon populations was to be 'harvested' again this summer. Hawks and owls, with few exceptions, are threatened all over the world. A few species are still common in British Columbia but should we wait until they have almost disappeared before we act?

Naturalists are often accused of being a 'do nothing' bunch. Mrs. Brooks has shown that this is not so.

-- David Stirling.

SALESMAN OR SALESLADY REQUIRED

Are you aggressive, belligerent, ambitious? Do you want to start upon a highly successful career in salesmanship with a major industrial exporting firm with international connections? If so, we probably can't help you.

Nevertheless, we do need two or three people who would be willing to sell our publications (Net of Naturalists, Bird Checklist, Bird Report) and F.B.C.N. decals at general meetings and at the Audubon film shows. It would be very much appreciated if we had a few volunteers to help with this. Please get in touch with me (305-1680 Poplar Avenue, Victoria, or phone 477-1089) if you would like to help the Society in this way.

-- Jeremy Tatum

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA -- A PERSONAL SELECTION. By Eliot Porter, published by E.P. Dutton and Co., New York.

The latest important addition to the society's library is a copy of the above book, donated by Mrs. Ruth McLintock, whose daughter, Barbara edits the Victoria Naturalist.

I think Eliot Porter can be classified as the premier wildlife photographer of North America, and this large book is a perfect example of his work. It contains 136 illustrations in full colour, accompanied by the appropriate text.

A book of this nature is a tribute to the patience and skill of the photographer, aided by the astonishing electronic devices and other technological improvements in camera equipment. Nowadays all the detail of the birds and their immediate surroundings can be shown in perfect focus, which was impossible a few years ago.

More than half of the photos are of birds at their nests, which we always regard with some apprehension, but Mr. Porter appears to have taken every precaution to see that the birds were not so disturbed as to desert the nest.

As Mr. Porter remarks in this introduction, these photographs are a selection of his work covering almost half a century, and should have the result of making many people more conscious of our bird life and more considerate of its welfare.

-- Reviewed by A.R. Davidson

PROGRESS

Thanks largely to the efforts of Elton Anderson, nature clubs are sprouting all over the province, the count now being around twenty-one. Almost in home territory is the latest to come into being; the Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ruby Alton of Fulford Harbour.

In no time at all membership rose to 77, and no fewer than 40 took part in the first birding trip. The club provides for both naturalists and hikers in its program of weekly outings. A list of the club's activities is published ahead in the local weekly paper the 'Driftwood', and this is supplemented at times by considerable telephoning which takes care of the publicity.

Salt Spring Island has a population of about 3500. If Victoria showed even half the enthusiasm we would need the Arena for our monthly meetings and a fleet of buses for our field trips! Our congratulations and good wishes to the lively and energetic members of the Trail and Nature Club.

-- Katherine M. Sherman

BIRD FIELD TRIP TO DUNGENESS SPIT

A week-end trip to Dungeness Spit (near Port Angeles) will be led by Ruth Stirling on Saturday May 12th and Sunday May 13th.

We shall leave on the M.V. 'Coho' at 10 a.m. on the 12th. It is most important that you have your cars at the ferry AT LEAST one hour ahead of sailing time.

Saturday night will be spent either at the campground, or at a motel in Port Angeles. Please arrange your own overnight accommodation.

On Sunday the 13th we shall return via the 'Coho', leaving Port Angeles at 2.45 p.m. The car fare is \$7.00 one way, the round trip group fare for 10 to 24 persons is \$4.25 each (adults), \$2.13 (students).

Please let Mrs. Wainwright (phone 592-1310) know by May 3rd (a) if you are going, (b) if you need transportation, (c) if you can offer transportation.

-- Rosemary Picozzi

JUNIOR JOTTINGS

There are some excellent trails at Witty's Lagoon Park now, and a very rewarding afternoon was spent there by the Juniors in mid-March. The waterfall is popular and along this trail some early Erythronium oreganum were spotted. Buffleheads and Mallards were seen in the lagoon, and at the old log cabin, we found pseudoscorpions.

The Juniors and Intermediates spent one Saturday each, planning and working on collections or displays, which culminated in the 'Junior Exhibition' at Francis Park on April 7th. Life found in the swamps is of interest to several members, as seen in the displays of Craig Farnden, Chris Walsh and Tim Brigham. Robbie Reid and Roger Pollard worked on a 'terrarium' with examples of flowering plants, as did Kathy Archibould and Linda Watts. Ken Whittaker had a good geology display. Elizabeth Murray and Rosanna Farnden had made an excellent sampling of water from various sources and set up a microscope for observation of their samples. Felicity Foster compiled information on Deer, and Elinor Foster and Clare Singleton made a display on 'Protection of B.C. Mammals'. Linda and Nancy Schraeder exhibited some pressed and mounted plants and Rick Harcombe displayed his collection of moths and butterflies. Cheryl McGavin produced an elaborate and popular quiz for bird identification. Robin Marles led a nature walk along one of the trails. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone in this brief outline of the exhibits. Thank you parents and senior group for supporting this event.

