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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
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(See also inside back cover)

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DUES AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE TREASURER.

VOL. 31, NO. 8

APRIL 1975

COMMON PLANTS REVISITED

by Stephen Mitchell

Day length is slowly increasing, providing the trigger for early spring flowering. At the end of February many buds will be erupting into extra-ordinary forms of flowers. Some showy flowers around Victoria, such as *Erythronium*, *Sisyrinchium*, *Saxifraga*, and *Dodecatheon*, have textbook parts. These are sepals, petals, (alike in the first two genera), stamens, and pistil. Good basic botany here, and an inspiration to anyone who appreciates color and gentle form. When the warm sun is on one's back consideration of the hypanthium of *Saxifraga* or the partially fused petals of *Dodecatheon*, may vanish!

In a landscape colored so intensely, many common flowers are almost overlooked. Two come to mind immediately. Consider the "pussy-willow", or catkin of *Salix* (willow). This is an elongate arrangement of flowers which have no sepals or petals. The absence of these structures facilitates wind pollination. Each flower is located above a scale and consists of stamens (male) or a pistil (female). A catkin is either all male or all female, and further, the catkins on any single shrub or tree are of one sex. These features are readily apparent when the flowers are mature. A hand-lens will reveal the nature of scale hairs and floral glands.

Cover

Skunk Cabbage (Lysichitum americanum)

by Harold Hosford

Another plant deserving more attention is skunk cabbage, *Lysichitum*. The yellow flag which emerges in spring is termed the spathe. This leaf-like structure partially encloses the fleshy spike of tiny flowers. Close inspection reveals that the flowers have four lobes representing the sepals and petals, four stamens, and one pistil. Skunk cabbage emits a foetid odor during flowering and this is probably responsible for the appearance of numerous staphylinid beetles on the spadix. Pollination is probably aided, if not effected entirely, by this insect.

The avid botanist will have many plants to ponder in the next few months. "Big and beautifuls" are an excellent start, but the small and nondescript have their rewards, usually a handlens away.

BIRDS IN THE HEAVENS

by David Stirling

Although the heavens are well populated with gods, people and mythical beasts there are few bird constellations in the northern skies. This seems to be rather unusual considering the host of kites, vultures, eagles, cranes and storks which must have filled the air over eastern lands in ancient times. The southern skies, though, have six bird constellations none of which are visible from our latitude. Since these constellations, Phoenix, Apus, Pavo, Columba, Tucana and Grus were all named in recent times they have no place in mythology.

In northern skies there are three birds, if we do not count Lyra and Pegasus (is a horse with feathered wings a bird or a beast?). Lyra was known as the Vulture in Chaldea but became the Harp to the Greeks. Vega, in Lyra is the brightest star of summer. Corvus, the Crow, one of the three birds is a faint group of stars visible only in summer on the southern horizon.

That leaves us with only two major bird constellations: Cygnus, the Swan and Aquila, the Eagle.

Cygnus, often called the Northern Cross, is one of the few heavenly birds that can be readily identifiable with a feathered creature of earth as the grouping of stars gives the impression of outstretched wings and flight. A 5th magnitude star in Cygnus is one of the nearest to us - only 10.6 light years away.

According to mythology, Phaethon, the son of Apollo, by a mortal mother, was asked to prove his divine paternity by people of the earth. In order to do this he begged his father to let him drive the sun-chariot across the heavens. Phaethon could not handle the horses properly and heaven and earth were scorched. Zeus seeing what was happening sent a thunderbolt to strike Phaethon. He fell blazing into the river Po. Phaethon's brother, Cygnus, was determined to recover the body. He spent many days diving into the river bringing up one charred piece at a time. The gods seeing this example of brotherly love had Cygnus placed in the sky as a great swan which he resembled while diving for his brother.

Aquila, the Eagle is said to have been the only bird to take its place among the stars under its own power. (The Swan and the Vulture were placed there by the gods.) The Eagle was a favourite with the gods and during the great war with the Titans he carried the thunderbolts of Zeus.

How many Heavenly Birds can you identify?

