



THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

published by the
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Victoria B.C

June, 1974
Vol. 30, No. 10

THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

Published by

THE VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

VOL. 30, No. 10

JUNE 1974

WALK IN THE ASHES

For years Smokey the Bear has been passed off as the foremost authority on wildlife requirements, but is he, or is he just a profit oriented industrialist? There has been a tremendous ad campaign built up around the image and philosophy of this cartoon character supposedly that we may save forests from fire for the benefit of wildlife. But, the ultimate objective of the anti-fire campaign has been for trees for industry and not forests for wildlife.

There is little emotional appeal in saving trees from forest fires compared to the appeal that can be generated in saving "Bambi and his friends" from flaming holocausts. The end result is the same, trees are saved from fire in order that they can be cut down, hauled out and reshaped for man's industrial needs.

Mankind desires a monotonous unchanged environment in order to extract various resources at his discretion. But wildlife abound where there is change, where there is diversity in the environment and fire is one force that precipitates change.

Forests ecosystems do not die when a fire strikes, rather the nutrients that make up the forest are relocated, by wind and water to a variety of areas from the base of the former tree to distant lands. The trunks of burned trees ultimately fall to the ground to provide another nutrient source to the developing plant communities.

The environment benefits from this exchange of nutrients even if man cannot appreciate the benefits. At the site of the fires, grasses, flowers, shrubs and seedling trees become established in a predictable fashion. Forest dwelling animals are replaced by animals of the open

lands. Some animals like the moose and black bear are only numerous in shrublands that have resulted from forest fires.

Even to the timber manager, fire can be useful. Trees such as ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, englemann spruce are fire dependent, they require fire-induced conditions for seedling establishment or growth. Dead and weak trees are destroyed, the forest canopy is opened and low growing competitive plants are temporarily removed allowing for more sunlight, moisture or nutrients to become available to the healthy trees or to the seedlings.

This is not news, the foresters are currently planning for the use of fire as a management tool. Areas where forests are dependent on fire are so designated, and areas where fires are also beneficial to wildlife are also designated. In some cases, wildfires are allowed to burn unchecked in these areas and in other cases fires are deliberately set. The British Columbia forest policy is currently lagging behind the United States forest policy in the manner of using fire as a tool in forest management. However, the anti-fire ad campaign is still as emotional and the public is still being told that all fires are bad.

At this point, I am worried about the naturalist and the eco-freak. In the past, they have not objected to the Smokey Bear campaign so they must believe in it. When there is a fire in a forest or a wild area, will they pull the fire alarm or sit back and watch the environment become diversified? Hopefully, the naturalists will walk in the ashes and around the charred skeletons of the former trees in anticipation of the invasion of plants and animals to come rather than lamenting the loss of the trees. And hopefully the naturalists will not hide themselves in the shaded tunnelled trails of a forest walk but rather walk where they can see the diverse, evolving landscape where the fire occurred. After all, to be a naturalist in British Columbia one must appreciate not only the forests in their pristine state and old dying forests but also shrubby, grassy openings created by fire.

... Dennis A. Demarchi
Wildlife Biologist
April 4, 1974.

NATURALISTS AND EAST SOOKE PARK

As naturalists we are usually personally interested in only one or two aspects of nature. We tend to ignore the basic aspects such as rocks, minerals, and other things geological. If we consider them at all they are regarded merely either as some vague material that fish lay eggs in, or objects of convenience for creatures to live under and perch on. As a result of this apparent public disinterest little geological information is made readily available to users of parks and recreational areas. This is an unfortunate situation because without this fundamental geological information much of the recreational value of an area is missing and we are unable to understand the interaction of physical and biological processes both past and present; things that a naturalist should consider. How can a naturalist walk through an area whose scenic beauty and to some extent flora and fauna are a product of interaction of biological and geological processes and not wonder what the rocks are, what they are composed of, how old they are, how they came to be there and what has happened to them since they formed?

East Sooke Park, located on the south end of Vancouver Island about 16 miles southwest of Victoria, is a Capital Regional District park dedicated to enjoyment by the public. It also happens to be a geologically unique area in British Columbia. Historically it is an area of early hardrock metal mining in British Columbia and played some small part in early economic development and settlement of southern Vancouver Island. Both of these interesting aspects of the area have been virtually ignored.

As we walk the trails of East Sooke peninsula we are, in all probability, walking through the throat of an old volcano. However, the area is not unique for that reason but because of the kind of rock that occurs there, why it is there, and because of its geologically young age.

The southwestern part of Vancouver Island, south of a major break in geological continuity called the Leech River fault, is composed mainly of layers or beds of dark, fine grained volcanic lava called the Metchosin Basalt. Although most of the lava flows are massive and structure-

less many of the flows contain characteristic round, globular, or pillow-like forms ranging from a few inches to a few feet in diameter. Units containing these structures are called pillow lavas and their presence tells us that the lava flows were either formed under or flowed into the ocean. Pillow lavas can be seen in many areas, but are most notable on the Sooke highway east of Veitch Creek bridge thence to Sooke. Radiometric age determinations give a geologically young age of just over 40 million years for these rocks.

