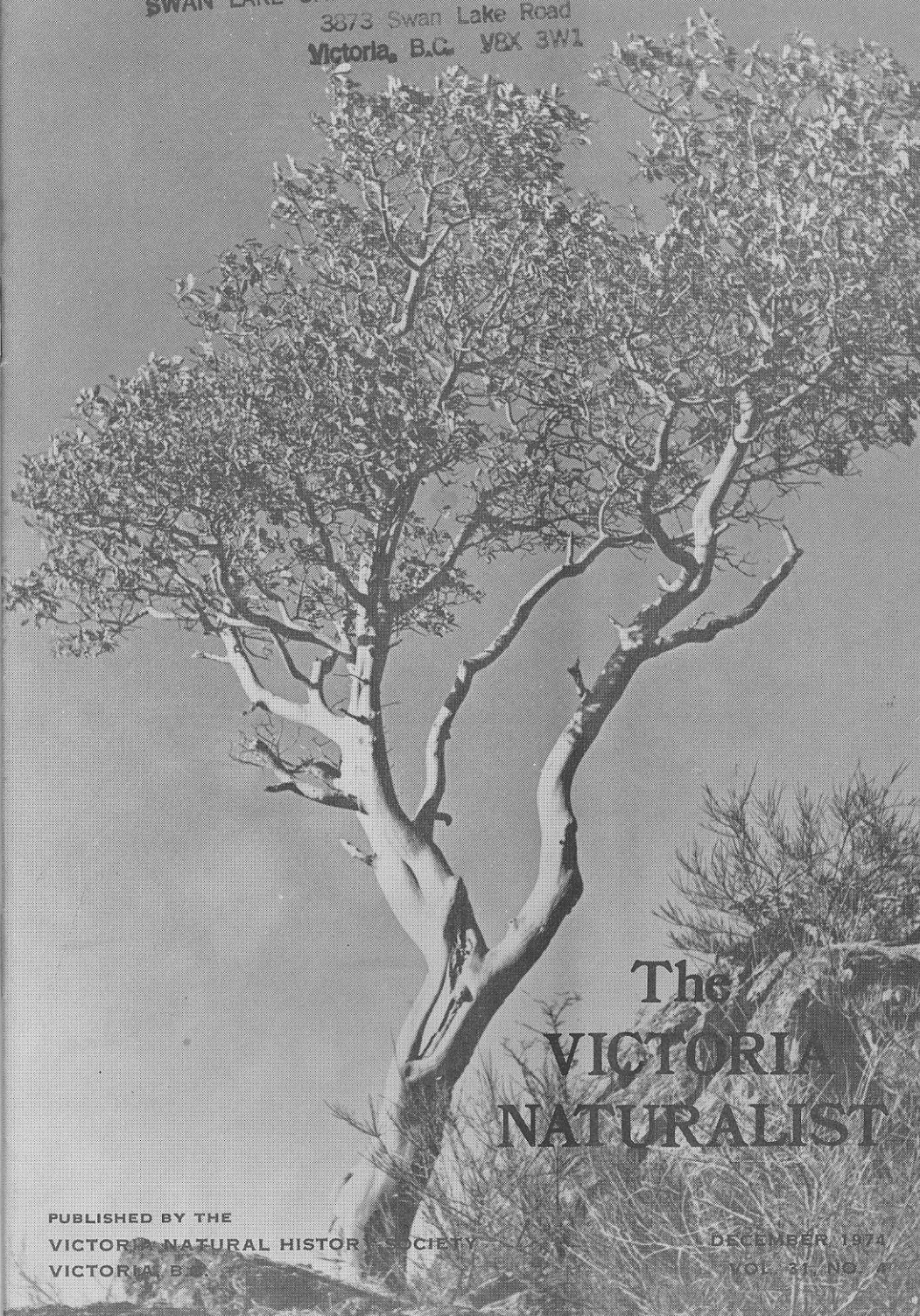


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THE WILD RESOURCE - TO USE OR NOT TO USE?
THAT IS THE QUESTION

by Alan Austin

This is the first part of a two-part article by Dr. Austin in which he first examines the philosophy of human use of living organisms and, in next month's Naturalist, describes a specific British Columbia resource-use problem - the harvest of seaweeds - and the studies taking place to ensure the proper regulation of their exploitation. Ed.