* * * * *

TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING LEGUMES AND SCROPHS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

by Bruce MacBryde

The Pea Family (Leguminosae) of British Columbia, by T.M.C. Taylor; illustrated by R.A. With; British Columbia Provincial Museum Handbook Series, No. 32, 1974; 251 pages; \$1.00 The Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae) of British Columbia, by T.M.C. Taylor; illustrated by E.J. Stephen; *Ibid.*, No. 33, 1974; 237 pages; \$1.00.

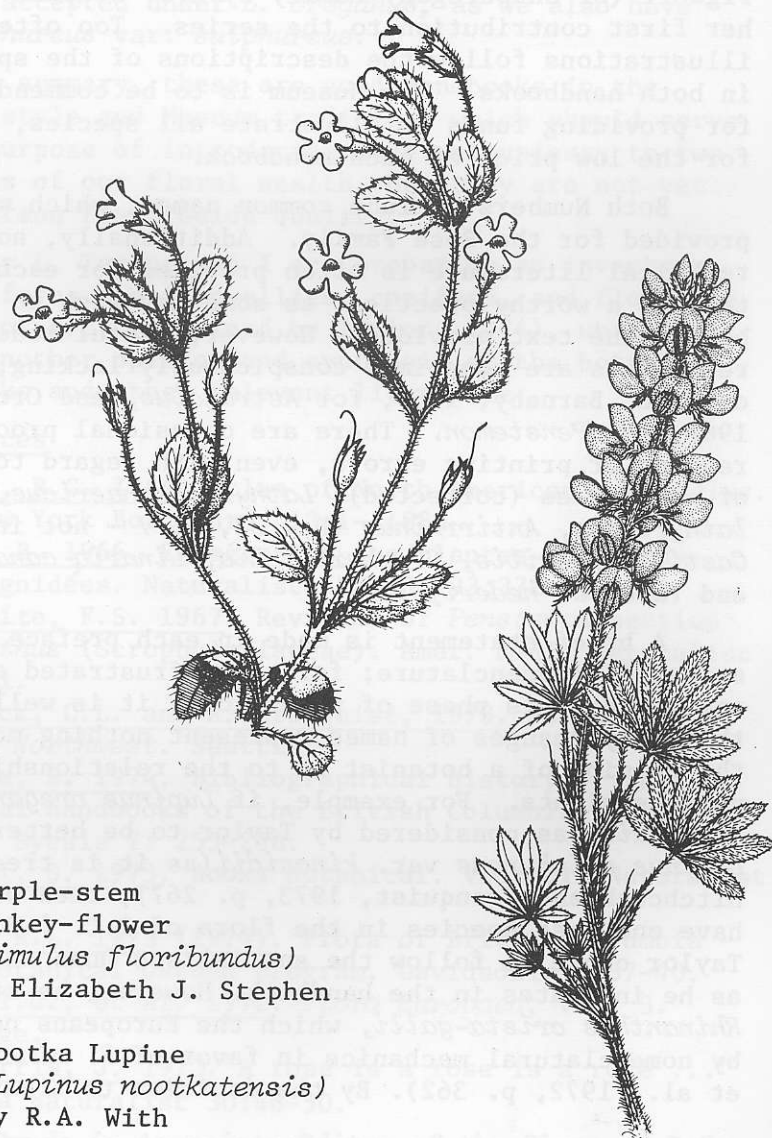
Five of the thirteen botanical handbooks now in print from our Provincial Museum, or 38%, have been written by T.M.C. Taylor; this large contribution by a single author has thus somewhat shaped the style of the series. The tortuous bibliographical history of the botanical handbooks has been recently reviewed (MacBryde, 1974); these two Numbers were published in 1974 as indicated. Taylor's previous contribution to the series, the Rose Family of B.C., was received with mixed opinion in our journal (Mitchell, 1973; Ward-Harris, 1973). Much the same can be said for these two new Numbers.

Certainly we are grateful to the Provincial Museum for producing this series, and to Dr. Taylor for taking time in retirement to pull together this information on two of our larger plant families.

