



# THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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SAWFLIES

Sawflies are insects belonging to a group of seven or eight families within the great insect order Hymenoptera. Hymenoptera literally means "membranous-winged" insects, and the order includes bees, wasps and ants. The sawflies, though distantly related to these three groups, differ in a number of respects, one of which is the absence of the familiar narrow pedicel or "waist" between the thorax and abdomen, seen so well in the wasps.

Sawflies are named because the adult female carries on the end of her abdomen two double-edged "saws" or terebrae, with which she cuts a slit in the cuticle of a leaf in which to lay her eggs.

The larvae are remarkably similar to moth caterpillars; this is a splendid example of parallel evolution of two unrelated groups occupying a similar ecological niche. However, they can be easily distinguished once you know how. There are three clues: the eyes, the legs and the abdomen. The caterpillar of a butterfly or moth has several pairs of ocelli or "eyes"; they are minute and can be seen only on very careful examination with a strong magnifying glass. The sawfly caterpillar bears one large and conspicuous ocellus on each side of the head; these can easily be seen with the naked eye.

The caterpillars of butterflies and moths have the usual three, but relatively weak, pairs of true legs on the first three segments; then, on segments 6 to 9, four or fewer strong pairs of prolegs, and a strong pair of claspers at the very end. (See, for example, Terese Todd's cover photograph, *Victoria Naturalist*, October 1971.) The sawfly caterpillar has the same three pairs of true legs, but the prolegs start on segment 5 and there may be six to eight pairs of them all the way along the abdomen. These prolegs are relatively weak. The caterpillar holds on with its true legs. The abdomen is either curled

up underneath when the insect is at rest; or if disturbed, it may hold its abdomen up in the air.

The great majority of sawflies belong to the large family Tenthredinidae. The caterpillar illustrated on this month's cover, however, is one of the Giant Sawflies, Cimbex americana, of the family Cimbicidae. It occurs in the Victoria area, and the one shown, which was lemon-yellow with a black-bordered blue dorsal line, was reared on willow. It is said to exude an obnoxious liquid when alarmed. I did not experience this, but it did once give me a sharp nip with its mandibles.

A few sawflies are garden pests or (especially the family Diprionidae) pests of coniferous forests. Some have quite curious life-histories. The reddish oval-shaped blister galls seen often on willow leaves each contain a small sawfly larva which has, presumably by chemical secretions, induced the plant to form the gall. Yet in this case, the gall actually starts to form as soon as the egg has been laid.

Readers may often have noticed what appear to be numbers of tiny, black, slimy slugs crawling over the leaves of pear, hawthorn, cherry or rose and eating the upper cuticle of the leaves. They are not slugs but are the larvae of another sawfly, which is said to have been introduced from Europe.

My favourite is the Jumping Disc Sawfly, Phyllotoma aceris, which I used to know in England. I do not know if it has any close relatives here. It feeds between the cuticles of the leaf of a species of maple known in England as a Sycamore. (Not to be confused with the American Sycamore, which is a Platanus.) When it is ready to pupate, it cuts a perforated circular disc in the upper cuticle, and it spins a web, so that it is trapped between the web and the circular disc of the upper cuticle. It then cuts the final perforations, and the disc falls to the forest floor with the insect inside it. If it lands on unsuitable ground for pupation, the disc jerks and jumps along the ground until it finds conditions that are just right for the larva within. I am sure that Horatio never dreamed of anything like that in his philosophy.

... by Jeremy Tatum.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1972 - 1973

On one occasion during this past year, in order to enliven our otherwise dull and ponderous executive meetings, I played a little, perhaps puerile, joke, and placed on the agenda an item labelled "Presidential Address". Whether any of my fellow-officers imagined that I was about to announce a major departure from our traditional procedure at the Annual General Meeting I shall never know. The fact of the matter, however, was nothing more momentous than that I had moved to a new apartment and therefore I had changed my address. Tonight, however, it is the real thing, and it is my duty and pleasure to review for you the activities of our Society during the year 1972 - 1973.

I wonder how many of you like parsnips. I am one of those who do not, but I am a good boy, I know they have to be eaten, and I like to eat them all up fast at the beginning; then I can forget the nasty taste and look forward to the better things to come.