Intuitively, as a naturalist, but backed by experience as a biologist, it appears to me that the organisms, or plants and animals of our globe, that we understand as "wild", should not be used. This might sound a dogmatic remark; indeed there is not adequate space here for me to develop my thoughts as fully as I would like.*

Perhaps I am being too simplistic when I say that the organisms on earth, that is the total biota, are made up of just 2 components: wildlife and tamelife. This latter term I might have coined in 1968 since I have not seen it used elsewhere, which is surprising, for it seems to give a simplified order to what might appear a vast array of assorted creatures. "Tamelife" refers, of course, to those organisms that we have selected and altered, often rather significantly, from their original state into a state which we can profitably use in human society. There are innumerable examples; some of the commonest and most important are our cultivated cereals, which came from wild grasses, our beef

Cover Photo - Arbutus
by
the late W.D. Reith

cattle, our vegetables, our flowers. Many of these have been selected for thousands of years, others more briefly. These "tamed" organisms are, so to speak, born and bred within our protective technologies called agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry. We see them born, give them cover, shelter, food, and then, it is considered justifiably, we slaughter them for our use or we cut them from the fields to make our bread.

Recognizing the pain felt by many of us beholding the slaughter of what we term "dumb" animals, it intrigues me that the cutting of a field of corn, or a cabbage, or a tree causes so much less concern than the similar sacrifice of a bull, or pig, or chicken. Are not plants living organisms with equal status with regard to such sacrifices for our nutritional needs? It could be argued that plants have greater "biological" status since they and only they are the original providers of "food" usable by the animals with which we have obvious fellow feelings.

Nevertheless, "tamelife" lives to a very great extent under our human influence and, in this regard, can be said to be a relatively unimportant component of world biota; it suffers the limitations of our own limited understanding of natural systems!

On the other hand, the wild biota, the "wildlife", is still "out there on its own". These creatures have developed over eons of time within the process of natural evolution that were certainly not influenced by human society; they have been subject to the true influences, not the recently man-altered influences, of evolutionary and environmental pressures. These organisms surely carry a particular message, a pattern, a key to self-perpetuative development which we as yet are not near understanding.

Wildlife is, of course, "a resource" in our modern parlance. We hunt duck, deer, moose, we even shoot wild "game" such as cougar, bear, and the other big game of the tropics and equatorial regions - lion, tiger, elephant and so on. It could well be

that we use, chiefly in fact misuse, these "resources" at our peril. We even harvest wildlife in substantial quantities particularly from the aquatic or water world. Fish from the sea and many lakes, whales from our seas and oceans, crabs, oysters, and many many other creatures form their position as "wild" biota. I know of course that oysters, shellfish, and also fish are now in the process of being cultivated (mariculture) and are therefore, you might claim, "tamelife" and, according to my definitions, are "fair" game for collection and consumption.

Perhaps this situation in the water world is indicative of our juvenile stage of understanding the biology and ecology and control of the aquatic environment and its wise utilization.

This brings me to my main theme - that of the utilization of the wild resource of seaweed around our coast in B.C. but I hope that my rather lengthy preamble has stated my case clearly at the outset for I can well imagine many naturalists wondering why a naturalist, an ecologist, a biologist, is concerned regarding harvesting of seaweed.

Well, seaweeds have been used for some considerable time in many parts of the world, particularly in the Orient, and also in some European countries but here I can deal only in outline with the history of seaweed utilization and only briefly with the situation as it is in B.C.

Basically seaweeds have been used in the past in three categories. Firstly, they have been used as fertilizer or manure on the soil of farmers' fields usually not very far from the ocean, although in some instances the seaweed has been carted many miles inland. Most of this seaweed has been that which has been cast-up by storms at various times of the year and is usually more plentiful after the seaweed has reached the end of its life-cycle, becomes rather loosely attached, or is more prone to detachment by late summer, fall and winter gales. A good deal of the seaweed resource used at this time is gathered as cast-up weed, in fact, using the wild resource in this state of "rejected surplus" seems to be perhaps

the least problematic.

The second category of use is that of uses as food for cattle and for humans.

Food for cattle and livestock is evident both in the practice of driving cattle to the seashores, at low tide, for them to browse at their will on weeds of their choice, and this has been done in northern European coastal areas, Scotland, Ireland, and Scandinavia and many other parts of the world for many years. More recently certain seaweeds have been collected, dried, ground into meal and added as small percentage supplements to poultry feed, pig-feed, and cattle feeds with, it appears good results.