Handbook No. 32 (Pea Family) covers sixteen genera and 122 species; Handbook No. 33 (Figwort Family) covers twenty genera and 99 species. To the Leguminosae may be added three omitted genera and a total of seven more species: *Astragalus nutzotinensis* (Haines Rd.); *Lathyrus venosus* (Fort St. John); **Pisum sativum*; **Robinia pseudacacia* (Saanich Peninsula, Spences Bridge); *Trifolium macrocephalum* and **T. subterraneum* (Saanich Peninsula); and **Trigonella caerulea*. To the Scrophulariaceae also may be added three omitted genera and seven more species: **Antirrhinum majus* (Saanich Peninsula); *Castilleja hyperborea* (Haines Rd. area); **Cymbalaria muralis*; **Linaria maroccana* (Fort St. John); **Misopates orontium* (Saanich Peninsula); *Pedicularis macrodonta* (Fort Nelson area); and **Veronica verna*. In both families the list includes more introduced escapes (*) than native species, and the native unknowns are mostly northern.

The prefaces of the two handbooks indicate that each species is mapped and illustrated; while correct for No. 33, Handbook No. 32 (Pea Family) is less complete: eight maps are omitted, and six species have maps without the dots indicating collected specimens. Ranges could have been provided or extended by consulting other herbaria than the Provincial Museum and the University of British Columbia; for example, Ottawa houses specimens of many B.C. collections not duplicated in B.C.

institutions. Thus the record for *Lathyrus bijugatus* could probably have been substantiated from its firm report (Boivin, 1966, p. 394). However, *Lathyrus polyphyllus* was probably better omitted, when considered with other species not in the handbook (as *Hedysarum hedysaroides*). *Oxytropis podocarpa* is also known from the Marble Range northwest of Clinton (thanks to R.A. Pojar).



Left: Purple-stem
Monkey-flower
(*Mimulus floribundus*)
by Elizabeth J. Stephen

Right: Nootka Lupine
(*Lupinus nootkatensis*)
by R.A. With

There is no illustration for *Lotus nevadensis*, nor for the plate mentioned in No. 32, p.6, which would have explained the characteristics of the subfamily of Leguminosae in B.C.

The fine illustrations by R.A. With are his second family contribution. He also did those for the Rose Family. The excellent drawings of the Figwort (or Snapdragon) Family by E.J. Stephen are her first contribution to the series. Too often the illustrations follow the descriptions of the species in both handbooks. The Museum is to be commended for providing funds to illustrate all species, and for the low price of each handbook.

Both Numbers include common names, which were not provided for the Rose Family. Additionally, some technical literature is often provided for each genus; this is a worthy practice, as some may wish to go beyond the text provided. However, useful modern references are sometimes conspicuously lacking; for example, Barneby, 1964, for *Astragalus*, and Crosswhite, 1967, for *Penstemon*. There are occasional proof-reading or printing errors, even with regard to names of species as (corrected): *Lathyrus sphaericus*, *Vicia lathyroides*, *Antirrhinum* (No. 33, p. 7 - not indexed), *Castilleja exilis*, *C. rhexiifolia*, *Linaria canadensis* and *Veronica hederifolia*.

A brief statement is made in each preface regarding scientific nomenclature; for those frustrated and angered by this phase of plant lore, it is well to add that many changes of names represent nothing more than the opinion of a botanist as to the relationships of various plants. For example, if *Lupinus oregonus* var. *kincaidii* was considered by Taylor to be better as *Lupinus sulphureus* var. *kincaidii* (as it is treated by Hitchcock and Cronquist, 1973, p. 267), then we would have one less species in the flora of B.C. ! However, Taylor chose to follow the specialists Dunn and Gillett, as he indicates in the handbook. However, he still uses *Rhinanthus crista-galli*, which the Europeans now reject by nomenclatural mechanics in favor of *R. minor* (Tutin et al., 1972, p. 362). By the decision to treat only

species in the handbooks we lose much information regarding variation within plants in our province, and their relationships to their closest relatives elsewhere. The species level is after all a matter of opinion in practice, if not in nature: for example, it is still worthwhile to know about the Red-shafted Flicker even though it has been recently 'demoted' to a subspecies of the Common Flicker, because we also have the 'former' Yellow-shafted Flicker in B.C., we only learn about the variation *kincaidii* because it was accepted under *L. oregonus*, as we also have *L. sulphureus* var. *sulphureus*.

