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NATURALIST

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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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(See also inside back cover)

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AUTUMN COLOURS

This news may never make the headlines but the facts are that millions of chemical factories throughout the Northern Hemisphere have been shutting down in the past few weeks because of an impending shortage of raw materials. Fortunately no world-wide economic disruption or human disaster has accompanied this massive closure. Gross national products remain unaffected, wars have not broken out, nor have predictions of planetary doom been forthcoming. The only outward manifestations of this momentous event have been a little more colour in men's lives and the ultimate dismantling of parts of the factories.

In this little opening excursion into the morass of metaphor the factories are, of course, deciduous trees; the raw materials, water and nutrients they draw from the soil; the shut-down, that period of dormancy men call winter; the dismantling, the annual fall of leaves, and the colour, the familiar beauty some of those leaves bring to the countryside in autumn.

In Canada, this panorama of colour reaches its most flamboyant expression in the hardwood forests of the east, retaining a more subdued presentation for the southern coast of British Columbia. From the Maritimes to southern Ontario, maples, oaks, and aspens combine to produce an unsurpassed succession of brilliant reds, rich russets and golden yellows to mark the approach of winter. On the

Cover Photo

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE

plains, and in the interior of British Columbia, autumn is dominated by the deep, golden yellow of the trembling aspen. In southern British Columbia this mantle of gold is broken occasionally by patches of glowing red, sumac's contribution to the display.

But nature seems to have exhausted the brightest colours of her pallet east of the Coast Range, for once west of this formidable mountain barrier, she paints with more restrained strokes in the dull gold of broad-leafed maple, the bright red of Douglas maple and the subtle reds and pinks of dogwood. On the lower mainland, the bright red of vine maples is an additional attraction that is missing from the Vancouver Island picture.

In an attempt to help nature and to capture some of the magnificent autumn colour of the east for ourselves, we have imported many domestic and foreign species most of which, having settled-in to the soft, moist climate of autumn on the coast, fail to live up to their colourful reputations.

The major trees are not alone in their contribution to our autumn colour. They are supported by dozens of species of smaller trees and shrubs, such as Pacific crabapple and red osier dogwood, each of which adds colour to the total picture.

This display, so cherished by man, is really little more than a side effect, an unimportant by-product of the preliminary stages of a much more significant event in the lives of trees - their annual preparation to meet a time of shortage and hardship which lies ahead. It is an outward symptom of profound physiological changes within the trees, changes that ready them for a period of drought. In the continental climates of the Northern Hemisphere this period of drought is winter, the season when moisture required for photosynthesis lies locked within the frozen soil and thus denied to the trees.

With their moisture supply about to be cut-off, deciduous trees must compensate by adjusting those

mechanisms in their make-up that result in excessive moisture expenditure, in this case transpiration mainly through their leaves. In the interests of moisture conservation the leaves, no longer required for food production in the approaching dormant season, and their transpiration now a liability, are shed thus eliminating a major cause of moisture loss to the tree.

These events, an integral part of the genetic design of all deciduous trees, are controlled by a complex combination of internal and external factors which seem to be set in motion by the shortening photoperiod - day length - of approaching winter, and they continue until all food production has stopped and the tree becomes dormant.

As photosynthesis ceases, the colours of autumn begin to appear in the leaves. The green chlorophyll in leaves, the compound without which photosynthesis cannot take place, begins to break down. As it does, the carotenoids - the pigments of yellow, orange and gold - present in the leaf throughout the growing season but masked by the chlorophyll, begin to appear.

At the same time the conversion of soluble sugars, still present in the sap of the leaves of some species, results in the production of anthocyanins - the bright reds and crimsons. This process is affected by light, temperature, moisture availability, and the degree of acidity of the sap which, except for the last, vary throughout the leafy canopy of the tree. This variation often results in waves of colour as leaves exposed to the sun turn red while those still shaded remain green.

The intensity of colour seems related, in part, to the dryness of the season and the presence of night frosts - two factors absent from a typical autumn here on the coast, which might account for our second class rating in the autumn colour pageant. Dry autumns, with warm sunny days and cool frosty nights, apparently result in the most saturated colours and, from a purely human point of view, produce the best show.