Last year we had only a very small helping of parsnips, but it did have an unpleasant taste. I refer to the matters of criticism and gossip. As President, I receive a fair amount of mail and some of it is quite critical. This, I do not mind; it is something I expect and it goes with the job. However, other members of my executive have been the subject of totally malicious gossip behind their backs, or they (or their husbands or wives who are not even members of our Society) have received insulting telephone calls containing quite serious allegations from misinformed and disgruntled callers. I am glad to say this has involved only a small number of our membership, though this kind of thing is potentially very damaging to our Society. I shall say no more about it, for all of us will wish to treat it with the contempt it deserves.

The rest of the meal is a feast fit for a king, and I am anxious to get on with it. It is true that there have been occasional administrative difficulties concerned with the membership list and the production of the Victoria Naturalist; but we are learning from these difficulties



and are taking steps to ensure that they will not recur. Though production of the Victoria Naturalist has sometimes been behind schedule, the magazine itself has maintained the high quality that has long been associated with our Society.

Many members have selflessly given hours of their time in the complex business of running this large society. I am remembering not only those members of the executive who have regularly attended our meetings or who have otherwise worked hard and willingly for us, but also those non-executive members who, quietly and reliably, have carried on various humdrum but essential tasks, such as envelope-addressing, coffee-making, banking of Audubon proceeds and others. I am very much aware of the contributions of all, and I am very grateful.

I am not going to mention the names of everyone, but, if the others will forgive me, I must recall two members who, for many years, have put their hearts and souls into the welfare of our Society and who now step down. The organization of the Audubon film shows is one of the most demanding tasks of the Society. To carry this out with utter reliability and efficiency for fifteen years until Victoria became the only city in North America with three showings, and to ensure that the considerable profits were used in the support of conservation, requires a great person. All of us will agree that, in Enid Lemon, our Society found a great person.

The other member whom I shall mention by name is one whom I first find mentioned in the minutes as serving in executive capacity in the early 1950's. Today, this member has an outstanding record of loyalty to our society, and an extraordinary record of attendance at our functions, whether general or executive meetings, field trips in ornithology, botany, marine biology or entomology, or help with the Juniors. It is high time that formal recognition was given to the contribution made to this society by Katherine Sherman.

We have had an excellent variety of topics in our general meetings, from forest insects to algae, from wolves to trips in northern B.C. or expeditions to Africa. Our field trips have been going farther afield than

usual. There was a general interest outing held jointly with the Cowichan Valley Natural History Society at Skutz Falls. There were bird trips in all months except December, when the Christmas Bird Count was held. The ornithology section is now international in scope after a highly successful expedition all the way to Dungeness Spit. Those who went still remember with excitement the Willet, the Sandhill Cranes, the Fork-tailed Petrels and many others. Ten botany field trips were held. Again there were trips far afield, for example to Green Mountain, to Jordan Meadows and to East Sooke Park. Each trip has had a definite theme, such as spring flowers, lichens, ferns, mosses, fungi or subalpine plants. There was one marine biology outing and no entomology meeting.

There were some 10,000 visitors to Francis Park during the year. A great deal of necessary maintenance work has been done in the park and the nature house, but this essential work has not hampered such exploratory activities as the discovery of a new cave there. The forty-eight Junior Members have perhaps been, under the guidance of their devoted leaders and helpers, the most energetic group in the society, with no fewer than forty-four trips or working weekends. The Open House held by these Juniors at Francis Park on April 7 was one of the most encouraging things I saw in the course of the year. Indeed the energy of these youngsters is an example from which we adults should surely be inspired.

Fifty-six observers took part in the Christmas Bird Count, and, though we found 123 species, including a Rusty Blackbird, which is new to our Count, once again we had to yield the Canadian crown to our colleagues in Vancouver who found the highest number of species in the nation. The Annual Bird Report for 1971, involving the participation of some sixty people, has sold some 350 copies to all parts of this continent as well as a few in Europe, though, in spite of the reduced price, only 35 were bought by members of this society.