Use as food for human consumption can further be divided into two major aspects: the first is the direct consumption of the plant, as it occurs, and the other is the extraction of materials from the plant for use in foods or with other foods. The direct use of the plant for food has been practiced chiefly in the Orient but also occurs in northern Europe where certain species, several of which occur on B.C. coasts, are plucked from the seashore, washed, dried, maybe cooked, and consumed as an article of food, usually in conjunction with other foods; Nori "goes with" rice in Japan and bacon "goes with" Laver in Europe. I have sampled some of these seaweeds and find them very acceptable indeed. The same delightful delicate species of red seaweed employed in both Nori and Laver can be found floating colourfully in soups in Chinese restaurants in Victoria.

The use of extractives in food processing and in the manufacture of many modern convenience food forms is very widespread. For example, the seaweed gels, as they are sometimes called, used in very small quantities, are particularly effective in stabilizing homogenous milk, ice-creams, instant puddings, miracle whip, and a large variety of foods of this sort. The seaweed gels are used in salad dressings, cream toppings, processed cheeses, creamed cheeses, yogurts and many other foods.

The fourth category of use is the part these extractives play in a non-food or manufacturing sense. The extractives which come from seaweeds have been, for not too many years, used in industrial, pharmaceutical and medical ways.

... concluded next month.

* They were developed in an article in a Victoria publication in 1968 called "The Biologist and Pollution" or "in wilderness is the preservation of the world".

* * * * *

THE LONG THIN SUN WORSHIPPERS

Some of the 60 people present may have guessed who the "Long Thin Sun Worshippers" were but there must still have been some in doubt when Patrick Gregory began his talk to the Society on October 16. Patrick didn't leave his audience in doubt for long. After disclaiming any responsibility for the rather suggestive title created for his talk, he announced that snakes would be the topic for the evening.

When no pell mell rush for the door developed, Patrick went on to outline the fascinating annual cycle of the garter snakes he had been studying in Manitoba, a cycle which, except for minor variations, probably applies equally well on Vancouver Island.

Patrick outlined how the garter snakes are the most abundant and widespread of North American snakes with the genus represented by 19 species, more than half of which occur in Canada, three of them in British Columbia and on Vancouver Island.

On the basis of his research in Manitoba, Patrick's description of the lives of garter snakes did little to destroy a long-held human opinion that snakes are mighty strange critters. For example, they must eat enough in three months to keep them

alive for the other nine, they congregate in winter in underground hibernacula, sometimes in the thousands, and that they mate indiscriminately with as many as a hundred males vying for one female, and all at the same time.

Patrick's outline of the annual cycle began in spring, April in Manitoba, when the males leave the den. The females emerge later and mating takes place, followed by dispersal which is usually complete by June.

Patrick found that the snakes from the dens he studied moved up to 12 miles from their dens in this summer dispersal and that the direction of movement is always south. He could not explain why.

Also by June, the snakes have begun to eat - mostly frogs and salamanders but occasionally nestling birds and insects. In August the young are born thereby producing another snake mystery; the young do not return to the den with the adults and, so far, their wintering places are unknown.

Patrick also outlined how, by late August, feeding has ceased and the movement back to the dens has begun. During September, huge concentrations can be found around favoured dens.

As temperatures fall and days shorten the snakes spend less and less time above ground. Eventually, like the sun worshippers they are, and usually by the end of October, the snakes go underground for good.

Hibernation may last up to 6 months and must take place well below the surface to avoid the frost which, in Manitoba winters, can penetrate to six feet.

The principal cause of mortality among these snakes seems to be crows which kill and eat many during the lethargic period just after the snakes come out of hibernation in the spring. Many others are

killed each spring and fall on highways and roads, run over by vehicles when they are on their semi-annual migrations.

Patrick's talk generated a lengthy question period which, among other things, revealed that old ideas about snakes die hard.

... Editor

* * * * *

AUDUBON FILMS

Keep some time open on December 6 or 7 for a visit to Guatemala with Chess Lyons. The occasion will be the third of this season's Audubon Wildlife Films and with Chess at the controls this is certain to be an unforgettable experience. Titled

"Guatemala: Halfway To Heaven",

Ches's film will be shown at 8:00 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 and at 2:30 and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the Newcombe Auditorium.