In summary, these are good handbooks in the Taylor style and Museum tradition, which should serve their purpose of introducing more enthusiasts to two families of our floral wealth, but they are not yet of Peterson Field Guide quality.

Roy L. Taylor and I are preparing an inventory of the ferns and fern-allies, conifers, and flowering plants of B.C. (outlined by Taylor, 1974), which will offer another opinion and synthesis of the botanical handbooks and other relevant literature.

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(Dr. MacBryde is Associate Editor of the Flora of B.C. at the Botanical Garden of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver).

BIRD NOTES

by Jack Williams

EARED GREBE - Feb. 8, Clover Point (1), Vic Goodwill and Ron Satterfield; Feb. 9, Taylor Beach (1), Ron Satterfield; Feb. 22, Cadboro Bay (1), the Goodwills.

WHISTLING SWAN - Feb. 8, Sooke River (1 ad.) Vic Goodwill and Ron Satterfield.

TRUMPETER SWAN - Feb. 17, Sooke River (3 ad.) Vic Goodwill.

EUROPEAN WIGEON - Feb. 1, Martindale (1); Feb. 17, Ascot Pond (1 pr.) and Feb. 23, Beacon Hill (1) Ron Satterfield.

GADWALL - Feb. 1, Quick's (1 pr.); Feb. 17, Ascot Pond (1 pr.) and Feb. 26, Quick's Pond (1 pr.), all Ron Satterfield.

BLACK SCOTER - Feb. 2, Sidney Wharf (2), Jack Williams; Feb. 18, Clover Point (1 male), Ron Satterfield.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE - Feb. 16, Brentwood Bay (1 pr.) Gerry Gardner; Feb. 14, Island View (1 male) Ron Satterfield.

MARSH HAWK - Feb. 15, Mills Rd. (1 imm.), Vic Goodwill and Ron Satterfield; Feb. 20 Somenos Lake (1 female) and Feb. 20, Cowichan Bay (2 imm. females), the Goodwills.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - Feb. 10, City (1); Feb. 14, Mt. Tolmie (1), and Feb. 25 Esquimalt Lagoon (1), all Ron Satterfield.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - Feb. 4, Martindale (1), Ann Knowles.

GOLDEN EAGLE - Feb. 1, Martindale (1), Ron Satterfield, John Schreiber, Tom Hueston; Feb. 8, Goldstream Park (2 ad.); Feb. 16, Tunnel Hill (2 ad.) and Feb. 24, Island View (1 ad.), all Ron Satterfield.

MERLIN - Feb. 19, City (1) and Feb. 23, Clover Point (1), Ron Satterfield; Feb. 24 City (1), Ann Knowles; Feb. 25 Quick's Pond (1), the Goodwills.

GYRFALCON - Feb. 12, Clover Point (1 dark phase), the Goodwills. An hour later, at Gonzales Hill, Chauncey and Sarah Wood saw the same bird.

PERIGRINE FALCON - Feb. 1, Martindale (1 ad.), John Schreiber, Tom Hueston and Ron Satterfield; Feb. 7, Cattle Point (1 imm.), and Feb. 12, Clover Point (1 ad.), the Goodwills; Feb. 18, Beaver Lake (1), Tuesday Group; Feb. 24, Martindale (1 ad.), Ron Satterfield.

VIRGINIA RAIL - Feb. 24, Quick's Pond (2), Heard and seen, the Goodwills.

KILLDEER - Feb. 1, U.Vic. (26), Joan Crabbe.

RED KNOT - Feb. 12, Victoria Golf Course (1), the Goodwills; Feb. 25, Bowker Ave., (1), the Williams and Alf Porcher; Feb. 26, Oak Bay, near the Marina, (1), Ron Satterfield.