Delegates from our society were at the meetings of the Federation of B.C. Naturalists at Parksville and at Kamloops, and at the Canadian Nature Federation at Edmonton. Input from our society to this important pro-

vincial and national organizations has been considerable.

The voice of naturalists is now becoming a voice to be listened to. One of the biggest success stories of the year originated when several of our members began to enquire into the regulations governing birds of prey in British Columbia. These investigations uncovered the extraordinary circumstance that in 1972 the Fish and Wildlife Branch had issued permits for the capture for pet-keeping in British Columbia of 11 Goshawks, 7 Cooper's Hawks, 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 10 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Golden Eagle, 6 Prairie Falcons, 9 Peregrine Falcons, 1 Pigeon Hawk and 19 Sparrow Hawks, an astonishing total of 67 birds. It was further disclosed that the regulations allowed permits to be issued for keeping of most of these species by persons from the age of twelve years. The Minister of Recreation and Conservation has personally thanked some of our members for drawing these anomalies to his attention, as a result of which the relevant regulations are to undergo immediate revision. To those who believe our society is no longer an effective organ for conservation, this example should demonstrate what concerned naturalists can do when they know their facts and are not afraid to speak their minds. Let us all take courage from this success and face the future with a new optimism, ready to tackle without fear and timidity all the other problems that lie before us in the avowed purpose of our Constitution, which is to study and protect wild fauna and flora and their habitats.

... J.B. Tatum, President  
8th May 1973.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Please note that our financial year ended on April 30th, so dues for the forthcoming year are now payable.

The next issue of the 'Naturalist' will be on September 1st, and contributions of articles on natural history subjects will be welcomed by our new editor, Mrs. Mayford Slocombe, 3134 Henderson Road, Victoria.

#### A CORMORANT - BUT WHICH ONE?

by David Stirling

The coasts and waters of southwestern British Columbia are home to three kinds of cormorants. Can you identify them?

The DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT is a LARGE bird having brownish-black plumage. IMMATURES have a GREY-WHITE NECK and BREAST. In all seasons the adults have a YELLOW GULAR POUCH. In breeding plumage this bird has short plume-tufts on the head, though these can only be seen at close range. Nesting is on the edges of the top of rocky islands, sometimes in trees. The stick nests become high (both literally and figuratively) after many years of use. HABITAT: Look for this species on FRESH WATER LAKES, RIVERS and BRACKISH WATERS of LAGOONS and INLETS. Frequently sits on pilings and in trees.

The BRANDT'S CORMORANT, as LARGE as the Double-crested, has dark chocolate-brown plumage. A BLUE GULAR POUCH with a BUFFY BAND BELOW is characteristic of this bird. In breeding plumage long, white, hair-like plumes hang down from the head and neck. Nests are built on top of rocky islands on the west coast of Vancouver Island and the state of Washington. Brandt's is the MOST PELAGIC and MOST GREGARIOUS of the three west coast cormorants. HABITAT: Strictly the sea. This bird never flies over land. It can normally be seen SITTING ON ROCKY ISLETS just off-shore or FISHING in LARGE FLOCKS farther out at sea than the other two cormorants.

The PELAGIC CORMORANT is the SMALLEST of the west coast cormorants. Plumage is a shining iridescent black with green and violet reflections - its old name was "violet-green cormorant". It has a THIN NECK and BILL; the GULAR POUCH IS SMALL, RED and not noticeable. A WHITE FLANK PATCH is conspicuous in breeding plumage, especially in flight, and there is a suggestion of a black crest on either side of the head. Nesting is on the face of cliffs - on the little ledges that jut out from the sides. HABITAT: Watch for it on ROCKY SHORES and ISLETS. It is often SOLITARY or found in SMALL GROUPS. It dives CLOSE to ROCKY SHORES for blennies and other kelp-dwelling fish.



THE FEDERATION MEETING  
(your delegate's report)

Saturday April 14 was the date and sunny Kamloops the place for the April Federation of B.C. Naturalists' annual spring meeting. The usual day-long meeting was held at Cariboo College on the hill overlooking the North Thompson and Kamloops valleys.

A good "turn out" of members from clubs all around the province provided approximately 60 participants for the discussions.