Another important internal event affecting the production of autumn colour begins within the tree long before the changing colours become apparent. This is the gradual formation, where the stalks of the trees join the twig, of a cork-like disk called the abscission layer. This layer, when complete, cuts off the flow of water to, and sugars from, the leaf, permitting the combination internal chemistry and external climatic conditions to work their colour magic. The abscission layer also facilitates the detachment of the leaf and seals the scar left on the twig against water-loss.

Not all deciduous trees possess the physiological machinery to produce autumn colour in their leaves. Alders, for example, shed their leaves while they are still green.

But suddenly the colour is gone, swept away by the first gales of winter. For a few months the shut-down is complete. Only with lengthening days, warming temperatures, and the eventual release of soil moisture, will these factories re-open to produce fresh green leaves and bright new blossoms, the mark of another chapter in the annual cycle of a deciduous tree and a new season men call spring.

... by Harold Hosford, from a conversation with T. Christopher Brayshaw, Associate Curator of Botany, British Columbia Provincial Museum.

* * * * *

A NEW BIRD SANCTUARY FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND

Next time you travel up-island as far as Qualicum Beach drop in to the Marshall-Stevenson Migratory Bird Sanctuary and spend an hour or two looking around. It'll be worth the time.

This comparatively new refuge, still much in the planning stage, covers 80 acres just north of Qualicum Beach. It was a gift of the Marshall family to the Canadian Wildlife Service.

To find the refuge, go north on the Island Highway past Qualicum Beach and watch for a narrow lane on the right with a sign saying "Marshall Farms". If you cross the Little Qualicum River you've gone too far.

We visited the refuge in August, not the best time for birding to be sure, but our visit was to friends first and the refuge second.

Our friend Ken Kennedy (our fearless leader on several Vancouver Christmas Counts) is in charge of the sanctuary and we spent two hours with him as he showed us around and told of the plans for improving the property as a sanctuary. One of the main projects is to build a good trail through the woods to an area near the river where a viewing tower is to be constructed. A good part of the area is wooded; there is also quite a bit of open grass and scrub, some river frontage and tidal marsh and some sea-shore, which makes for quite a variety of habitat.

When we arrived a photographer was taking pictures of a Snowy Owl which was given to Ken last winter, injured, and which he has brought back to good health. It will probably never see the Arctic again because one wing will always be weak. Ken also showed us his young Kestrel family, four females and one male, which were brought to him when someone cut down a tree not knowing there was a nest in it.

Ken has only been at the refuge for a few months but he already has a list of more than 150 species. He says he has seen several Glaucous Gulls and, in winter, has several Trumpeter Swans visiting. Also of interest on the property is the original homestead which is more than 100 years old. Plans are under way to restore the home to its former appearance.

All in all a spot well worth a visit. I'm sure Ken would welcome you.

... Jack Williams

BOTANISTS VISIT ISLAND VIEW BEACH

The day could not have been more perfect for the 18 members who turned up for the botany trip on September 14. Island View Beach provides a wide variety of habitats - luxuriant hedgerows with an abundance of western crabapple (Pyrus fusca), red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa), and black twinberry (Lonicera involucrata). This area also provided tree frogs, the croaking of which had previously been an unsolved mystery to at least one member.

The dry beach area provided us with sand-bur (Franseria chamissonic), coast wormwood (Artemisia suksdorfii), tree lupine (Lupinus arboreus), and the beautiful yellow sand verbena (Abronia latifolia).

In a small marsh we found gay patches of brass buttons, unpoetically known as mud disks (Cotula coronopifolia), a plant introduced from South Africa; bur marigold (Bidens cernua), various species of polygonums and an abundance of water parsley (Oenanthe sarmentosa), the last named providing a rich diet for hosts of the brilliantly coloured caterpillars of the swallowtail butterfly.

In the drainage ditches, in addition to the broad-leaved cattails (Typha latifolia), brooklime (Veronica americana), and other familiar species, we were delighted to find several occurrences of the rare celery-leaved buttercup (Ranunculus sceleratus), the yellow-green leaves of which are so satisfactorily different from any of the more familiar buttercups.