SANDERLING - Feb. 17, Esquimalt Lagoon (2), Vic Goodwill.

COMMON SNIPE - Feb. 17, Ascot Pond (2), Ron Satterfield; Feb. 18, Quick's Pond (3), Tuesday Group; Feb. 25, Quick's Pond (1), the Goodwills.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Feb. 11, Cattle Point (1), Tuesday Group.

WESTERN GULL - throughout Feb. Beacon Hill Soccer Pitch (2 ad.), the Goodwills.

ANCIENT MURRELET - Feb. 10, Clover Point (1), Vic Goodwill.

GREAT HORNED OWL - Feb. 2, Goldstream Park (1), Ron Satterfield.

SNOWY OWL - Feb. 22, Trial Isl. (1), Dorothy Horne.

PYGMY OWL - Feb. 2, Goldstream Park (1), the Woods.

BARRED OWL - Feb. 2, Queenswood & Sherwood (1), Jack Doughty-Davies.

SHORT-EARED OWL - Feb. 27, Victoria airport (1), Ron Satterfield.

SKYLARK - Feb. 21, Victoria airport (9), 7 singing, Jack Williams.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW - Feb. 25, Quick's Pond (2), the Goodwills.

TREE SWALLOW - Feb. 25, Quick's Pond (6), the Goodwills.
Swallow ssp. - Feb. 28, Dieppe Rd. (1), Norman Fatt.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN - Feb. 26, Quick's Pond (2), Ron Satterfield.

HERMIT THRUSH - Jan. 16, S. Pender Isl. (1), Betty Brooks; Feb. 4, Goldstream (1), the Woods and the Goodwills; Feb. 8, Goldstream (1), Ron Satterfield and Vic Goodwill.

NORTHERN SHRIKE - Feb. 4, Dooley and Lochside (1), Tuesday Group; Feb. 24, Island View (2), Ron Satterfield.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - Feb. 2, Robertson St., (1 fem.); Feb. 26, Oak Bay Park (4), Ron Satterfield.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER - (1), seen off and on throughout February by Gerry Gardner at Brentwood.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK - Feb. 1, Victoria Golf Course (3), Mary Winstone and Ron Satterfield; Feb. 27, Martindale (3), Ron Satterfield.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - Feb. 15, McIntyre Rd., (1 imm.), Ron Satterfield and Vic Goodwill; Rob Duncan saw another in Lakehill in February.

DARK-EYED JUNCO - (Slate-colored) -(1), in Lakehill district in February, Rob Duncan.

If the birds don't seem to be in the usual order this time it is because we are now going by our new Checklist which is based on the VOOUS sequence (not including passerines).

The Goodwills report interesting regular evening flights of Double-Crested Cormorants past (not through, I hope), Apt. 411, 909 Pendergast St. The birds were heading southeast from Victoria Harbour and the Gorge Waters in the direction of Trial Island, as follows: Feb. 22, between 16.43 and 17.33 (44); Feb. 24, between 17.12 and 18.11 (47) and Feb. 25, between 17.05 and 18.24 (56). They also report a Merlin chasing a Common Snipe. Winner not known.

The Mockingbird is still holding forth on Wickheim Rd. and the Red Knot seen by 6 observers this month was obviously one and the same bird; quite a rarity, especially at this time of the year.

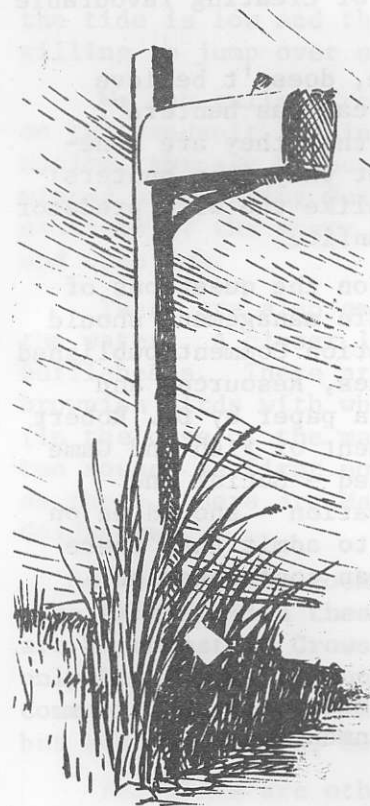
Remember, keep your eyes open this month for all those spring migrants. Let's see if we can get some new ones for the list or at least some real early arrivals.