The Metchosin Basalts have been cut or intruded by discontinuous lines of elongate intrusions called Sooke Gabbro. The very coarse grain size of the gabbro tells us that the rock crystallized slowly from molten rock or magma at depth below the earth's surface. Because the gabbro is similar both in composition and radiometric age to Metchosin Basalt the gabbro is thought to represent the crystallized feeder pipes or conduits which supplied magma for the lava flows which formed near the old earth surface. East Sooke peninsula consists entirely of Sooke Gabbro and therefore represents one of the many volcanic vents or centres of volcanism for Metchosin Basalts.

When the gabbroic rocks crystallized tremendous stresses in the earth's crust caused them to fracture and shear. Residual molten fluid rich in iron, magnesium, and some copper entered the fractures forming zones rich in hornblende with scattered concentrations of iron and copper minerals. Subsequent fracturing along these early filled fractures and fracturing in new zones resulted in planes of weakness which have persisted to the present day and are now visible at the level of erosion of the present bedrock surface. These zones of weakness are represented by the many chasms and sea cuts along the coastline and the deep, steep walled elongate depressions farther inland. These landforms provide the basic foundation for the scenic beauty of the area.

It was copper mineralization in one of the sea cuts that first attracted Captain Jeremiah Nagle to the area in 1863 with the resultant sinking of one of the earliest shafts on a bedrock metal deposit in British Columbia.

These workings lie unmarked and unrecognized near the shoreline a few yards off the beach trail near the end of Iron Mine Road. Other more recent mine workings are visible, sometimes with difficulty, at various places on the peninsula and I am sure have stories of interest to tell.

The whole volcanic and intrusive sequence comprising the Metchosin Basalt and Sooke Gabbro once consisted of thousands of feet of rock. In addition, after cessation of volcanism, sedimentary rocks of the Sooke Formation were deposited on top of the older succession of volcanic and intrusive rocks. Then, at some time after the cessation of volcanism the Metchosin Basalt and Sooke Gabbro were uplifted from their oceanic place of origin to their present position where they now lie plastered against rocks of much older age on the north side of the Leech River fault. Since this uplift of the area the process of erosion has stripped off the overlying rocks and has penetrated well down into the Sooke Gabbro on East Sooke peninsula.

The most recent geological event affecting East Sooke Park is its glacial history, but that is another story.

Geologically East Sooke Park is a fascinating place. In addition to understanding its unique geological history there is its scenic beauty, the opportunity to study the flora and fauna, and seeing the results of interaction of both physical and biological processes, including man's recent activities in the park area.

K.E. Northcote

References:

- Cooke, H.C., Gabbros of East Sooke and Rocky Point, Museum Bulletin No. 30, G.S.C. Geological Series No. 37, Nov. 15, 1919.
- Fyles, J.T., Sooke, Minister of Mines Annual Report, 1948, pp. A162-A170.
- Mitchell, W. Sutherland, The Sooke Gabbro, MSc Thesis U.B.C., April 1973, 89 pp.
- Smith, I. The Unknown Island, J.J. Douglas Ltd., 1973, Chapter 10.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1973-74

I suppose this must be the first time in the history of our Society that a President has failed to turn up at an Annual General Meeting. For this heinous sin I am sure I deserve a Vote of Censure from you, which would thereby force my ignominious resignation. However, you are all very kind people and, if I apologize to you now, I am sure you will allow me to remain in office for the last few minutes of my three-year presidential term.

In any case, if I am not with you in person, my disembodied spirit and voice are with you at this moment and I am thinking of you. For explanation I can tell you that I have been taking part in a panel discussion in St. John's, Newfoundland, at the invitation of the Canadian Museums' Association, on the topic of the killing of birds by museums, a subject that is of concern to all of us.

It has been an exciting year and a very busy one. As is usual in many societies, much of the work-load has fallen on the shoulders of a few enthusiastic people; this is normal and to be expected.

But one thing that has impressed me particularly this year is that this concentration of work-load has been far less pronounced than is often the case, and in fact many, many people have shared in different ways in the activities of our Society. Contributions have ranged all the way from the chairing of important committees to writing short articles for our magazine. I am bound to admit that there are some jobs that I probably do not even know about, let alone know who has done the work. Those whom I do not know about can take comfort from the knowledge that there is no better way they can give help to a president than to carry out their work with so little ado that he is unaware of their existence. This type of co-operative involvement by so many people is essential to the well-being of our Society, and I am grateful to you all for it.