The rich soil of the potato fields provided an abundant supply of introduced weeds, including four polygonums. Here again were patches of brass buttons, not in the least deterred by cultivation.

A profusion of lush red goosefoot (Chenopodium rubrum), were also noted. A lone specimen of the scarlet pimpernel (Anagallis arvensis) proved to be the thrill of the day for a literary-minded visitor

from Quebec. Bordering on the woods to the west of the field was a fine stand of angelica (Angelica genuflexa).

Although for most of us the names of the rushes, sedges and grasses are beyond our botanical capacity, at least we hope to remember American dunegrass (Elymus mollis), seashore saltgrass (Distichlis spicata), silvery hair grass (Aira caryophyllea), and the appropriately named rabbit-foot grass (Polypogon monspeliensis).

While we listed about 100 plant species, we looked in vain for mouse-tail (Myosurus minimus), one of the thrills of bygone visits to the area. Nor could we find the rare Polygonum punctatum, discovered by Miss Melburn earlier in the week and not previously listed for the Saanich area, a discovery which proves that there is still adventure to be found in local botanizing.

... K. Sherman and
K. Dickieson

VANCOUVER BIRD TRIP

On Sunday September 15, about 40 birders from the Society boarded the early ferry at Swartz Bay and set sail for Tsawwassen where the friendly birders of the Vancouver Natural History Society met us.

Our leader for the day was Wayne Weber, an interesting and knowledgeable young man who not only knew his birds but was well informed about many aspects of natural history and environmental matters in general.

We went first to Point Roberts and Lighthouse Point Marine Park, a flat rather uninteresting place at first glance but one which proved to be a good birding spot. In the longish dry grass were Savannah Sparrows, Water Pipits and Horned Larks. The beach, which appeared to be deserted, was

covered with barnacle-encrusted, black and white stones that, on our approach, came to life and turned into Black Turnstones and Sanderlings. Off shore, Parasitic Jaegers pursuing Common Terns, solitary Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorants passing low over the water, and lines of White-winged and Surf Scoters flying close to the wave tops, made a busy scene.

From Lighthouse Point we drove to Lilley Point and walked through a lovely mixed woodland where we heard more than saw, Brown Creepers, nut-hatches, chickadees, kinglets and a Hutton's Vireo.

Here we split into two groups, one continuing along the trail to a lookout from which we got a wonderful view of the sea and beach. The other group slid down a steep, sandy trail to the beach 200 feet below where many more scoters, loons, Western, Red-necked and Horned Grebes could be seen on the water. On the sand bars California Thayer's and Mew Gulls rested and overhead a group of Vaux's Swifts took exception to the approach of a Kestrel eventually diving at it until the little falcon left. The Kestrel was last seen doing a little badgering of its own as it turned on an innocuous-looking Red-tailed Hawk that drifted by.

After lunch we drove to the George Reifel Wildlife Refuge for an all-too-short visit before returning to the ferry.

Most of the activity at the Refuge revolved around waterfowl as might be expected. Many species of ducks were present as well as Snow and Canada Geese. But there were few shorebirds; a small group of Long-billed Dowitchers feeding with their sewing-machine action, a few Pectoral Sandpipers, Killdeer and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs made up the list. It is interesting to note that in *The Shorebirds of North America* it mentions that the Greater Yellowlegs sometimes feeds with a side-to-side skimming motion while Lesser Yellowlegs are snatchers.

A few warblers were spotted flitting about in the trees and shrubs and swallows were still abundant. Overhead several Marsh Hawks were seen

soaring just above the trees.

Altogether we saw 72 species.

Many thanks to Jack Williams for organizing the trip and to the Vancouver birders for giving us such an enjoyable day.

... Anne Knowles

WITNESS TO TRAGEDY

On July 14th, while travelling through Manning Park, I came upon a tragedy. A fluttering of feathers at the side of the road brought me to a stop. On examination I found many bits and pieces of beautiful Evening Grosbeaks -- bodies cut in half, headless bodies, mutilation all about me. It was a sickening sight indeed!

An accurate count was impossible but I estimated between 175 and 200 Evening Grosbeaks were dead. They had plainly been struck by motor vehicles when they flew up from the roadside.