We all were pleased to hear that the Federation is now financially solvent with a bank balance of \$3060. However since we are a rapidly growing organization serving the interests of some 5,000 members throughout B.C. we were asked to plan for the day when a paid executive could see to the increasing burdens of conservation matters on a full time basis.

RESOLUTIONS:

As usual these were presented with efficient good humour by Dick Stace-Smith of the Conservation Committee and lively debate surrounded some of the controversial issues. Our Club's resolution concerning the protection of the wolf (canis lupus) was questioned by Fish and Wildlife officials but was passed without amendment. It provides for protection for the wolf except where livestock depredations are proven and even in those cases to seek alternative methods of livestock protection and to pay compensation to the farmer for his losses. The use of poison as a method of destroying troublesome individuals was to cease. The Vancouver Island sub-species (canis lupus crassodon) was to receive continued total protection.

Other important resolutions passed related to:

- \*The preservation of Rattlesnake Point and Cosens Bay on Kalamalka Lake as a Nature Conservancy.
- \*The exclusion of ATVS, Motor bikes and tracked vehicles from alpine zones in B.C.
- \*That tidal estuaries be given special consideration

... continued on page 17

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 APRIL, 1973

	<u>1971-72</u>	<u>1972-73</u>		
<u>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>General Account</u>	<u>Audubon Account</u>
			<u>Life Membership Fund</u>	<u>Publications Account</u>
			<u>Scholarship Fund</u>	
\$	\$6,203.53	\$1,902.39	\$3,424.05	\$ 4.17
2,300.00	-	-	300.00*	-
	<u>8,503.53</u>	<u>1,902.39</u>	<u>3,424.05</u>	<u>304.17</u>
	386.26	269.61	116.65	-
160	81.00	81.00	-	-
<u>\$7,693</u>	<u>\$8,036.27</u>	<u>\$1,551.78</u>	<u>\$3,307.40</u>	<u>\$304.17</u>
			<u>\$741.36</u>	<u>\$741.36</u>
				<u>\$2,131.56</u>

\* Govt. of Canada 3% Per. \$700

(3 bonds, worth approx. \$300)

\*\*Govt. of Canada 7½% \$1,000

Ontario Hydro 5% \$1,000 Apr. 1/77

Alex Matheson, Treasurer.

The auditor, within the limited time between the closing of the books and the Annual General Meeting, has satisfied himself of the accuracy of the entries in the books of the Society.

Gilbert W. Calvert, Auditor

8 May, 1973

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL, 1973.

<u>1971-72</u>	<u>1972-73</u>	<u>1971-72</u>	<u>1972-73</u>
<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>		<u>AUDUBON ACCOUNT</u>	
<u>Income</u>		<u>Income</u>	
\$1,451 1972-73 membership dues ( 2 sustaining; 82 family; 236 single; 29 junior)	\$1,305.15	\$5,279 Ticket sales and admissions	\$4,669.40
100 Sales and subscriptions - Naturalist	-	121 Bank interest	86.67
13 Sale of bird check lists	20.24	<u>5,400</u>	<u>4,756.07</u>
80 Donations	20.25	<u>Expenditures</u>	
52 Bank Interest	58.41	2,652 National Audubon Society	2,644.41
8 Miscellaneous	30.85	850 Cost of meetings	890.00
<u>1,704</u>	<u>1,434.90</u>	454 Advertising	463.12
<u>Expenditures</u>		124 Tickets and folders	88.65
1,264 Naturalist - production and mailing	961.23	25 Customs duty	18.87
214 Cost of meetings	185.00	<u>4,105</u>	<u>4,105.05</u>
45 Postage and stationery	90.23	1,295 EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES	651.02
23 Bird count	23.59	900 Authorized appropriations	450.00
311 B.C. Federation dues and expenses	220.00	250 Transfer to General account	-
Affiliation fees:		145	201.02
5 B.C. Waterfowl Society	5.00	<u>2,961</u>	<u>3,106.38</u>
5 Okanagan-Similkameen Park Society	5.00	<u>\$3,106</u>	<u>\$3,307.40*</u>
6 Canadian Nature Federation	6.00	<u>*Note:</u>	
10 Friends of the Provincial Museum	10.00	Reserve to guarantee payment of	
14 Miscellaneous	81.45	1973-74 National Audubon Society	
<u>1,897</u>	<u>1,587.50</u>	contract (approved and signed)	2,625.00
193 EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER INCOME	152.60	Appropriations recommended:	
250 Transfer from Audubon account	-	Francis Park Board - Summer Student	250.00
20 Transfer from Scholarship account	-	Canadian Nature Federation	100.00
<u>1,627</u>	<u>1,704.38</u>	Delegate to C.N.F., Halifax	200.00
\$1,704 FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$1,551.78</u>	Two students - Museum Outdoor Ed. Centre	50.00
		Balance available for distribution	82.40
			<u>\$3,307.40</u>