The big event of the year, of course, was the bequest to us of the estate of one of our deceased members,

Mr. Alfred H. Nehring. The gross value, in round figures, of the house, five-acre estate, various possessions, bank accounts, bonds and insurance policies amounted to \$66,000 or, after all expenses in connection with the estate had been met, a net value of \$47,000. The act of great generosity was also an act of faith in our Society and what it stands for. It is up to us to show that we are worthy of that faith. As I prepare these words, no final decision has yet been made on how we shall use this bequest, but I am confident that the great amount of careful and very thorough work that has been carried out by several of our members will lead to a wise decision that will justify the faith that has been put in us.

In my President's Report of two years ago I expressed a personal desire that we might spend more time talking about birds and trees and flowers and less about by-laws. We certainly have done a lot of natural history since then, but we were unable to escape from the by-laws. The by-laws we formerly had had adequately served our rather simple needs. The sudden possession of a great deal of money and property has meant that our by-laws must now be put on a much more professional footing. I would like to thank those who worked so hard and well at this task. There will be certain changes in the methods of administration of our Society, and I think they will work efficiently. The new by-laws have also enabled us to apply for official registration as a charitable, non-profit-making organization.

A small disappointment during the year was that we lost on our bid to host the Canadian Nature Federation in Victoria this year. However, with so much other work to be done, this did at least give us some breathing space. We are sure that the McIlwraith Club in London, whose invitation was accepted, will host a most successful conference and I believe that if we invite the Canadian Nature Federation again in the not too distant future, our invitation stands a good chance of being accepted.

The Audubon Wildlife films have once again been a great success. It is a huge task, and all of us will agree that Anne Adamson and her helpers have acquitted themselves most admirably in Anne's first year at the job.

Our Editor has done an excellent job with the Victoria Naturalist. I have not carefully checked the statistics, but I suspect that Maeford Slocombe might have produced a record number of pages for us this year. We all know that this takes a large slice from our budget, but in my opinion the Victoria Naturalist is an activity of our Society that is quite essential. It is an activity that we do well, and we must be proud of the continuous unbroken record of publication for the entire thirty-year period of the existence of our Society. It is my personal hope that some means will be found to let it continue to flourish in spite of financial difficulties.

In some ways we are now quite a rich society. Nevertheless this year's Executive Committee has reaffirmed the position taken by previous Executive Committees that the income from dues must be sufficient to cover the routine expenses of the Society. You will see, from a careful examination of the Financial Statement, that this was not the case this year, nor has it been for some years. What are the solutions? To cut back on some of our successful activities and become a second-rate society? To dig into money that has been earmarked for conservation and for the protection and preservation of wild animals and plants and their habitats? To take advantage of our unexpected windfall and betray the trust that a generous donor put in us, even though no conditions were specified? I sincerely believe that those who proposed a raise in the dues regretted the necessity of this as much as any of us; but your votes in April showed that the majority recognized the necessity of at least some raise, so that our general account should soon be on a sounder footing.

Ornithology and botany, as ever, have been our most popular pursuits. It is always a pity to me that the great energy and enthusiasm generated by our birdwatchers and botanists is never matched by other interests. If we are truly a natural history society we must appreciate all the wonders of our natural world. This is not intended to belittle the efforts of our more active groups; rather it is the hope that others will follow their example.

The botany group has had an excellent and varied programme, and so has the ornithology group. Both have

had meetings every month. A record number of species were counted during the Christmas Bird Count held in the largest 15-mile circle ever. Other ornithological activities have included the organization of the Vancouver Island section of the Bluebird Nestbox Competition sponsored by the Canadian Arthritic and Rheumatism Society, and participation in the Purple Martin nestbox research project organized by the Griggsville Wild Bird Society. About 350 copies of the 1972 Annual Bird Report were sold. It is therefore unfortunate that failure of some observers to conform to the guidelines agreed upon for the reporting of observations led to the inevitable collapse of the A.B.R. project. I express my gratitude to those reliable and cooperative observers who did so much for the project. The uncritical acceptance of large numbers of undocumented records can only encourage those who argue that certain identification requires the killing of birds, and it is to be hoped that some means can be found to revive the project according to the scientific principles agreed upon and laid down in the earlier Reports.

Of course we have continued with our general meetings, and we have had a great variety of different speakers, all of whom have been a great success. We know that many members live rather far away and are unable to attend all of our meetings. Yet sometimes I have been disappointed at the rather low attendance and have felt that maybe people did not know what they were missing. But that is enough of that - I am in no position to preach, having failed to turn up to this important meeting myself!

Perhaps all of us should take our example from the junior members of the Society, who have met once a week throughout the year. For nineteen years Freeman King has inspired the enthusiasm and energy of our Juniors, and his retirement this year after such a long and successful period is a milestone in the history of the Society. His able and enthusiastic assistant Gail Mitchell now takes over as leader of the Junior Members and we know that they are in very dedicated and capable hands.