I tried to determine why so many had been hit at this particular spot because we had been seeing Grosbeaks all along the road and only here were dead birds found. The site was on a curve around a high cut where cars came rapidly down a grade. There was a river bank on one side and on the other, just past the high bank, was a large copse of willow.

As I watched, small groups of Grosbeaks would leave the willows and fly to the roadside to pick gravel at the edge of the pavement. According to Godfrey, in *Birds of Canada*, Grosbeaks frequent "salty" gravel piles. Probably this gravel was salty from winter salting of the roads.

The birds flew in and stood among their tattered, broken, brothers, apparently quite unconcerned by the carnage around them. I did not see any birds hit by cars despite a lot of traffic passing while I watched.

Perhaps the slip-stream of air from wide vehicles such as campers and freighters, was the cause of the deaths. I do not know the answer but the birds were very dead.

I picked up half-a-dozen of the whole birds and put them in the freezer, later giving them to the Provincial Museum for study skins.

... *Jessie M. Woollett*

KERRY JOY OPENS 1974/75 WINTER PROGRAM

It may have taken more than 4 months but Kerry Joy finally got to talk about Provincial Parks.

Kerry, Chief Naturalist with the Provincial Parks Branch, had been slated to speak last May at the Society's annual general meeting. But a man-sized debate on the fate of the Nehring estate got in the way. The result was that Kerry had to wait, and so did his audience.

The 80 members who turned out for our first meeting on September 19, figured it was worth the wait.

Kerry divided his presentation between some general opening remarks and a selection of spectacularly beautiful slides of examples of our present parks and some beauty spots he hopes may soon become provincial parks. The slides had to be seen to be believed.

As for Kerry's remarks, he revealed that in the 2 years of the present government's tenure more than 2 million acres of park land lost while the previous government was in office, have now been recovered. We can now boast a park system totalling more than 8.5 million acres, ranging from the tiny 1-acre nature park at Ballingal Islets to the giant 2.2 million-acre Tweedsmuir Park in the interior.

About 3.6% of the land area of British Columbia

now rests in Parks Branch jurisdiction and Kerry sees no reason why this figure could not be as high as 10%. He pointed out that it is not just the total acreage but the quality of those acres that is significant. He felt that we should be fighting to ensure that only the very best should be designated and not just leftovers.

Questioned on the permanency of these parks, Kerry was frank in saying that as governments change so do priorities but that any future government, sensitive to the growing public demand, and need, for more park lands, would not likely go against the tide of public support for parks without paying the eventual price at the polls.

Looking ahead, Kerry saw the growing energy crunch affecting park development. As we "shift out of high gear in our cars and into low gear in our hiking boots" we can expect to see less emphasis on major auto-oriented development in parks and more on hiking trails, bicycle trails and walk-in camp sites.

Kerry closed on the optimistic note that wild-life will be getting a better deal in future park planning as its significance to human wellbeing becomes more fully understood.

... *Editor*

ISLAND VIEW FOR THE BIRDERS

With Jack Williams in the lead, 16 birders braved the torrid temperatures to seek out birds along Island View Beach on September 22.

We were pleased to welcome to our search-party a couple who had recently joined the Society, a naturalist friend from Devon and two lads just beginning the ornithological route.

After 4 hours of searching we had seen about 34 species.

A flock of Western Sandpipers flew up to start us along the beach while on the bay many Common Loons, two Arctic Loons, Horned Grebes, Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorants rested. With the aid of the telescope we were able to pick out a scaup, White-winged and Surf Scoters and a Red-breasted Merganser.

We visited the small pond near the campground and found two Greater Yellowlegs and a Water Pipit enjoying a peaceful meal. Here also, our Devon birder had her first look at a Rufus-sided Towhee and an American Kestrel, both seen in the bushes bordering the pond.

Returning by the path skirting the beach we found Savannah and Golden-crowned Sparrows and some Chestnut-backed Chickadees.

A slight breeze made lunch on the beach more pleasant. After lunch a walk along the dike and up the hill produced Killdeer, House Finches and American Goldfinches as well as a Merlin. But the best was saved for the last, a delicious feast of blackberries earned after our climb up the hill to the road.