* * * * *

NATURALIST? HUNTER? A NATURAL DIFFERENCE?

by Al Grass

The question has been asked many times "What is a naturalist?" A simple definition might be one who is interested in nature. This however gives no real insight into the naturalist movement today or in the past. The answers to the question might be found in a review of those things that have traditionally concerned naturalists, or in an examination of the works and lives of famous naturalists like Thoreau and Fabre, or in a look at today's naturalists and the issues that concern them.

There is today, as in the past, a separation of the concerns and feelings of naturalists from those of hunters. I will be the first to admit that there are many areas of common concern. No one is trying to say that a hunter cannot be a naturalist. A good hunter must be both a skilled outdoorsman and a naturalist. But sportsmen have by tradition been interested only in so-called 'game' species, this is only natural. Game species are animals which can be managed and harvested.

The Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education program of the Fish and Wildlife Branch, Department of Recreation and Conservation, carries on this tradition in the training of new hunters. There is no question about the great need for such a program in British Columbia, however, CORE makes little or no mention of non-game species in its program.

Should not the aim of conservation be the protection of all species? After all isn't the branch responsible known as the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

Naturalists are very concerned about the illegal shooting of species such as grebes, loons, herons, murrets, cormorants, gulls, and birds of prey. Someone should pay for these crimes.

A department of a local community college concerned with 'environmental' matters, talks of management - the word drips from the very walls of the institution. Management implies manipulation and manipulation usually means benefiting one, or at best a few, species. In one refuge operated by this same institution some species have been 'managed' out of the area! The short-eared Owl, once an abundant bird of the area, is now seen infrequently and I for one would rather see an owl than 10 or even a thousand ducks.

And on the north side of the Fraser Valley naturalists are concerned that sandhill cranes will be managed out of existence as a great marsh and bog area becomes a giant duck farm.

Predators are yet another concern of the naturalist. There are still people who are unable to

accept the fact that predation is an essential part of a healthy ecosystem. These people tend to think of animals in 'good' and 'bad' with ducks and geese 'good' and foxes and 'coons 'bad'.

There is a failure to recognize that man is the greatest predator of all. I have never heard of a wild thing committing a crime against nature but people do it all the time. My stomach turns when I hear of marmots, ground squirrels and crows shot as so-called varmints. What 'lover of nature' coined the phrase 'trash fish' to describe carp.

Naturalists have also been concerned about humane trapping, filthy roadside zoos, the illegal capture of birds of prey and matters of resource use in general.

Naturalists have not made their voices heard as loudly as sportsmen. This has been due to a lack of motivation and organization but the situation is changing and the naturalist movement is gaining momentum; the voices of concerned people will be heard loud and clear.

We have been accused of being protectionists. Who has ever decreed that every living creature on this earth was put here to be manipulated by man?

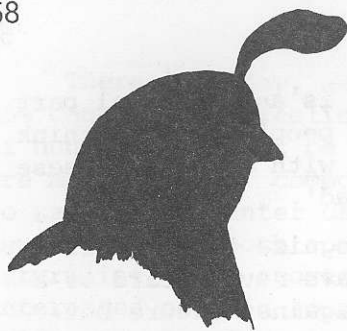
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(Al Grass expresses his personal opinions in this article and while they may find many sympathetic ears in our Society those opinions do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Society.)

Readers who feel strongly (pro or con) on any of the points raised by Al are welcome to express their views in The Naturalist - but please, no personal vendettas!

Ed.)

* * * * *



BIRD REPORTS

by Jack Williams

HIGHLIGHTS

Red Knot (1)	Oct. 5	Ron Satterfield Bowker Ave.
Snow Goose (7)	Oct. 8	Tuesday Group Lochside
" " (5)	Oct. 20	VNHS Field Trip Sidney
Western Gull (1 ad.)	Oct. 9	Ron Satterfield Clover Pt.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1 ruber)	Oct. 13	Chauncey Wood Francis Park
Franklin's Gull (1)	Oct. 19	Vic Goodwill and Ron Satterfield Clover Point
Pine Grosbeak (2 males)	Oct. 24	Ralph Fryer Mt. Douglas Park
Glaucous Gull (1) -	Oct. 26	Bob Westmore Clover Point
Black-headed Gull (1)	Oct. 27	Chauncey Wood Clover Point
Rusty Blackbird (1)	Oct. 30	Vic Goodwill Duncan Ponds
Little Gull (1 winter adult)	Oct. 31	The Goodwills Whiffen Spit