This year seems to have been so active that I cannot mention all of the events, but of course I must recall the great adventure of forty of our members in their

memorable expedition to California, so well described by their leader in the May issue of the Victoria Naturalist. It seems to have been a most successful trip and the venture is maybe well worth repeating another year.

If I may be permitted a few personal observations as I come to the end of my three-year term of office, I would like to say that it has been a great and rewarding experience for me - perhaps one of the most valuable experiences I have had in my life. While occupying the President's office, I have learned many things they never taught me at the university. It has not always been easy, and perhaps not always entirely enjoyable; but for the most part it has been enjoyable, and always it has been a great challenge and a job worth doing. I am grateful to the Society for giving me this opportunity and responsibility. I believe intensely in this Society and in what it stands for. I have reviewed the past year, but now let us look forward confidently to the future of the Victoria Natural History Society.

J. B. Tatum
President
28th May 1974

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1974-75

President	R. Yorke Edwards	598-7503
Vice-President ..	Dr. Alan P. Austin	479-7889
Secretary	Mrs. Jean Rimmington	592-6037
Treasurer	Kenneth C. Alexander	382-9765
Immed. Past Pres.	Dr. Jeremy B. Tatum	477-1089
Directors (1) ...	Frederick H. Harcombe	479-4958
(2) ...	Harold Hosford	478-5794
(3) ...	Stephen R. Mitchell	477-9248
(4) ...	Mrs. Kaye Suttill	477-4583
(5) ...	Mrs. O. Vera Walker	477-2851

PROJECTOR FOR SALE

An Aldis 35 mm colour slide projector in excellent condition is for sale at \$50. Enquiries should be made to the Secretary.

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AT 30 APRIL, 1974

	TOTAL 1974	Nehring	General	Audubon	Life Mem- bership	Publica- tions	Scholar- ship
ASSETS							
Cash in bank	\$ 5,301.83	\$ 136.82	\$434.98	\$3,494.09	\$ 4.23	\$1,097.78	\$ 133.93
Investments at cost (market value \$11,344)	11,686.46	9,392.50	-	-	290.90	-	2,003.06
Projector, microscope and telescope at est. cost	205.31	-	205.31	-	-	-	-
Nehring property at estate duty valuation	35,000.00	35,000.00	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$52,193.60</u>	<u>\$44,529.32</u>	<u>\$640.29</u>	<u>\$3,494.09</u>	<u>\$295.13</u>	<u>\$1,097.78</u>	<u>\$2,136.99</u>
LIABILITIES							
Account payable	\$ 25.00	-	\$ 25.00	-	-	-	-
Memberships paid in advance	149.63	-	149.63	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 174.63</u>						
RESERVE							
Audubon contract 1974-75	2,625.00	-	-	2,625.00	-	-	-
Annual bird report	300.00	-	-	-	-	300.00	-
	<u>49,093.97</u>	<u>44,529.32</u>	<u>465.66</u>	<u>869.09</u>	<u>295.13</u>	<u>797.78</u>	<u>2,136.99</u>
FUNDS BALANCES							
	<u>\$52,193.60</u>	<u>\$44,529.32</u>	<u>\$640.29</u>	<u>\$3,494.09</u>	<u>\$295.13</u>	<u>\$1,097.78</u>	<u>\$2,136.99</u>

Maureen Collins, Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS

I have examined the statement of income and expenditure of the Victoria Natural History Society for the year ended April 30, 1974. My examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of accounting records and other supporting evidence as I considered necessary in the circumstances, except that in the case of donations and revenue from Audubon film shows, it was not practicable to extend my examination beyond accounting for receipts as reported by the Society.

In my opinion, except for the effect of any adjustments that might have been required had I been able to carry out a verification of receipts (see preceding paragraph), the accompanying statements present fairly the results of the Victoria Natural History Society for the year ended 30 April, 1974.

Victoria

May 27, 1974.

J.R. Levey
Chartered Accountant.

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL, 1974

<u>1972-73</u>	<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>	<u>1973-74</u>
<u>Income</u>		
\$1,305	Membership dues	\$1,278.94
-	Sales and subscriptions	40.40
20	Sale of bird check lists	35.00
59	Bank interest	18.21
51	Miscellaneous	32.33
<u>1,435</u>		<u>1,404.88</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
961	Naturalist - production and mailing	1,804.61
185	Cost of meetings	247.50
90	Postage and stationery	132.04
24	Bird count	35.00
220	B.C. Federation dues and expenses	189.00
26	Affiliation fees	35.00
-	Audit fee and expenses	25.00
82	Miscellaneous	145.27
<u>1,588</u>		<u>2,613.42</u>
153	EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	1,208.54
1,809	Funds on hand at beginning of year	1,656.20
-	Transfer from Life Membership account	18.00
<u>\$1,656</u>	<u>FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR</u>	<u>\$ 465.66</u>