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
OTHER SPECIFIC PURPOSES FUNDS

1971-72  
TOTAL  
ALL  
FUNDS

1972-73

	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	Life Membership Fund	Publica- tions Account	Scholar- ship Fund
<u>Income</u>				
Sales	\$ 269.21	\$ -	\$ 269.21	\$ -
Bank interest	13.26	0.12	9.76	3.38
Bond interest	143.50	15.00	-	128.50
	<u>425.97</u>	<u>15.12</u>	<u>278.97</u>	<u>131.88</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Scholarship	100.00	-	-	100.00
Sales tax	13.46	-	13.46	-
Bank safekeeping and other charges	3.00	-	-	3.00
	<u>116.46</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13.46</u>	<u>103.00</u>
<u>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES</u>	309.51	15.12	265.51	28.88
20 Transfer to General account	15.00	15.00	-	-
915 Funds on hand at beginning of year	294.51	0.12	265.51	28.88
	<u>582.58</u>	<u>4.05</u>	<u>475.85</u>	<u>102.68</u>
<u>FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR</u>	\$ 877.09	\$ 4.17	\$ 741.36	\$ 131.56

and study before industrial or other development takes place.

\*That the pink lady's slipper (*calypso bulbosa*) be protected by statute.

\*That the F.B.C.N. urge the federal government to be prepared for oil and chemical spills and to supplement shipping controls to protect our coastal life zones.

As part of the resolutions' discussion several clubs requested that the progress on resolutions be reported to sponsoring clubs.

An important decision was taken relating to F.B.C.N. financial support of member club's publications relating to natural history. Support was contingent on the Clubs' submission of a detailed proposal to the F.B.C.N. for approval.

It was decided to send a letter of commendation to Resources Minister Bob Williams for his creation of nine new Provincial parks totalling almost 2,000,000 acres.

At the Saturday night banquet Richard Wright, naturalist, Federation director, author, and photographer gave an excellent illustrated talk on Canada's undeveloped natural assets and the need for their conservation.

Sunday's field trips offered delegates a choice of visits to the McQueen Lake Environmental Study Center, to a wildflower meadow near Chase or to a waterfowl area. All three trips were well attended.

Kamloop's first hosting of the F.B.C.N. annual meeting was an unqualified success with the arrangements for delegates, the meeting place, the entertainment, and the fieldtrips, all carefully planned and delightfully presented by the Kamloops Club.

Another value to your delegate was his first experience of seeing a hawk migration of some 35 birds which included: 8 roughlegged, 25 marsh hawks, 1 Swainson's hawk, 1 Harlan's hawk, as well as 2 golden eagles and 8 short-eared owls!

Altogether the meeting was interesting, exciting and notable for its collection of vital people all concerned for the welfare of wildlife and natural history.

... Kerry R. Joy



### THE DAWN WATCH

On Sunday, May 6, 1973, five of us joined our leader, Dr. J.B. Tatum, behind the University Stadium, for a dawn bird field trip. Already, at 3:53 am, Dr. Tatum had heard a Ringneck Pheasant, and at 3:59 a Killdeer. Because the 4 am start was daylight savings time, the sky was still dark, although the human-occupied land was pockmarked with electric lights well into the emerging dawn.

At 4:05 a Screech Owl hooted from the nearby woods, as we all stood in silent vigil, like human radars. This Owl was our star performer, increasing in frequency as the dawn progressed. Was he mesmerised by Dr. Tatum's perfect calling to him? He did answer every time and flew nearer the more Dr. Tatum called his notes, settling in a tree about 20 feet from us, giving us all good viewing, despite the weak grey light.