EARLY ARRIVALS

Gadwall (1 female)	Oct. 1	Ralph Fryer Dallas Rd. Pond
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Northern Shrike (1)	Oct. 1	Vic Goodwill and Ron Satterfield Esquimalt Lagoon
European Wigeon (1)	Oct. 5	Chauncey Wood Esquimalt Lagoon
Ring-necked Duck (5 males, 3 females)	Oct. 5	Ron Satterfield Beaver Lake
Ruddy Duck (1 female)	Oct. 5	Ron Satterfield Beaver Lake
Black Scoter (1 male)	Oct. 6	Jack Williams Bazan Bay
Barrow's Goldeneye (3)	Oct. 24	Leila Roberts Cherry Point
Common Goldeneye (1 male)	Oct. 25	Jack Williams Bazan Bay

LARGE NUMBERS

Canada Goose (145)	Oct. 1	Jack Williams Munro Road
Western Meadowlark (12)	Oct. 14	Ron Satterfield Martindale
Dunlin (143)	Oct. 20	Ron Satterfield Island View
Greater Yellowlegs (19)	Oct. 27	Jack Williams Roberts Bay
Black Oystercatcher (19)	Oct. 29	Jack Williams Roberts Bay

LATE STAYERS

Northern Phalarope (46 to 70)	Oct. 2/5	Ron Satterfield Clover Point
Osprey (1)	Oct. 5	Ron Satterfield Blenkinsop Lake
Golden Plover (1)	Oct. 22	The Goodwills Victoria Golf Course
Orange-crowned Warbler (1)	Oct. 16	Ron Satterfield Victoria Golf Crs.

Spotted Sandpiper (1) Oct. 16 Ron Satterfield
Shoal Bay

RAPTOR DEPARTMENT

Merlin (1) Oct. 5 Ron Satterfield
Marigold Area
" (1) Oct. 9 Jack Williams
Wilson Road
Golden Eagle (1 imm.) Oct. 7 Vic Goodwill
Becher Bay
" " (1 adult) Oct. 30 Vic Goodwill
Tzouhalem
Rough-legged Hawk (1) Oct. 26 Chauncey Wood
Esquimalt Lagoon
Screech Owl (1) Oct. 28 Chauncey Wood
Midwood Road

- - - - -

Top item for October must be the Black-headed Gull found by Chauncey Wood at Clover Point and subsequently seen by many others. It was a very cooperative bird and a first for British Columbia. The Little Gull seen at Whiffen Spit by Peggy and Vic Goodwill ran a close second being, I think, only the second record for the Province.

There seems to have been a late run of Lesser Yellowlegs this month with at least four sightings of from 1 to 11 birds between the 13th and 20th. The Yellow-rumped Warblers seemed to be going through in fair numbers at the end of the month with about 150 being seen at Lover's Lane by your compiler on the 30th.

Among Ron Satterfield's reports are several Ring-billed Gulls seen at Clover Point and Bowker Ave., a Short-billed Dowitcher at Bowker on the 4th and 11th, 27 Long-billed Dowitchers at the same place on the 13th, 2 Pectoral Sandpipers at McIntyre Rd. on the 6th, and 6 Western Sandpipers at Island View on the 20th Ron also reported an immature White-fronted Goose on the Oak Bay Golf Course most

of the month, while on the 14th he found 3 Short-billed Marsh Wrens at Quick's Pond and a pair of Wood Ducks on Beaver Lake.

Northern Shrikes arrived on the 1st as noted but no more were reported until the 18th when the Williams' saw one on John Road in North Saanich, and another on Wilson Road on the 29th.

Three Black Scoters, all males, were seen at Roberts Point on the 19th by Vic Goodwill and Ron Satterfield and, later the same day, by your compiler. They stayed long enough to become a highlight of the VNHS field trip to Sidney the next day.

A large flock of Canada Geese has been feeding in the fields at Munro and Wilson Roads in North Saanich. There were 145 on October 1st, 125 on the 9th, and only 70 on the 29th.