NEHRING ACCOUNT

-	Net cash realizations from estate	\$ 6,596.21
-	Bonds transferred at estate duty val'n	4,392.50
-	Property at estate duty valuation	<u>35,000.00</u>
		45,988.71
-	Expenses of maintaining property	<u>1,459.39</u>
	<u>FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR</u>	<u>\$44,529.32</u>

<u>1972-73</u>	<u>AUDUBON ACCOUNT</u>	<u>1973-74</u>
<u>Income</u>		
\$4,669	Ticket sales and admissions	\$5,097.00
87	Bank interest	106.73
<u>4,756</u>		<u>5,203.73</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
2,644	National Audubon Society	2,641.09
890	Cost of meetings	975.00
463	Advertising	734.82
89	Tickets and folders	32.76
19	Customs duty	20.76
<u>4,105</u>		<u>4,404.43</u>
651	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	799.30
450	Authorized appropriations	599.00
201		200.30
3,093	Funds on hand at beginning of year	3,293.79
-	Reserve for 1974-75 Audubon contract	2,625.00
<u>\$3,294</u>	<u>FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR</u>	<u>\$ 869.09</u>
Appropriations recommended:		
	Francis Park Board - Summer Student	\$ 250.00
	Delegate to C.N.F., London, Ontario	200.00
	Juniors' luncheon	25.00
	Balance available for distribution	394.09
		<u>\$ 869.09</u>

Notes:

- 1) Interest is recorded on a cash received basis.
- 2) Rent receivable from the Nehring property, less related expenses, has not been included in the above accounts.

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL, 1974

1972-73	1973-74	Life Membership	Publications	Scholarship
TOTAL	TOTAL			
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income				
Sales	269	109.20	109.20	-
Bank interest	13	18.48	12.25	3.17
Bond interest	144	137.50	-	122.50
Annual bird report	-	300.00	300.00	-
	426	565.18	421.45	125.67
Expenditure				
Scholarship	100	120.00	-	120.00
Sales tax	13	.83	.83	-
Bank charges	3	3.30	-	3.30
Publications purchased	-	64.20	64.20	-
	116	188.33	65.03	123.30
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	310	376.85	356.42	2.37
Transfer to General account & reserve	15	318.00	300.00	-
	295	58.85	56.42	2.37
Funds on hand at beginning of year	2,876	3,171.05	741.36	2,134.62
FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	\$3,171	\$3,229.90	\$797.78	\$2,136.99

BIRDS REPORTED

Swainson's Hawk (1)	Apr. 12	Beaver Lake R. Satterfield & V. Goodwill
Cinnamon Teal (1 pr.)	Apr. 23	Hastings Rd. Eleanor Davidson
Ring-billed Gull (1)	Apr. 23	Duncan Vic Goodwill
Townsend's Solitaire (1)	Apr. 27	Brighton Ave. G.M. Hewlett
Lapland Longspur (1)	Apr. 27	??? R. Satterfield & Mr. & Mrs. V. Goodwill
Marsh Hawk (1)	Apr. 27	Saanich R. MacKenzie-Grieve
Whimbrel (3)	May 2	Metchosin Lagoon
Semi-palmated Plover (2)	May 2	" "
		Tom Briggs & Vic & Mrs. Goodwill
Wandering Tattler (1)	May 5	Dallas Road Vic & Mrs. Goodwill
Black-headed Grosbeak (1)	May 6	Colwood Golf Course Rev. D. Sparling
Purple Martin (1)	May 7	Munn Rd. Eleanor Davidson
Red Knot (5)	May 7	Metchosin Lagoon Tom Briggs
Solitary Sandpiper (1)	May 7	Panama Flats R. Satterfield
Vaux Swift (10)	May 9	Duncan Vic Goodwill

ADDENDA

In time to add spring colour three yellow-headed blackbirds have been sighted (2 male, 1 female). The warblers are back - yellows, yellow-throats, townsend's, yellow-rumped and MacGillivray's and five sparrow species have been reported - savannah, chipping, white-crowned, golden-crowned, Lincoln, vesper and fox. On the larger side six turkey vultures were spotted and around the shore our members have watched black-bellied plover, ruddy turn-

stones, American mergansers, northern phalarope, blue-winged teal, lots of "peeps" and a western gull. Both western and olive-sided flycatchers are around as are sora rails, house wrens, mourning doves and dowitchers. We have had so many reports this month that space prevents us naming exactly who spotted what where. We will be selfish about our own report, however - 35 red crossbills in our back yard on both May 9 and 15. As a "lapse" birder I didn't deserve such a treat!