We continued to stay a while longer in the overcast chill there where the woods and fields were adjacent and at 4:20 heard a Robin sound alarm and then a few minutes later (4:27) it started singing. Skylark music gently rolled some distance away at 4:40 am and at 4:47 violet green swallows called. Towards 5 am, more and more bird sounds swelled with the dawn and one had increasingly to sift the robin songs from one's hearing. 5:05 timed in the first Glaucous Winged Gull, arcing overhead, as the Screech Owl in his tree increased his tempo. At 5:16 a Towhee rasped its "audio-identity".

But now we moved on into the woods, and followed Indian file the trails over to Gordon Head Road. At 5:26 we rejoiced to the Orange Crown Warbler trilling as the day awoke, while at the same moment a Bewick's Wren gave out one of its songs. At 5:33 another Bewick soloed and at 5:33 the single note of the Swainson's Thrush signalled from aloft. How we wished then for Terese Todd's perfect duplication of its call that the Swainson might play it again. Farther along, a Band Tail Pigeon's soft velvet sound came in at 5:40, and at 5:41 the Nuthatch's own special zing buzz. A Song Sparrow countered with "music music" at 5:52, and at 5:57 an Evening Grosbeak sang out, and a Quail gave

forth its own Spring call. Also at 5:57 a Western Flycatcher sounded, and at 6 am the woodwind ring of the Red Wing Blackbird.

Emerging from the woods off Gordon Head Road, we watched an Orange Crown Warbler sitting on a wire (seen and heard!). Chickadees, more Pheasant fowl calls, and a Golden Crown Sparrow with its matching golden notes, these were some of the "around 6 am" singers there where field and woods met. And as we walked back towards our cars, a Cowbird - White Crown Sparrow - Violet-green Swallows - and Bandtail Pigeon - all sang out to the just lighting day.

And so we do give heart-warmed THANKS to our leader, Dr. J.B. Tatum, and hope we can have another Dawn Chorus. For bird vigiling the birth of day has a very special MOREness about it. Let's do it again, please!

... Kaye Suttill

### A STORY BY JEREMY TATUM

Among the more unusual of the rare bird sightings of recent months was that of a White Stork Aconia ciconia. Normally of resident of Europe, a bird that was undoubtedly of this species was seen flying over Saanich on April 11th. After circling overhead for some time, the bird eventually landed on the roof of a house in Kilgary Place.

It appeared to be carrying a fairly large object in its bill. It was seen to drop the object down the chimney, after which it flew off and was not seen again.

On investigating, the residents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Campbell, found a small bundle tied with blue ribbon in the grate. Inside, they found a baby boy which they have decided to keep, and have named him Sean. The Campbells, who have made extensive studies of bird migration, tell us that although the species was well outside its normal range, they had been expecting to see it for some months. Nevertheless, they are both to be warmly congratulated on their exciting observation.

NOTES FROM A NEW BIRDER.

My father was a keen naturalist and birder, and he passed this love on to me. But it wasn't until these past two winters when I took the Bird Recognition course, given by David Stirling and Ralph Fryer, that I really knew how to watch birds. Since then I have been putting into practise the knowledge gained, both in Victoria, and in the Salmon Arm and Shuswap areas, while on holidays. In August, 1971, I listed approximately 35 species, and thought I had done rather well! This past summer I observed twice that number.

There have always been Ospreys, nesting in the Shuswap Lake area, but modern progress has driven them further up into the remoter two main arms of the lake. When my family went on a canoe camping trip up the Seymour Arm, they spotted five nests and some definitely had young. They watched a large fish being brought to one nest, dropped into it to the other parent bird, and three downy heads disappeared to enjoy their meal. They also saw many common Loon, the voice of which, to me, is the most hauntingly beautiful of all birds, and always brings nostalgic memories to mind. On numerous occasions Golden Eagles have been seen. I saw several Turkey Vultures and I believe a pair are known to have nested in the area this year. I was talking to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mack, of Enderby, who told me that the birds of prey are making a come back in this area. There are fewer Mourning Doves and Western Kingbirds as compared to last year, but Eastern Kingbirds seem to be more common.