(P.S.) I refrain from using the word adult since I overheard our 3-year old tell her brother: 'I'm not having any adults at my party - only people!'

-- Gail Mitchell

CORRECTION:

The Hooded Merganser pictured on the March cover was inadvertently attributed to Harold Hosford instead of to Stuart Johnston, for which error, we apologize.

FIEDLER
The story of a Rufous Hummingbird

by Margaret Wainwright

Last May, Ginny and Jack Whitelaw had been watching a Rufous Hummingbird feeding her two nestlings that had hatched on May 19 at their cottage near Horse-shoe Bay. A week later the mother deserted. When she did not return after 24 hours and they knew the birds would die, they lifted the nest and brought it home. Little did they know what this simple act of mercy would entail!

One bird succumbed, but the other, christened Fiedler, remained triumphantly alive. His survival was only possible because of the total and intelligent devotion of his foster parents who gave their full attention to him, enlisting the support of a UBC professor of animal behavior, the dietetic department of the Health Centre for Children (Jack is a pediatrician), and all the literature on hummingbirds they could find, especially Scheithauer and Greenewalt.

Warmth and food were of course the main necessities. The warmth was provided by a heating pad under the nest, but food was more difficult. The first day they fed him sugar and water with a little egg yolk, through a sawn-off hypo needle. Then the dietician came up with a formula of raw egg, milk powder, dextra maltose, vitamin drops, baby beef, honey and boiled water, fed through a special pipette provided by the professor. Ginny would cover the nest with her hand until she felt Fiedler bumping against it, then remove her hand quickly and as Fiedler gaped, push the pipette into his throat. It was hit and miss, but enough got down. As he got used to it, he would thrust his beak up and over the pipette himself. The pouches on each side of his bare throat would balloon and then gradually subside as the food was digested, indicating when another feeding was required. At first the feedings were every hour all day, a very demanding schedule for a new mother, and Ginny was more or less confined to the house for weeks. Confined she may have been, but lonely she was not. As the news of Fiedler spread, scores of people, whole families in fact, arrived at the door to see him.

The Rufous Hummingbird young is not a beautiful baby. No one but a mother could love him. Being an altricial type of nestling, he had only a few pin-feathers, a black skin covering his head and membranes over his eyes. At nine days he was less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. However, he thrived and grew feathers, and by the time I saw him in July he was a sturdy 2.68 grams. His adult weight would be three grams.

Fiedler's progress toward flight was interesting. Almost from the beginning of his life, he had begun to preen himself in preparation. By July 6, he had been flying for some time, though not well, and when held in the hand would whirr his wings like a moth. He could not yet hover. On that day Ginny put a half-inch of water in a shallow pan in his cage. Fiedler scooped his bill along the water and over his back and really got wet; then he proceeded to fluff and preen himself thoroughly. From that day he was able to fly well and to hover.

When more protein was needed in his diet, *Drosophila* (fruit fly) was introduced, at first mashed into a wad and dropped into his throat. About mid-July he got bored with dead flies and graduated to live ones. A closed plastic bag containing cantaloupe rich with flies was opened. Fiedler's cage door was also opened and as the flies drifted out of the bag he would soar out of his cage, and, flick, a fly would disappear. He'd then perch on a lamp shade to look over the situation before darting after another one. He took about five or six flies two or three times a day. When fall came and there were no more *drosophila* around, they were provided by UBC where research is being done on them. One batch, obviously the result of experimentation, proved to have wings only on the left side and couldn't fly. How weird and wonderful are the ways of research.

During the summer Fiedler was housed in a large and grand cage with perches, water, flowers (which had attracted him almost from the time his eyes opened), and a large pipette of formula. He was without fear of human beings, and on very friendly terms with Ginny and Jack who were no doubt imprinted as his parents. He wel-

comed them with chitterings and perched on their shoulders. When his cage was outside, he had other visitors too. The wild hummingbirds coming to the nearby feeders were attracted to him, and one female was most attentive. Fiedler would display for her, flying first backwards and putting his tail up and over his back, and then forwards, tucking his tail down and forward. She in turn would hover, fanning out her tail to show the black and white spots.

By August Fiedler's scrawny neck was beginning to have its first iridescent red feathers and at 3½ months he displayed the full glorious gorget of the adult male. With his green back, rusty sides and spectacular throat, he was a very handsome bird. In the wild the gorget would not have appeared until the following spring, but Ginny thinks the added vitamins he was getting produced the colour earlier.