Notes from afar: Enid Lemon is now in England after a long drive to Toronto - unfortunately rotten weather accompanied her all the way - even to Point Pelee. But it did not dampen her enthusiasm. She got many "firsts" at the Point and was thrilled to see cardinals, indigo buntings and red-headed woodpeckers. As our readers will know, Pt. Pelee is the "funnel" for migrating birds in May. It has hundreds of visitors in May but not all are too well aware of what is going on. Enid overheard a gentleman remark "I wonder where Mr. Pelee gets all these birds this time of year"!

Our daughter, Linda, is nearing home as this is written having circumnavigated the globe and crossed the equator four times. She is still suffering from a severe case of "non-identification" after viewing so many lovely birds in India and Africa and with no book to refer to. We hope she has a good memory. On her safari in Kenya and Tanzania she had her morning sugar stolen by monkeys, opened her hotel door to be confronted by a curious Cape buffalo and had the great thrill of meeting Mrs. Leakey at Olduvai Gorge. I know she joins me in wishing you all the best of birding this summer.

... M. & L. Slocombe
3134 Henderson Rd., Phone 592-9047.

DAWN BIRD TRIP

Each spring the ardent birdwatcher welcomes the sight of the returning birds. How satisfying it is to see each species as they arrive. How we thrill to their magnificent nuptial plumage as they are caught in our binoculars or

telescope. But what about those birds that hide in the lush green foliage, and whose only means of identification is their bursts of ecstatic song? How well do we remember the songs and call notes of each species from one season to another? It was in order to avoid some of the frustration of hearing an unseen songster without being able to name it, that this writer was grateful for the opportunity to join the early morning Bird Trip under the leadership of Dr. Jeremy Tatum on May 5th. It was dark when eight of us gathered at the foot of Mt. Douglas at 4:30 a.m. Conditions were perfect, with no wind and mild temperature. As we stood there the air was fragrant with the scent of dew-damp vegetation mingling with Bitter Cherry blossom, and the 'Balm-of-Gilead' perfume carried from the poplar leaves.

After ten minutes, at 4:40 a.m., a Screech Owl called from some distance away. Dr. Tatum cupped his hands together and replied in exact imitation. The owl sent its tremulous, descending, 'bouncing ball' notes again, and again Dr. Tatum responded with remarkable likeness. He certainly fooled that 'sombre oiseau de nuit', as a few minutes later we saw its dark silhouette pass overhead, and heard it alight in a tree close to us. Now its call came loud and clear, as its agitation increased each time Jeremy answered it. Twice we heard it flutter closer in the branches, and twice it flew across the road above us. A Pheasant called, closely followed by a Red-winged Blackbird. At 4:53 a.m. the first Robin started carolling, and a California Quail spat out its vehement call. From the woods came the queerly beautiful 'squeaky gate' song that told us a Varied Thrush was there.

With the increasing light the 'dawn chorus' got underway in earnest, as the ecstatic outpouring of song welled up from a myriad avian throats, both around and above us, from close by and far distant. At no other time of day does birdsong reach such a rapturous crescendo as during the brief hour following the dawn, and it is truly a pity that we are so seldom out of doors to hear it. We only have a few weeks out of the entire year when it is to be heard like this. At 5:17 a.m. a Winter Wren poured forth its bubbling effervescent notes, soon fol-

lowed by the thin, high notes of Ruby-crowned Kinglets high overhead. It was now broad daylight and we walked slowly up towards the summit of Mt. Douglas. From the right-hand side of the road came the soft deep calling of a Blue Grouse, while soon afterwards Dr. Tatum spotted one in full view, on a dead branch of a Douglas fir. Each time it called we observed the throat and neck feathers swell out. A Townsend's Solitaire showed itself, but as it did not sing for us was not allowed on our list. Even when Jeremy excitedly pointed out a Merlin flying overhead he was flatly told by the official list compiler "No song, no credit!"

It was a joy to arrive at the Lookout in the utter peace and quiet of that early hour, with not one car in the parking place; to look down upon Blenkinsop Lake far below, set amidst the green fields, and to see that superb panorama of city, sea and snow-capped mountains beyond spread out before us. At 7:30 a.m. we arrived back at our cars after a most worthwhile and rewarding outing. We had heard and identified 35 species. Thank you, Dr. Tatum, for leading us.

Now, if I could just remember how that Pine Siskin's song went again!

... *Gordon N. Hooper*

DUES

The following membership rates for this year (May 1, 1974 - April 30, 1975) were approved at the General Meeting, April 23, 1974.

Junior	\$ 2.50
Golden Age Single	4.00
Regular Single	5.00
Family (Golden or Regular)	7.50
Sustaining	25.00

Please send remittance to the new Treasurer (see page 154).

Memberships lapse as of the September General Meeting - any magazines missed will be 50¢ per copy. This is the last "Naturalist" for the 1973-74 season.