THE MAIL BOX

Among the letters recently received were several strongly on the side of Al Grass in his December dissertation on wildlife management.

Eve Smith of Port Washington, Pender Island, wrote: There are several points made by Al Grass with which I heartily agree. The Wildlife Branch should concern itself more with all wildlife and the total environment. "Management" usually means that creatures are being managed for human benefit, rather than their own.

Dennis and Kay Suttill echo these sympathies and add "We feel that man is but one species in this planet's community of Life and not (here) to prey on other creatures, nor to regard fellow species as crops."



And from Gordon Hart at Pachena Light Station:

"I agree with Mr. Grass on just about every point ... Some areas have been altered by man for longer than we realize. If Mr. Grass is referring to Pitt Meadows, this area was already a 'giant duck farm' years ago. I talked to an old-timer in his 90's who not only hand-logged on the Fraser Delta but helped work on the original Pitt Meadows to make it the equivalent of a 'duck farm'. He said the sky would be black with clouds of migrating waterfowl. He did not know where they had gotten to, perhaps 'further up the Valley'. So it seems Ducks Unlimited aren't the first group to approach the idea of creating favourable habitat for ducks ..."

Miss S.J. Stevenson of Sooke, doesn't believe naturalists "belong in the same camp as hunters". She refutes the claim of hunters that they are beneficial predators pointing out that they (the hunters) try to take the best specimen, unlike the wild predator whose selectivity weeds out the unfit.

Anyone with strong feelings on the questions of hunting, anti-hunting, and wildlife management should read the latest issue of Conservation Comment published by the Manitoba Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. In it a paper by Dr. Robert E. LaResche of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is reproduced. The paper, entitled - Social and Ethical Considerations in Conservation - should be on the reading list of anyone ready to admit that there are at least two sides to any human confrontation.

Write for your free copy to:

Manitoba Department of Mines,
Resources and Environmental
Management,
Box 9,
989 Century Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R3H 0W4

K I D S C O U N T R Y

WINTER BIRDS AT GONZALES BAY

by Rob Duncan

As we walk down the public access to the beach, the sounds of cars on Crescent Road fade into the cries of gulls and the shrill hooting of American Wigeon.

We look for the sources of these sounds and the first thing we notice is the rock. Off to our left there is a sizable rock which, when the tide is high is transformed into a rocky island. But right now the tide is low and the rock is accessible if one is willing to jump over a few feet of water.

We see gulls circling in the air as well as some on the sandspit leading to the rock. A closer examination, through binoculars, shows them to be Glaucous-winged and Herring Gulls. These birds are not only denizens of the shore but also of city, countryside and open sea.

There are also small black and white birds on the water. A closer look proves them to be male Buffleheads. There are other ducks as well including brownish birds with white on the front of their heads (in the case of the male), the sources of one of the two sounds we first noticed, American Wigeons. As well as these, there are Mallards, Lesser Scaups and Common Goldeneyes.

As we near the rock the gulls either move away or take flight. With these are smaller black birds. They are Northwestern Crows, crafty birds which are not only birds of the country - like their cousins the Common Crows which are familiar to most Canadians - but also of cities, suburbs and shores.

But there are other black birds on the rock besides crows. These have bright red bills, which are much longer, and pink legs. They are unmistakable and can only be Black Oyster-catchers. Uncommon in most places, these crow-sized shorebirds are quite common in Victoria, particularly in winter.

There are more shorebirds as well. They are grey-black and have white undersides. These robin-sized birds are Black Turnstones.

Now in order to get onto the rock, we must jump over the few feet of shallow water separating it from us. Our sudden movement disturbs a Great Blue Heron that was fishing just over the edge of the rock in the shallows, and we are startled as it flies away uttering deep, rasping croaks as it goes, its long legs dangling behind. It settles on another rock farther out in the bay also exposed by the tide.