One interesting phenomenon of behavior caused great concern when it first happened. Fiedler was sitting on a lamp by the living room window when a robin just outside happened to drop from the eaves to the ground. Fiedler instantly fell to the floor, fluttered and flopped as if hurt, and then lay still. Ginny thought he was dead, but it was only a "death feint" in response to what he must have thought was a predator diving on him.

I very much regret to say that Fiedler died in January. He had had an infection in his foot and that presumably was the cause of death. He is greatly missed. It is extraordinary how important so small a being can become. This is the first instance in the literature that a humming-bird was raised from so early an age as eight days to maturity. Really an enormous achievement with a corresponding sense of loss.

BIRDS REPORTED

February 13th to April 17th

Bullock's Oriole	(1)	Feb. 13th	Madrona Farm Karl Foord
Rusty Blackbird	(1)	Feb. 14th	Hillside at Shelbourne. Bob Hay

Common Teal, male	(1)	Feb. 22nd	Somenos Lake Mr. & Mrs. Vic Goodwill
Band-tailed Pigeon	(42)	Feb. 24th	U. Vic Campus
Hutton's Vireo	(1)	Feb. 24th	Wallace Drive Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Davidson
Northern Shrike	(1)	Feb. 26th	Jubilee Hospital Dr. G.F. Houston
Slate coloured Junco	(1)	Mar 1st	Exeter Road Mr. & Mrs. R. Wainwright
Steller Jay	(2)	Mar 1st	Cooper's Cove Betty Gibson
Gadwall, pair	(2)	Mar 3rd	Ascot Road Enid Lemon
Hutton Vireo	(1)	Mar 7th	Cherry Point Mr. & Mrs. Vic Goodwill
Evening Grosbeak	(65)	Mar 8th	Cooper's Cove Betty Gibson
Townsend Solitaire	(1)	Mar 10th	Patricia Bay Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Davidson
American Bittern	(1)	Mar 13th	Millstream Road Bob Hay
Audubon Warbler	(1)	Mar 16th	View Royal Eileen Davidson
Rufous Hummingbird	(1)	Mar 17th	Cordova Bay Mrs. B. McH. Gow
Redhead Ducks	(2)	Mar 17th	St. Mary Lake S.S.I. Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Davidson
Townsend Solitaire	(1)	Mar 19th	Oak Bay Mrs. E. Lansdowne
Blue Jay	(1)	Mar 19th	Bissenden Place S. Jefferson
Wilson Phalarope	(1)	Mar 20th	Ross Bay Enid Lemon
Turkey Vulture	(1)	Mar 25th	Malahat Pat Swift
Yellow-shafted Flicker	(1)	April 7th	Beacon Hill Park Enid Lemon
Barn Swallow	(1)	April 14th	Carey Road
Chipping Sparrow	(1)	April 14th	Eva Place Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Davidson
Golden-crowned Sparrow	(1)	April 16th	Henderson Road M. and L. Slocombe
Solitary Vireo	(3)	April 17th	Royal Oak Drive Tuesday Group
Yellowthroat	(2)	April 17th	Rithet's Swamp Tuesday Group

ADDENDA

Our winter birds appear to have wintered fairly well. Mr. Davidson reports Snipe and Skylarks busy on Campus and Stuart Johnston found a newly completed Bushtit's nest in Beacon Hill Park on March 10th.

Rob and Flo McKenzie-Grieve spotted several swallows at Elk Lake as early as Feb. 24th! The first report of Black Brant was on March 1st by the Goodwills at Bazan Bay, closely followed by 16 more at Bowker Ave. by the Tuesday Group.

Enid Lemon watched an interesting display by two Red-tailed Hawks. The one bird soared for quite a time with a good sized stick in its beak; was joined by a second hawk, whereupon the first bird dropped the stick. The stick fell quite a ways until it was neatly plucked out of the air by the second bird. It sounds like part of a nuptial display, but if anyone knows for certain I'm sure Enid would appreciate a call.

During a trip through Active Pass in February, Bob Hay reports sighting 36 Bald Eagle, 4,000 Arctic Loon, 2,500 Common Murre, 5,000 Black Brant, 500 Ancient Murrelet, 300 Marbled Murrelet and one Rhinoceros Auklet.

With numerous feeders stationed in their garden, Mr. & Mrs. Ward-Harris of Prospect Lake Road report an estimated fifty Rufous Hummingbirds have been attracted to their property. Having no flowering shrubs in their garden of the kind the hummingbirds like, it goes to show how useful the feeders can be. For those interested, the formula is one part sugar to three parts water plus red food colouring.

The next Birds Reported column will come out in the June magazine, so please phone in your sightings before June 18th.

We wish all our readers good birding and a happy summer.

-- M. and L. Slocombe
3134 Henderson Road
Phone 592-9047.