... *Treasurer*

EDITORIAL

Editing the Victoria Naturalist has been a rewarding endeavour. We admit to hesitancy in accepting the job and at times have made supplication to St. Jude (the patron saint of hopeless cases) but the pleasure of challenge and research and the feeling of accomplishment when people have expressed their approval of our efforts far outweigh the "downs" one goes through when "writer's" block descends or the typewriter appears to have a vendetta toward you. We thank most sincerely all those who sent copy and lent a hand in various and sundry ways - without their help and material there would have been no magazine.

As I am no longer taking on the Editorship I would like to make a few points which may be of help to next year's editor and the Society as a whole. First and foremost we believe that the magazine is a two person job. With an editor and a co-editor the work load could be cut in half, and with two people sharing research, typing, checking facts and putting out feelers for articles, the magazine could be a really outstanding small publication capable of attracting more and more members to the Society. Secondly, it is our belief that a certain amount of carefully selected advertising could help put the magazine on a firmer financial footing. We do not mean advertising of the kind most of us find repellent. We mean good honest advertising which would be geared to those interested in the field of natural history. As an example of how one could present this on a page we refer our readers to the back section of that outstanding magazine Saturday Review World (which also has an excellent Environmental Newsletter section). We were approached by a firm involved in the natural history field this year but there was not enough time for the Executive to look into the whole subject thoroughly. We hope this can be done as soon as possible. As your editor is woefully ignorant of tax laws etc. concerning advertising in magazines (and news stand sales if possible) we would welcome any informed information on this subject. We feel it is really worth looking into.

Lastly, we wish to plead with our readers to keep

sending in material and to write the new editor if you have any leads as to others who would perhaps have articles of interest. We must keep broadening our scope, not be afraid to be controversial and seek to establish our magazine not only as a truly thoughtful publication but one that can, by its variety, appeal to an ever larger audience.

We may be a "little acorn" at present but who can deny us the possibility of becoming a "mighty oak".

... M. Slocombe

MUSIC TO LEARN BY

Robert Redford spells movie idol to the younger generation. He hasn't won an oscar, but his narration of a recent recording should earn him one. The Language and Music of the Wolves (an American Museum of Natural History recording) is outstanding. We played it at dinner time and thrilled to the chorus of wolves singing in unison and the solos of the leaders. Our cocker spaniel "freaked out" as our teenage son put it. She responded undoubtedly to an age old instinct. We, too, felt a strange communion with the lean grey hunters. North Americans should be ashamed that certain areas still have bounties on wolves. They kill only to survive and cover many many miles to find food. We are more lethal to our own species on our highways than the wolf ever is to the caribou or the moose.

... M. Slocombe

* * * * *

The smallest species of amphibian is believed to be an arrow-poison frog (*Sminthillus limbatus*) found in Cuba. Fully-grown specimens have a maximum recorded length of 0.51 of an inch.

* * * * *

SOME THOUGHTS TO THINK BY

The great end of learning is nothing else but to seek for the lost mind.

Mencius

.....

Though boys throw stones at frogs in sport, the frogs do not die in sport, but in earnest.

Plutarch

.....

Appearances to the mind are of four kinds. Things either are what they appear to be; or they neither are, nor appear to be; or they are, and do not appear to be; or they are not, and yet appear to be. Rightly to aim in all these cases is the wise man's task.

Epictetus

.....

If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content with doubts he shall end in certainties.

Bacon

.....

They are ill discoverers that think there is no land, when they can see nothing but the sea.

Bacon

.....

Nature, to be commanded, must be obeyed.

Bacon

.....

There is an inevitable divergence, attributable to the imperfections of the human mind, between the world as it is and the world as men perceive it.

William Fulbright

.....

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.

Albert Einstein

.....

Before I built a wall I'd ask to know what I was walling in or walling out.

Robert Frost

.....

No house should ever be on any hill or on anything. It should be of the hill, belonging to it, so hill and house could live together each the happier for the other.

Frank Lloyd Wright

.....

The past is but the beginning of a beginning, and all that is and has been is but the twilight of the dawn.

H.G. Wells

.....

The universe is not only stranger than we imagine but stranger than we can imagine.

???

.....

Science increases our power in proportion as it lowers our pride.

Claude Bernard

.....

Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to.

Mark Twain

.....

... M. Slocombe

BIRDING SUMMER

Saturday June 15 Whiffin Spit. Leave Mayfair Lanes parking lot 9:30 a.m. or meet at Whiffin Spit 10:15. Bring lunch. Leaders: Gordon & Gwennie Hooper.

Sunday July 21 Spectacle Lake. Leave Mayfair Lanes parking lot 8:30 a.m. or meet at Spectacle Lake 9:15. Bring Lunch. Leader: Jeremy Tatum.

Saturday Aug. 17 Cowichan Bay. Leave Mayfair Lanes parking lot 9:30 a.m. or meet at Robert Service Memorial 10:30. Bring lunch. Leader: Ron Satterfield.