In the Dicky Bird Department, 4 Brown-headed Cowbirds and a Lincoln's Sparrow were found on McIntyre Road by Vic Goodwill and Ron Satterfield on the 19th. Lapland Longspurs showed up at Esquimalt Lagoon on the 26th and 28th for Chauncey Wood and the Goodwills, and Snow Buntings on October 19th and 20th at Clover Point and Oak Bay Golf Course for Peggy Goodwill and Ron Satterfield. On October 1st there were 4 Horned Larks at the Pat Bay airport, 10 Water Pipits at the same place on the 15th, and several Skylarks singing on the 29th. All were part of your compiler's bag for October.

It seems we are getting most of our reports from 4 or 5 regulars, to whom we are grateful. However, we would like to see your name in there too, so if you see something don't forget to 'phone.

The number is

656-1484

* * * * *

TO SIDNEY FOR THE BIRDS

by Kaye Suttill

Fourteen pairs of binoculars focussed aloft soon after 9 a.m. Sunday, October 20 as birders assembled beside the hotel for a glorious outing in the Sidney area. Under the welcome leadership of Jack Williams, the day produced 68 species.

The blessing of the day was 5 Snow Geese flying overhead just as the group started out, a fine beginning that presaged rewarding watching right up to the Pileated Woodpecker at Towner Park and the last observings at Bazan Bay.

Jack Williams spotted an Eared Grebe off the pier, followed by Rednecked, Horned and Western Grebes. Then a Bonaparte's and some Mew Gulls were sighted while Common Loons fished in the calm waters and a Harbour Seal kept surfacing close-in like a skindiver pontificating on the sea life.

Farther out the usual cormorants decorated the rock tops, those on one rock finger interspersed with 20 Black Oystercatchers and some Black Turnstones while American Wigeons swam around them like the setting to a ring's main gem. Observing all this, along with the birdwatchers, was a Belted Kingfisher, himself now a model for the delighted binoculars beamed his way.

Rothesay Beach was our next stop and despite the unobliging tide which stayed high throughout our Sidney seawatch, we rejoiced in a Red-breasted Merganser and a Great Blue Heron, Harlequins and scaups sunning on the rocks and Mallards flying overhead.

Beaufort Beach meant a short walk with some land birds coming under observation. A Merlin was seen and the bushes near the path were occupied with Bushtits, juncos, House Sparrows and finches. Some sea scanning added a Herring Gull and Surf and Black

Scoters, the latter obliging a line-up at the 'scope for verification. They really were the uncommon here, but formerly called Common, scoters.

Seawards here too was one of Victoria's specials, hitch hikers on a log, more than 50 Double-crested Cormorants going for a ride on their own water bus.

Roberts Bay 'Yellowlegs Beach', was welcome viewing too, even with the high tide. A dozen or so Lesser Yellowlegs enjoyed the rocks while Killdeer, almost invisible with their double necklace on white, uncannily blended into the shoreline. Here too we enjoyed the graceful beauty of Pintails - a group of females under the lording of a mature male (where is woman's lib in ducks?).

Scanning more distant waters we were rewarded with Arctic Loons, their white 'manes' showing distinctly. In close a Mallard swam reminding us again of the distinctive beauty of its iridescent green head, while from a tall tree nearby a 'Sidney Starling' looked down. What was he thinking? Walking back to the cars, an autumning maple was more gold for two Yellow-rumped Warblers 'in its hair'. A thank you for watching, indeed.

Then to Resthaven for a brief look, adding Crows and Savannah Sparrows before turning seawards to Mew Gulls swimming and a Dunlin in flight. But the main focus here was on a lone male Hooded Merganser which considerably stayed near a high pile where everyone could aim binoculars accurately. Often what is an easy view for one watcher is an 'unclear-the-right-place' for others. This Hooded's only minus was to duck (naturally!) at the most inopportune times then reappear again and again in the same place.

Now we headed for the airport and John Road for what our leader said would be an hour-and-a-half hike. Jack walks the entire 8 miles or so we drove that morning, several times a week to keep things under observation. We heard a Bewick's Wren alarm as we started down the road, and Rob Mackenzie-

Grieve pointed out a Ring-necked Pheasant hurtling across a nearby field. All binoculars went up at some Garry Oaks beside the road, where goldfinches flitted with chickadees and juncos. And Golden-crowned Kinglets chimed bushes, teasing our binoculars.