... *Dorothy Williams*

SOMETHING TO WATCH FOR

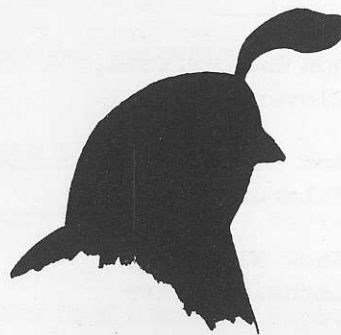
Sky watching in November will feature a total eclipse of the moon on the 29th. For more than two hours, as the earth passes between the moon and the sun, our shadow will totally cover the moon.

But you'll have to be an early riser to see the whole performance. The partial phase begins about 4:30 a.m. with the total phase starting about two hours later. By about 8:50, a time when most of us will be up and around, the earth's shadow will begin to move off the moon's surface.

For evening looking watch again for Jupiter. It is still the most obvious object in the southern sky. About 2 hours after sunset Jupiter is joined by Saturn which rises in the southeast. By midnight Jupiter will have set and Saturn will have the sky to itself.

... *Editor*

BIRD REPORTS



Highlights

Arctic Tern (2)	Sept. 10	Ron Satterfield, Clover Point
Black Tern (1)	Sept. 12	Ron Satterfield, Esquimalt Lagoon
Caspian Tern (1)	Sept. 17	Ron Satterfield, Oak Bay Golf Course
Bobolink (7)	Sept. 18	Ron Satterfield, McHugh Road
Purple Martin (2 imm.)	Sept. 5	The Davidsons, Burnside
(3)	Sept. 17	Rob Mackenzie-Grieve, Prevost Hill
Say's Phoebe (1)	Sept. 10	D. Williams & Tues. Group, Bowker Avenue
Stilt Sandpiper (1)	Sept. 18	Ron Satterfield, Martindale
" " (1)	Sept. 1	Ron Satterfield, Esquimalt Lagoon
Townsend's Solitaire (1)	Sept. 10	Rob Mackenzie-Grieve, Prevost Hill
<u>Early Arrivals</u>		
Bufflehead (2 females)	Sept. 26	Ron Satterfield, McIntyre Road

Oldsquaw (6)	Sept. 29	Ron Satterfield, Clover Point
White-fronted Goose (1 adult)	Sept. 7	Ron Satterfield, Interurban Road
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1)	Sept. 11	Jack Williams, Lochside Drive
Varied Thrush (1)	Sept. 17	Rob Mackenzie-Grieve Prevost Hill
(a few)	Sept. 30	The Davidsons, varied locations, (naturally)
Lesser Scaup (1)	Sept. 24	Peggy Goodwill, Hood Lane
Dunlin (21)	Sept. 1	Ron Satterfield, Esquimalt Lagoon

Large Numbers

Turkey Vulture (17)	Sept. 24	Miss R. Bogart, Prospect Lake Rd.
" " (125)	Sept. 25	Mrs. Hazeland, Beecher Bay
Bald Eagle (100)	Sept. 24	Many observers, Clover Point
Red-breasted Merganser (175)	Sept. 27	Ron Satterfield, Esquimalt Lagoon
Vaux Swift (50)	Sept. 25	Harold Hosford, Colwood
Parasitic Jaeger (74) (64 light phase, 6 dark phase, 4 immature)	Sept.	Ron Satterfield
Cedar Waxwing (80)	Sept. 8	Jack Williams, Littlewood Road
Horned Lark (22)	Sept. 13	Ron Satterfield, Esquimalt Lagoon

Lapland Longspur Sept. 12 Ron Satterfield,
(10) Esquimalt Lagoon

Late Stayers

Osprey (1)	Sept. 20	Gerry Gardner, Prospect Lake Rd.
Barn Swallow (4)	Sept. 29	Ron Satterfield, McIntyre Road
Ruddy Turnstone (1)	Sept. 12	Ron Satterfield, Esquimalt Lagoon
Solitary Sandpiper (1)	Sept. 7	Ron Satterfield, Esquimalt Lagoon
Northern Phalarope (30)	Sept. 30	Ron Satterfield, Ross Bay

Perhaps the most unusual sighting of the month was the large flock of Bald Eagles reported as follows: 80 Bald Eagles over central peninsula at 11 a.m. Sept. 24 at approx. 2000', white heads seen, they moved to waterfront and 100 counted over Clover Point at noon. They then split into 2 groups and disappeared by 12:20 p.m. 62 went in the direction of Sooke and 38 over the Straits towards Port Angeles. Mixture of adults and juveniles.