PROGRAM FOR MAY 1973

The summer field trips will be published in the special June issue of the VICTORIA NATURALIST.

* * *

Executive Meeting
Tuesday, May 1st.

Board Room 104M, Provincial
Museum at 8 p.m.

Bird Field Trip:
Sunday, May 6th.

Meet behind University Stadium
at 4 a.m. Talking will not be
permitted. Leader: Jeremy Tatum

Annual General Meeting:
Tuesday, May 8th.

Mixed entertainment program.
Reports, election of officers.
8 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium.

Bird Field Trip:
Saturday May 12th
Sunday, May 13th

Week-end trip to Dungeness Spit
near Port Angeles. Leave
Victoria 10 a.m. Saturday the
12th; depart Port Angeles 2.45
p.m. Sunday 13th. For full de-
tails see article in this
magazine.

Botany Field Trip:
Sunday, May 13th.

By popular demand: trip to
Honeymoon Bay, Gordon River and
Skutz Falls. Meet at Mayfair
Lanes at 9.30 a.m. Bring lunch.
Leader: Stephen Mitchell.

* * *

JUNIOR PROGRAM

			<u>Drivers</u>
May 5th.	Juniors.	Island View Beach	Murray Johanson
May 12th.	Intermediates.	Island View Beach	Foster Allen
May 19th.	Juniors.	Combined outing with Vancouver group at Francis Park. <u>Lunch provided.</u> Meet at 10 a.m. at Mayfair Bowling Parking lot.	Watts Walsh
May 26th.	Intermediates.	Bear Hill	Nielson

June 2nd. Juniors. Goldstream

Ralph
Pollard

Meet at 1.30 p.m. at the north side of Mayfair Bowling
Parking Lot unless otherwise noted. If unable to drive
please inform Gail (477-9248) as soon as possible.

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There will be three students on duty at the
Nature House in Francis Park during the summer months.

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BIRDS REPORTED (Continued)

Rhinoceros Auklet	(1)	Mar. 15th	Clover Point
			R. Satterfield
Tufted Duck	(1)	Mar. 20th	Clover Point
			Wayne Campbell
Lapland Longspur	(1)	Apr. 9th	Clover Point
			Bob Hay
Dowitcher S.B.	(1)	Apr. 12th	Esquimalt Lagoon
			Mr. & Mrs. V. Goodwill
Cinnamon Teal	2 pair	Apr. 14th	Quick's Pond
Wood Duck	(2)	Apr. 15th	Thetis Lake
Horned Lark	(1)	Apr. 17th	Central Saanich
			R. Satterfield

N O T E

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, no April
magazine was published. This issue therefore includes
both April and May.

However, this year there will be a June maga-
zine containing the President's Report, the financial
statement, and the program of the summer field trips for
Juniors and adults.

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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Freeman F. King, Albert R. Davidson, George E. Winkler,
Miss M.C. Melburn, Miss E.K. Lemon, Mrs. L.E. Chambers, E.E. Bridgen

Officers 1972 - 73

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#416-3187 Shelbourne St.
592-1332

Vice-President

K.R. Beckett
4484 Markham St., R.R.3
479-5548

Immediate Past President

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Audubon Wildlife Films: Miss Enid Lemon, 1226 Roslyn Road --- 598-3517
A.H. Couser, #403-435 Michigan St. ---- 384-0832

Group Leaders

Botany: Stephen Mitchell, 3930 Braefoot Road ----- 477-9248
Entomology: Prof. H.H. Huxley, 510-1701 Cedar Hill X Rd. ----- 477-8905
Ornithology: Ruth Stirling, 3500 Salsbury Way ----- 385-4223
Marine Biology: Freeman F. King, 541 McKenzie Ave. ----- 479-2966
David Stirling, 3500 Salsbury Way ----- 385-4223
Junior Naturalists: Freeman F. King, 541 McKenzie Ave. ----- 479-2966
Gail Mitchell, 3930 Braefoot Rd. ----- 477-9248

Ornithology Records: Dr. Jeremy Tatum, (see address above)
University Liaison: Dr. Rosemary Picozzi (see address above)
Membership: Mrs. A.R. Davidson, 2144 Brighton Ave. ----- 598-3088
Librarian: A.R. Davidson, 2144 Brighton Ave. ----- 598-3088
Federation of B.C. Naturalists: Kerry Joy, Millstream Lake Rd., R.R.6 478-5093
Friends of the Museum: Dr. D.B. Sparling, #9-1354 Beach Dr. --- 598-4262
Publicity: Harold Hosford, 450 Tipton St. ----- 478-5794

"The Victoria Naturalist"

Editor: Barbara McLintock, 3-1006 Tolmie Ave. ----- 383-3097
Assistant Editor: Harold Hosford, (see address above)

Annual Dues, including subscription: Single \$3; Family \$6; 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.