BOTANY SUMMER

Saturday June 15 Saltspring Island. Leave Mayfair Lanes parking lot 8:30 a.m. (to catch 9:30 ferry). Bring lunch. Leader: Stephen Mitchell.

Sunday July 14 Leechtown. Leave Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. Bring Lunch. Leader: Stephen Mitchell.

Sunday Aug. 4 Green Mt. Leave Mayfair Lanes 8:30 a.m. 85 miles one-way. Bring lunch. Extensive hiking!! Leader: Stephen Mitchell.

JUNIOR SUMMER PROGRAM

June 15 Juniors and families (take vehicles) combined with adult Botany group. Saltspring Island. Meet 8:30 a.m. Mayfair Lanes (to catch 9:30 ferry). Bring lunch and ferry fare.

Drivers: Whitney, Murray.

July 27 Intermediates and Juniors. Day trip. Jordan Meadows. Bring lunch and bathing suits! Meet 9:00 a.m. Mayfair Lanes.

Drivers: Sandeman-Allen
Foster, Mothersill.

August 24 Intermediates and Juniors. Day Trip. East Sooke Park. Bring lunch. Meet 9:30 a.m. Mayfair Lanes.

Drivers: Reid, Hopkins, McGavin.

JUNIOR JOTTING

On May 11, 50 youngsters (6-16 years) from the Western Society of Young Naturalists were hosted for a days nature rambles and a hotdog lunch at Goldstream. Sixteen of our juniors participated also. This large group was split into six groups which spread out - all over Goldstream Park -

the flats, Mount Finlayson, the Goldmine trail, Arbutus Ridge, and the Prospectors trail. Several blind children participated in the days outing and the seeing children learned from them that there is more to a nature walk than the obvious visual finds. This was the most rewarding aspect of a successful day. Many thanks to all the leaders and parents who helped out.

... Gail Mitchell

A.O.U. CHECK LIST CHANGES

LUMPINGS

Green-winged Teal & Common Teal = Green-winged Teal ✓
 Yellow-shafted Flicker & Red-shafted Flicker = Common Flicker ✓
 Myrtle Warbler & Audubon's Warbler = Yellow-rumped Warbler ✓
 Baltimore Oriole & Bullock's Oriole = Northern Oriole ✓
 Slate-coloured Junco & Oregon Junco = Dark-eyed Junco ✓

SPLITTINGS

Herring Gull = Herring Gull ✓ & Thayer's Gull ✓
 Traill's Flycatcher = Willow Flycatcher* ✓ & Alder Flycatcher ✓

**this is the one we get here.*

NAME CHANGES

American Widgeon	American Widgeon ✓
European Widgeon	European Widgeon ✓
Common Scoter	Black Scoter ✓
Shoveler	Northern Shoveler ✓
Common Bushtit	Bushtit ✓
Robin	American Robin ✓
Knot	Red Knot ✓
Pigeon Hawk	Merlin ✓
Sparrow Hawk	American Kestrel ✓
Yellowthroat	Common Yellowthroat

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 1973 - 74

President	Vice-President
Dr. Jeremy Tatum	Mrs. G.N. Hooper
305 - 1680 Poplar Ave.	2411 Alpine Cres.
477-1089	477-1152

Immediate Past President

Mrs. F.A. Sherman, 2168 Guernsey St. -----	598-3237
Secretary: Mrs. J.L. Rimmington, 3372 Henderson Rd.-----	592-6037
Treasurer: Miss Maureen Collins, 2719 Richmond Rd. -----	598-1875
Programme Chairman: Stephen Mitchell, 4321 Majestic Dr. -----	477-9248

Group Leaders

Botany: Stephen Mitchell, (see address above)	
Ornithology: Mrs. Ruth Stirling, 3500 Salisbury Way -----	385-4223
Marine Biology: David Stirling, 3500 Salisbury Way -----	385-4223
Junior Naturalists: Freeman F. King, 541 McKenzie Ave. -----	479-2966
Editor - "The Victoria Naturalist": Maeford Slocombe, 3134 Henderson Rd. -----	592-9047
University Liaison: Dr. Rosemary Picozzi, 11-1595 Rockland-----	384-4958
Federation of B.C. Naturalists: Kerry Joy, Millstream Lake Rd., R.R.6 -----	478-5093

OTHER OFFICERS

Audubon Wildlife Films: Miss Anne Adamson, 1587 Clive Dr. -----	598-1623
A.H. Couser, 403-435 Michigan St.-----	384-0832
Asst. Junior Naturalists: Mrs. Gail Mitchell, 4321 Majestic -----	477-9248
Librarian: A.R. Davidson, 2144 Brighton Ave. -----	598-3088
Friends of the Museum: Dr. D.B. Sparling, 9-1354 Beach Dr. -----	598-4262

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.
Sustaining Membership \$25

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.