There are other birds made uneasy by our presence. Small, bizarre but beautiful in their blues, whites and rufouses, the male Harlequins are restless. Less conspicuous, in their browns and greys, the females are equally disturbed. We see female Buffleheads slide off the rock with a splash apparently annoyed by us.

There are more black birds on the rock. These are Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants, long necked and rather ugly. They are a fair distance away and not very disturbed by their human visitors.

Small, long-necked birds are in the water, occasionally diving in pursuit of fish which make up their total diet. These are Horned and Western Grebes. More long-necked birds are still to be seen, Arctic Loons, also diving for fish.



Farther out are more diving birds. These are the long-necked, big-headed, Red-breasted Mergansers, and the black Surf Scoters, which have some white on their heads and red on their bills.

We must leave quickly now because if we do not the tide will cut off our retreat from the rocks.

ACROSS THIS LAND

(part 6)

with Chris Walsh

It's on to Maine and Prince Edward Island as Chris' cross-country journey nears its end. We join him in Ottawa today before heading east again.

After stopping at the Holiday Inn in Ottawa, we travelled to Van Buren, Maine to visit my Aunt Emily who is a nun and a nurse in the community hospital. Across from the hospital a drive-in movie was in progress and we went over to watch it from the bushes but it was too overgrown and we could only see the peoples' heads so we started back. My brother noticed a little light on the ground and he stepped on it. "What are those little flames on the ground?" he asked. I told him they were just fireflies. "Oh no! I just put one out!" he cried. We caught four of them in a bottle.

The next day we set out for Prince Edward Island and that night went down to the shores of Northumberland Strait. The banks were made of the red P.E.I. clay and held many Bank Swallow nests.



Back at the farmhouse my Grandmother had prepared one of her gigantic dinners.

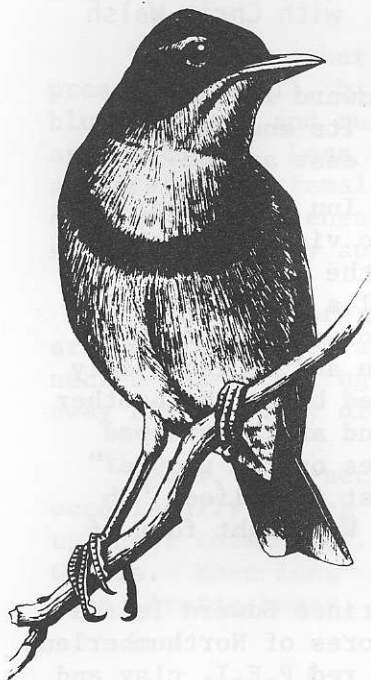
Around the farm the next day we noticed a robins' nest with small babies and a nest that the babies had flown from. We found a Yellow Hammered Woodpecker's nest, or so we were told. I didn't see the parents but my cousins told me that was the bird. They said another name for it was flicker but I'm not sure which kind of flicker.

C.N.F. NOTES

Last month's appeal for help with the Canadian Nature Federation meetings in June was gratifying but, there is a particularly pressing need which has so far gone unfilled - drivers and leaders for field trips. We could have 400 people waiting to go on field trips in June, or we could have 100 - all wanting to go on the same trip. Therefore we must have a reserve list of both drivers and leaders.

Where numbers warrant, we can hire a large bus and driver but in cases of small parties we plan to hire mini-buses with automatic transmissions and seating 15. For these we'll need drivers; no chauffeur's license is necessary.

Those who have offered to drive their own cars will be needed as a back-up service or shuttle service, or to take non-naturalist wives on sightseeing trips. Please study the program and then let us know what day or days and which trips you would be available for and whether you could act as driver, leader or assistant leader. All we can offer you is a free trip and good company.



Phone Marge Brehaut 478-7195.

And those of you with a bent for floral arranging might like to help put flowers on the banquet tables. Think this one over and if it appeals to you, contact Margaret Wainwright at 592-1310.