Farther on, one Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen and a Brown Creeper let us watch him jerking up a Douglas Fir. Here too, a big Belted Kingfisher had us all wondering why he was so far from water. Ahead of us, flickers flew, their red-lined capes unfurled, a Winter Wren called out to hunt-and-see him in a nearby bush, a Downey Woodpecker swung to the top of a tree for a momentary view and in an alder grove goldfinches and Cedar Waxwings needed close watching to find.

Again Rob Mackenzie-Grieve called out as 25 Water Pipits flew over a once-was pond. Quail, Song Sparrows, flocks of House Finches (scrutinized closely by some looking for Purple Finches) and a Fox Sparrow, spotted by Anne Knowles, were seen farther on. But all these were only the preliminary to the Promised Appearance! In a field where Brewer's Blackbirds and crows showed, a Northern Shrike 'strong and clear' was seen atop a power pole before it flew to an adjacent pole for even better viewing.

The day was not without a touch of sorrow - a dead snipe beside the road. How? We sadly mused as we circled the race track our spirits quickly raised by the company of more California Quail.

Marjorie Harkness invited us all to eat our lunches at her home in Towner Park. There the haven of a gracious verandah gave fine viewing seawards. But, true to form, birdwatcher's lunches were temporarily abandoned when someone called 'Red-tailed Hawk' which disappeared too soon behind some tall trees. But the blessing of Marjorie and George's home was the Pileated Woodpecker, so vividly and strongly THERE atop a David Douglas Fir beside the house to bid us all good-by.

Among the last birds for binocs and 'scope came at Bazan Bay where the 'aren't there any Oldsquaws today?' was finally answered when they were seen offshore as they played their now-you-can, now-you-don't, see us game. And way out, where the 'scope did the verifying, our 68th species, Marbled Murrelets.

So we all give our thanks to Jack and Dorothy Williams for sharing with us, and to the Harknesses for their hospitality, this day of good company, good birding, and a very good field trip to the Sidney area.

* * * * *

ODDS N' ENDS

..... last month's article on leaves and autumn colour drew one comment from a reader that it had neglected to indicate the significant role trees and their leaves play in maintaining earth's carbon/oxygen balance. It was a good point but not, I think, important in the limited story of colour in autumn leaves. Still, there's merit in an article on green plants and their role in a planetary carbon/oxygen cycle. We'll have to try and arrange one for a future Naturalist

..... Jack Williams has had some fears that his Bird Reports may be getting a little too big, that we may be overdoing it a bit. I've thought of that too but at this time I reject any suggestion that Bird Reports be cut down because they are one of the easiest places for any of you to be a part of The Naturalist. What do you think? Is Bird Reports too long, too short, or just right

..... John Rodgers, well-known Vancouver Sun columnist, has a couple of good birding trips in his bag this winter. In March he'll lead a group to Santa Barbara and in May he'll be off to Texel in Holland. You might like to join him on one of these bird safaris. If so drop a line to Burke's World Travel, 808A West Hastings St., Vancouver

KIDS COUNTRYSEEING WITHOUT EYES by Michele Askey

On October 5th the Juniors and Intermediates took the 11:00 a.m. ferry for Vancouver and were greeted on arrival by the Western Society of Young Naturalists. We were billeted with children from the Vancouver group.

On Saturday night we went to a picnic at Prospect Point, Stanley Park and had dinner and played games. About 8:00 o'clock we went home with our hosts. I was fortunate enough to stay with a totally blind girl named Yvette Michel who is 9. She has 2 sisters; one is also blind. I had a lot of fun on Saturday night playing games designed for the blind. Before we went to bed Yvette read me a story. Yvette read it because it was written in Braille. Yvette goes to Jericho High School for the handicapped.

On Sunday morning we went to Richmond Nature Park. On the trail, I learned a lot. You don't really need eyes on the trail; mostly your nose, mouth, ears and hands. While I took Yvette around I learned more every minute on how to use your other senses.

At noon we ate lunch and saw some slides on the park and then we caught the ferry for home. We had a wonderful weekend, thanks to Gail.

* * * * *

EDIBLE PLANTS by Cheryl McGavin

Hazelnut Hazelnut is a round shrub. It generally grows from about 5' to 12', although it has grown to such heights as 20'. The hazelnut is edible and should be ripe by fall.