One cannot help wondering what, if any, relationship exists between this great flock of eagles, particularly those that headed west on the 24th, and the 125 Turkey Vultures seen at Beecher Bay the next day.

If anyone hasn't seen a Parasitic Jaeger this month they just haven't been looking. Many have been reported from all along the waterfront.

Warblers have been seen by many including Nashvilles by Ron Satterfield and Rob Mackenzie-Grieve and Black-throated Greys by Anne Knowles and Jack Williams.

Mary Clark has had some interesting avian visitors to her garden this month including a female Western Tanager on the 23rd and 3 Hermit Thrushes on the 27th.

Anna's Hummingbirds continue to be reported with 2 seen on Arbutus Road by Victor Copp.

Gulls reported included a few Ring-billed at Clover Point seen by both Ron Satterfield and Harold Hosford; Franklin's at Trial Island (1) by Chauncey Wood and Clover Point (1) by Peggy Goodwill and Ron Satterfield. Ron got another at Hood Lane as well.

Golden Plover showed up twice for Ron Satterfield, one on the 14th at Cordova Spit and 2 on the 9th on the Oak Bay Golf Course. Among the other shorebirds turned up by Ron in September were 3 Baird's and 3 Sanderlings at Esquimalt Lagoon and 3 Pectorals at McIntyre Road. Peggy Goodwill and Leila Roberts also got a Sanderling at Bowker Ave.

There was little action on the raptor front but 2 Marsh Hawks were reported, one from Prevost Hill by Peggy Goodwill and another from Island View by who else but Ron Satterfield. Ron also picked up a Kestrel at Martindale.

September looks like it was Ron Satterfield's month. But don't let your guard down Ron; Vic Goodwill returns in October.

... *Jack Williams*

ODDS N' ENDS

..... I'm sure Bob Carcasson wasn't the only one to notice my error with his name in last month's Naturalist. It should have been Robert H. Carcasson, not Robert W. Carcasson. My apologies Bob

* * * *

..... Ken Alexander, our indomitable treasurer, asks me to remind families with family memberships that you are entitled to participate (or your children are) in Junior and Intermediate activities of the Society and I hear there's some good stuff in the offing for the youngsters so get yours involved

* * * *

..... If you haven't already noticed you should now. The Naturalist has a new look, a new cover. It's only an experiment. If you object, sing out. If you like it, sing out even louder. The whole idea is to make The Naturalist a little more attractive and, of course, to please you

* * * *

..... while on the subject of covers, we need photographs, good photographs, black and white, 8" x 10", glossy and preferably adaptable to the vertical format of the cover of The Naturalist. Send your best to me. Who knows, you too could make the cover of The Victoria Naturalist

* * * *

..... about those Directors meetings, they're held the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in room 412, Elliot Bldg., University of Victoria. If you've got something you think the Directors should discuss, drop any one of them a line, or give them a 'phone call, and let them carry the ball for you.

* * * *

... *Editor*

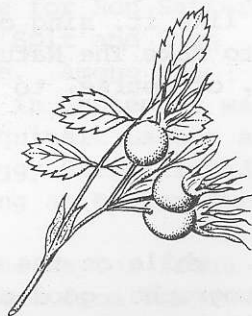
KIDS COUNTRY

EDIBLE PLANTS by Cheryl McGavin

Mahonia (Oregon Grape) These berries should be ripe after the first frost, sometime between September and November. They can be eaten raw.

Kinnikinnick (Bear Berry) Kinnikinnick is a red mealy berry. It is eaten raw between September and December. It is a low spreading plant and has tough glossy green leaves half an inch long. The leaves grow alternately on a reddish coloured stem. Kinnikinnick is an Indian word meaning smoking mixture.