And last but by no means least, there's the Francis Park Nature House; it's badly in need of a face lift before the C.N.F. visits it in June. Jennifer Fisher is looking for face lifters who can handle a mop, scrubbing brush or Windex bottle on April 12 for a one-day cleaning bee. It'll be fun and, who knows, we may even get the place cleaned up.

Call Jennifer at 387-6033.

ADULT PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 16 -

General Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
St. John's Ambulance Auditorium, 941 Pandora.
Topic: Logs or Life - a forum to discuss the pros and cons of the TSITIKA problem.

Sunday, April 20 -

Ornithology - Witty's Lagoon -
(brush up on your shorebirds before you come)
Meet - Mayfair Lanes 9:30 a.m. or at the end
of Witty's Beach Rd. at 10:00 a.m.
Leader - Rod Muirhead

Sunday, April 27 -

Botany - Wildflower Park, Honeymoon Bay.
Meet - Mayfair Lanes, 9:00 a.m.
Leader - Stephen Mitchell.

Saturday & Sunday,
April 26/27 -

Ornithology (Botanists welcome) - Parksville and Qualicum.

Meet - Ball Park in Parksville (on the right opposite the shopping center) at 1:00 p.m., April 26. Have lunch first.

We will visit the Marshall-Stevenson Bird Sanctuary in the afternoon. Make your own plans for accommodation if you wish to stay overnight. On Sunday we will look at the Parksville Flats. Let me know if you intend to go so we can look out for you in Parksville. Can you give a ride to someone without a car?

Call Jack Williams - 656-1484.

JUNIOR PROGRAM

Saturday, April 5 -

Island View Beach Drivers - Gillie
Mothersill

Sunday, April 13 -

Tour of the Provincial Parks Branch Display
Workshop with Ted Underhill.
Special 2-hour outing.
Meet - Mayfair Lanes, 9:45 a.m.
Driver - Whitney

Saturday, April 19 -

Thetis Lake - Drivers - Belton
- Askey

Except as noted on the April 13 outing, all trips begin from Mayfair Lanes parking lot, Oak and Roderick, at 1:30 p.m. If drivers not able to attend contact Gail Mitchell (477-9248) as soon as possible.

ACTIVITY AT ASCOT POND

by Vera Walker

Ascot Pond is having a face lift. The owner of part of the well-known watering place at the foot of Ascot Drive, Mr. Francis Jenkins of Queensbury Drive, is having the area landscaped. He plans to plant trees, grass and flowers.

I am sure that the members of the Victoria Natural History Society will appreciate these efforts and realize that the birds and waterfowl using these lands and water will still have a home.

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REIFEL REFUGE BY BUS

A chartered coach will leave at 10:00 a.m. on April 15 from 1029 Douglas St. for a trip to the Reifel Refuge. Plans are for a guide to be available. You will have 4 hours at the refuge returning on the 5 or 6 o'clock ferry.

Cost is \$11.00 per person. Contact B.C. Travel, 385-4732, for further information. This is not a Victoria Natural History operation.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

From time to time, poetry has been submitted for inclusion in the Naturalist. While your editor is no judge of poetry, good or bad, this one caught his fancy. Besides, isn't poetry a legitimate form of self expression, and isn't The Naturalist an outlet for members who wish to express themselves?

CATTLE POINT CONFUSION
(or FINE FEATHERS FOX FINE BIRDS)

by J.P. Hutchings

At Cattle Point, each Tuesday morn,
Bird-watchers flock together,
But, heedless of the proverb's rule,
They're all of different feather.

The puzzled birds, who try, in turn,
To watch the human race,
Perceive some similarities
Of figure, form and face,

But here, at Cattle Point, they scratch
Their feathers in despair
And page their Man-books through, in vain,
For kinds that are not there.

Not only does the winter garb
Make other seasons' pale,
But brighter plumes do not, they learn,
Identify the male.

Resplendent bodies, heads and limbs
They see of every hue,
But those they grew to know last week
Today wear something new.

One form alone they recognize,
And gratefully revere:
The Cloth-capped, Pipe-billed Davey is
The same from year to year.

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