ACROSS THIS LAND with Chris Walsh (Part 2)

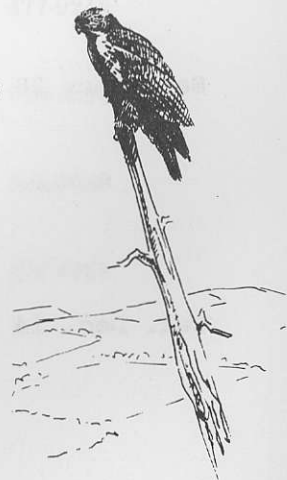
Last month we left Chris near Moses Lake, Washington with a couple of bird identification problems. This month we jump ahead a day or two and rejoin him near Rossland.

We stayed at Rossland on June 25th, with a Robin sitting on eggs just above our hotel room window. In the woods across the road I heard Steller's Jays screaming at each other.

Heading towards Cranbrook the next day we followed a road that hugged the mountainsides. We saw 5 cars that had gone over the rail and were still on the side of the mountain. We saw columbines growing in profusion along the highway. Then we stopped for lunch at a picnic area just past Creston on Thompson Creek, where there were plenty of ground squirrels and a Violet-green Swallow's nest under a bridge.

Going north to Radium Hot Springs we came upon a section of highway which was underwater. The Kootenay River had burst its banks and overflowed. We missed the barrier and went right through the water which was about a foot-and-a-half deep. Here I saw a Great Blue Heron and a Raven.

Farther on, a California Quail went driving down the road as our car separated it from its babies. In trying to get past the car it ran along beside us and we clocked its running speed at about 35 mph for about 20 feet until it decided to fly over the car.



(continued)

ADULT PROGRAM

- Sat. Dec. 14 Christmas Bird Count, Duncan. Participants please contact compiler, John Comer (768-9560).
- Sun. Dec. 15 Botany. Native and Exotic trees in winter. Meet 1:30 p.m., animal pens, Beacon Hill Park.
Leader: Pat Swift (382-3374)
- Wed. Dec. 18 General Meeting. 8:00 p.m. St. John's Ambulance Auditorium, 941 Pandora. Speaker, Al Grass; Topic, The Little Things of Life - Bugs.
- Sat. Dec. 21 Christmas Bird Count, Victoria. Participants willing to act as area leaders please contact Jack Williams by Dec. 7. Other participants contact leaders or compilers by Dec. 18. Participation fee payable to leaders on Count Day.
Compilers: Jack Williams (656-1484)
Jeremy Tatum (677-1089)
- Sat. Dec. 28 Christmas Bird Count, Pender Island. Participants should contact Allan Brooks, R.R. 1, Port Washington. (629-3248) as soon as possible.

JUNIOR PROGRAM

- Sat. Dec. 14 Thetis Lake Park. Meet 1:30 p.m., Mayfair Lanes parking lot, Roderick & Oak. Drivers: Farnden & Whittaker. If drivers are unable to participate, please contact Gail Mitchell (477-9248)

INTERMEDIATE PROGRAM

- Sun. Dec. 8 Bird Safari, Beacon Hill Park. Meet 2:00 p.m., animal pens. Bring binoculars. Leader: Jennifer Fisher (592-0024)

COORDINATORS

PROGRAMME:

Stephen R. Mitchell 4321 Majestic Dr. 477-9248

LEADERS:

Dr. J.B. Tatum 305 - 1680 Poplar Ave. 477-1089

THE VICTORIA NATURALIST:

Harold Hosford 303 Daniel Pl. 478-5794

UNIVERSITY LIAISON:

Dr. Alan P. Austin 4671 Spring Rd. 479-7889

FEDERATION OF B.C. NATURALISTS:

David Stirling 3500 Salisbury Way 385-4223

AUDUBON FILMS:

Miss Anne Adamson 1587 Clive Dr. 598-1623

JUNIOR NATURALISTS:

Mrs. Gail Mitchell 4321 Majestic Dr. 477-9248

LIBRARIAN:

A.R. Davidson 2144 Brighton Ave. 598-3088

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM:

Eric M. Counsell 1005 - 647 Michigan 386-3989

RESEARCH:

Rick H. Harcombe 461 Sparton 479-4958