A new bird for me was the Lazuli Bunting, which has been appearing in this area more frequently over the past few years. The Mountain Bluebird is holding its' own, but is not as numerous as it was years ago. There were a good number of five varieties of swallows, Western Wood Pewees everywhere - I even spotted three fully fledged young sitting beside "a lichen covered cup on a horizontal branch" to quote Petersons' Western Field Guide -- various warblers, MacGillivrays, Audubons, Yellowthroat and more. But my most rewarding time was spent at what I call 'My Pond', because, as children, we skated in the winter and rafted and caught frogs in the summer. The only birds I remember at that time

were the Red-winged Blackbirds, but today, with no one to disturb them, and the especially high water level this spring, the pond has remained full, and it was a bird watchers paradise.

I saw everything from Swallows, Kingfishers, and an Osprey overhead, to the Warblers, Flycatchers, Vireos, and Water Thrush in the trees and shrubs around the pond, to the water fowl, particularly many Soot with young of varying ages, to the shorebirds -- Snipe, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers. But the most exciting of all was a Sora Rail, in full view, in bright sunlight, not twenty feet from where I was standing. Close by the Sora, minding its' own business, a muskrat was cleaning his whiskers! I have been told many times that to see birds one must be quiet and this truth was brought home to me as I stood silently under the weeping willows, listening and watching the birds come and go all around me, but for the most part unaware of my presence. Truly this was a memorable birding experience.

... Anne Knowles

MIRACLE BEACH FIELD TRIP

A week-end trip to Miracle Beach is planned for June 16th and 17th. The trip will combine birdwatching, marine biology and scenery. It includes a visit to the Miracle Beach Provincial Park Nature House with the Park Naturalists. Birdwatching at Oyster Bay, Black Creek, the Alders and the Comox Slough. We are hoping to see Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Bald Eagles and Huttons Vireos.

Accommodation: Miracle Beach Resort and Store, R.R. #1 Black Creek - housekeeping units.  
Teena's Tent and Trailer Park - Tenting. Showers and flush toilets.  
Miracle Beach Provincial Park - Tenting.  
Please arrange your own accomodation.

Please let me know by June 9 (385-4223) (a) if you are going (b) if you need transportation (c) if you can offer transportation.

... Ruth Stirling



## SUMMER PROGRAMME 1973

- Marine Biology  
Saturday, June 2nd: Smugglers' Cove, Ten Mile Point,  
10 a.m. or at Mayfair Lanes at  
9:30 a.m. A two-hour meeting.  
Wear rubber boots and carry a  
walking stick.  
Leader: Jennifer Brown.
- Botany Field Trip  
Sunday, June 10th: To Goldstream Estuary, 10:00 a.m.  
Meet at Goldstream Picnic Site or  
at Mayfair Lanes at 9:30 a.m.  
Returning via Finlayson Arm Road  
and Munn Road. Bring lunch, and be  
prepared to walk in mud.  
Leader: Stephen Mitchell. 477-9248
- Bird Field Trip  
Saturday & Sunday  
June 16th & 17th: Week-end Trip to Miracle Beach for  
birds and sea life. For full details  
see article this magazine.  
Leader: Ruth Stirling. 385-4223
- Botany Field Trip  
Saturday, July 7th: To Jordan Meadows. Meet at Junction  
of Port Renfrew and west Shawnigan  
Lake roads at 10:00 a.m., or at  
Mayfair Lanes Parking lot 9:00 a.m.  
Wear boots as meadows may be wet.  
Bring lunch.  
Leader: Stephen Mitchell.
- Bird Field Trip  
Saturday, July 21st: To Francis Park, 10:00 a.m., or  
meet at Mayfair Lanes Parking Lot  
(north Side) at 9:30 a.m. Bring  
Lunch.  
Leader: Rod Muirhead. 384-6005
- Botany Field Trip  
August 3rd to 6th: To Forbidden Plateau. Phone Stephen  
Mitchell in mid-July for more  
definite plans. 477-9248
- Bird Field Trip  
Saturday, August 18: Meet at Mayfair Lanes Parking Lot  
(north side) at 9:30 a.m. or at  
Clover Point at 10:00 a.m. Bring  
lunch.  
Leader: Ron Satterfield. 383-6257

Members of the Duncan Natural History Group are  
cordially invited on any trips.