Rosehips Wild rosehips can be found in great profusion at this time of the year. If you eat a rosehip you should eat the outside of the hips. Rosehips make very good jelly also. They are found on the bush from September on.



YARROW by Stephen McGavin

Common names - Yarrow, Wild Carrot and Queen Anne's Lace.

Latin name - *Achille mille folium*

Range - Throughout British Columbia on dry and poor soils.

Description - Leaves arch from the stem which has no branches. The leaves are very finely divided into fringes that look like fuzzy pipe cleaners. The flower head is 2-4 inches across and flat on the head, but the top is slightly rounded.

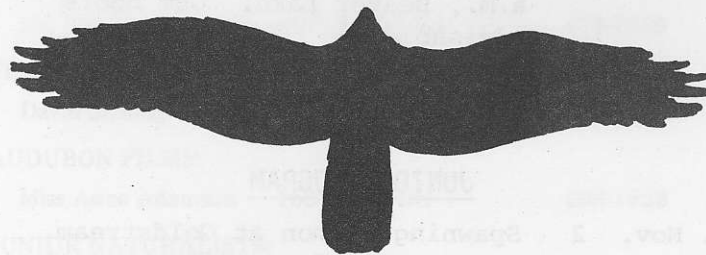
Background - In ancient times the leaves were supposed to have been used in the treatment of wounds.

ACROSS THIS LAND with Chris Walsh

(Excerpts from Chris's account of his trip last summer from Victoria to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.)

It wasn't easy leaving Victoria where I had so much fun in the Nature World but the day finally came and we sailed out of Victoria harbour for Seattle on July 23.

The next day, on the way across that endless land of sagebrush through Washington State, I saw a few American Goldfinches, a couple of House Finches, a Barn Swallow, and the symbol of the desert, the Turkey Vulture.



Just before Moses Lake I saw 2 birds I could not identify. The first was a gull that had distinctly black wingtips. The second was a small bird the size of a robin, which was grey with white at the joints of the wings.

(Got any ideas about these birds? Why not drop Chris a line at 179A Woodridge Cres., Ottawa.)

RACOONS by Cheryl McGavin

Did you know that racoons are moving into Victoria and other cities? Have you seen a racoon in the city? Why are racoons coming into the city? Do they eat starlings eggs?

If you think you know the answers to any of these questions, I'd like to hear from you. Send your answers to me at 1515 Camosun St., Victoria.

ADULT PROGRAM

- Sun. Nov. 10 Botany. Fungus Foray, Metchosin Lagoon. Meet 9:30 a.m. Mayfair Lanes. Lunch optional.
Leader: Harold Brodie (477-6260)
- Wed. Nov. 20 General Meeting. 8:00 p.m. St. John's Ambulance Auditorium, 941 Pandora. Speakers: Alex Peden and Brent Cooke.
Topic: Another Colourful World --
Seen Through A Diver's Camera
- Sat. Nov. 30 Ornithology. Beaver & Elk Lake. Meet 9:30 a.m. Mayfair Lanes or 10:00 a.m., Beaver Lake. Gum boots advisable.
Leader: Tim Murphy (385-5357)

JUNIOR PROGRAM

- Sat. Nov. 2 Spawning salmon at Goldstream. Drivers: Sandeman-Allen & Callow.
- Sat. Nov. 16 Fungus hunt, Francis Park. Drivers: Whitney & Belton.
- Sat. Nov. 30 Mountain ramble, Blenkinsop Trail, Mount Douglas. Drivers: Gillie & Mothersill.

Note: All junior trips start at 9:30 a.m. from Mayfair parking lot at Roderick and Oak. If drivers are unable to participate, please contact Gail Mitchell (477-9248) as soon as possible.

INTERMEDIATE PROGRAM

- Sun. Nov. 3 Birdwatching at Beacon Hill Park. Meet, 9:00 a.m. at the animal pens and regroup there again at 1:00 p.m.
Leader: David Stirling (385-4223)

COORDINATORS

PROGRAMME:

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LEADERS:

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THE VICTORIA NATURALIST:

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