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The Junior groups will continue to meet at 1:30 p.m.  
Saturdays at the Mayfair Bowling Alley Parking Lot.  
Members will be notified if outings are to be cancelled  
for part of the summer.

NEW OFFICERS

Vice President	Mrs. <u>G.N. Hooper</u>	477-1152
Secretary	Mrs. J.L. Rimmington	592-6037
Treasurer	Miss <u>Maureen Collins</u>	598-1875
Asst. Treasurer	Mrs. Rita Dickson	592-1862
Editor	Mrs. Mayford Slocombe	592-9047
Associate Editor	Mrs. Rita Dickson	592-1862
Programme Chairman	Mr. Stephen Michell	477-9248
<u>Friends of the Museum</u>	Rev. <u>D.B. Sparling</u>	598-4262
Audubon Wildlife <u>Films</u>	Miss Anne Adamson <u>Mr. A.H. Couser</u>	598-1623 384-0832
	- - - - -	

At the outing of the Tuesday Group on April 15th,  
they discovered a new osprey nest on the west side of  
Beaver Lake, with a pair of ospreys in attendance.

On the same day and in the same location a solitary  
vireo's nest was seen with the parent birds and three or  
four fledglings fluttering about, apparently just out of  
the nest.

Also, close by, a family of winter wrens, more  
advanced, as it was difficult to separate the young  
ones from the adult birds.



BIRDS REPORTED

Rough-winged Swallow	(1) Apr. 12	Langford Lake Mr. & Mrs. Vic Goodwill
Townsend's Warbler	(1) Apr. 15	Thetis Lake
Gadwall	(pr.) Apr. 21	Quick's Pond R. Satterfield
Purple Martin	(4) Apr. 25	Shoal Harbour Gwen Taylor
Audubon Warbler	(1) Apr. 26	Murray Drive Alfred Porcher
Semi-palmated Plover	(2) Apr. 28	Saanichton Spit
Bl'k-thr'ted Gray Warbler	(2) Apr. 28	Lochside Drive
Wilson's Warbler	(2) Apr. 29	Thetis Park
Yellow Warbler	(2) Apr. 29	Thetis Park R. Satterfield
Western Tanager	(5) May 1	Cadboro Bay D. Turnbull
Myrtle Warbler	(1) May 1	Henderson Road Linda Slocombe
Vesper Sparrow	(1) May 3	Ten Mile Point Vic & Mrs. Goodwill
Hammond Flycatcher	(2) May 5	Spectacle Lake
<u>Cinnamon Teal</u>	(4 pr.) May 6	<u>In four locations</u> R. Satterfield
MacGillivray's Warbler	(1) May 6	Mt. Douglas
Black-headed Grosbeak	(1) May 6	Campus A. & R. Davidson
Western Kingbird	(1) May 9	Island View Beach
<u>Wilson's Phalarope</u>	(1) May 13	<u>Ascot Pond</u>
Blue-winged Teal	(2 pr.) May 13	Ascot Pond R. Satterfield

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

Ron Satterfield, while at Spectacle Lake on May 5th, saw 24 Crossbills, the first reported in this area for a long time. Even on the Christmas Count day, with over fifty people searching everywhere for birds, none were seen.

# VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## Honorary Life Members

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

### President

Dr. Jeremy Tatum  
#416-3187 Shelbourne St.  
592-1332

### Vice-President

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

### Immediate Past President

Mrs. F.A. Sherman, 2168 Guernsey St. ----- 598-3237  
Recording Secretary: Miss Maureen Collins, 2719 Richmond Rd.-- 598-1875  
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. G.N. Hooper, 2411 Alpine Cres. --- 477-1152  
Treasurer: Alex Matheson, 11075 Dunne Road, Sidney ----- 656-1301

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Programme Chairman: Dr. Rosemary Picozzi, 11-1595 Rockland -- 384-4958  
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

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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.*