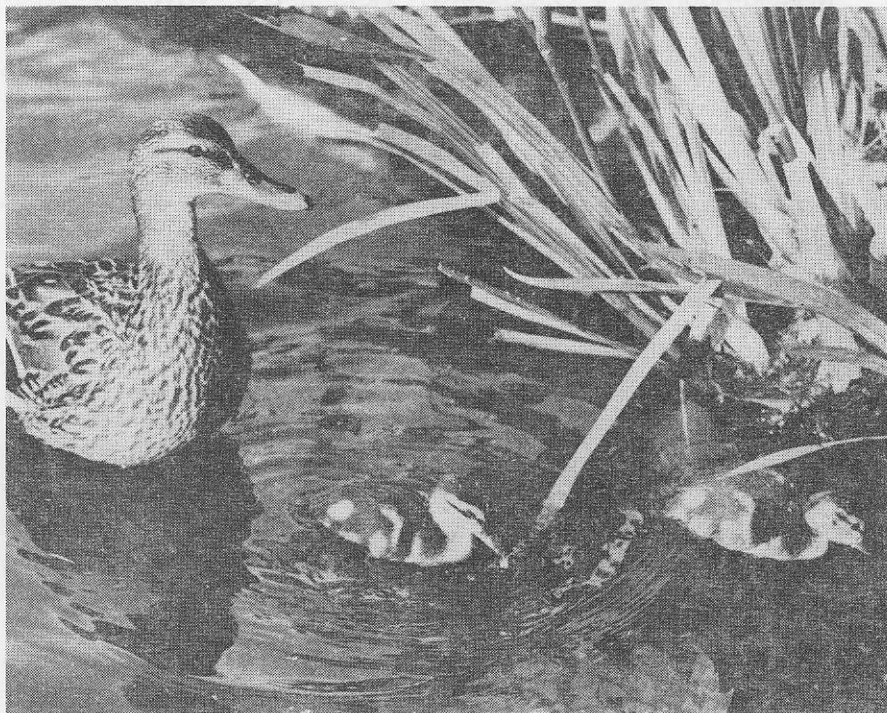


*Margaret Chalmers*



# The VICTORIA NATURALIST

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## VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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All correspondence, including membership applications and renewals, should be sent to this address.

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Rare Bird Alert  
383-0211

## THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### HIGH FARE AND LOW TIDES.

You'll have both at Holyrood House on the night of Tuesday 14th February, when we hope all loyal members of the V.N.H.S. will gather there to make our second annual Dinner a financial, as well as a social, success. Dinner-time is 6:30 p.m. This time you won't be faced with half a spring chicken looking ready to spring at you from the plate on its one leg. Instead, there'll be a variety of dishes on the buffet to please every palate, and for those who like to wet their whistles before dinner, a no-host bar will open at 6:00. No drinks will be served at the table; so, if you want to toast Her Majesty with something stronger than water, remember to take it in with you from the bar.

After the high fare of the dinner-table you'll go down to the low-tide line to see, through the eyes of Jessie Woollett's camera, the strange and lovely creatures that the ebbing sea leaves stranded in rock-bound pools.

The price of the dinner is \$7.50, and you may get tickets for it by sending your cheque, made out to The Victoria Natural History Society, either to Vera Guernsey (929 Byng St., Victoria, V8S 5B1: phone 598-4968) or to Dorothy McCann (Apt. 303 - 2180 Haultain St., Victoria, V8R 2L9: phone 592-1992) before Saturday 11th February. Don't forget to give your address, and, if you are applying for tickets just before the deadline, your phone number as well, so that arrangements can be made for the delivery of your tickets.

Anybody without transportation and anybody willing to supply the same should phone Eric Counsell (386-3989).

COVER

"SIGN OF SPRING" by Doreen Richards

## EDITORIAL

It is a far cry from Victoria's beaches and forests and waterbirds to Australia's kangaroos and dingoes, but these are our portion for February.

Dr. Jamison, a guest lecturer from U.B.C. at present in the Department of Biology in U. Vic., will be the leader of the Outing on Saturday, February 11th.

The Audubon film on 10th and 11th is about the rare Red Kangaroos that were stranded by floods in east-central Australia, giving Lionel Hudson a chance to see and photograph these usually elusive giant marsupials. This is an unusually interesting film as little is known about the Red Kangaroos. Part of the film is about the Dingoes, the Australian wild dogs.

Don't forget to phone Alex Peden (652-3598) if you wish to go looking for frogs and salamanders on the first warm evening in March.

Portland Audubon Society now have a Rare Bird Alert like ours. Anyone in that area who is interested can dial 292-0661 and find out what is to be seen of special interest. And there is a new check list for Sauvie Island by Ronald J. Klein.

Are you clear about identifying gulls in winter? If not, The Newsletter (November 1977) of the Portland Audubon Society has two pages of tips to check eight species. The Newsletter will be found in our Society Library.

The C.A.S.E./Bluepeace Alliance office at Fort St. has been closed, but will continue to operate from the home of Pat Moss (592-3136). The renewed activity around the Kitimat Pipeline Proposal is being closely watched by the Alliance.

To Jill Burbank goes my warm gratitude for her help with the typing of the articles in this magazine, and for her meticulous detail.

## BOAT TRIP TO RACE ROCKS

FEBRUARY 11, 1978

A five to six hour boat trip has been arranged to take us on a cruise to Race Rocks in Juan de Fuca Strait. We will see both California and Northern sealions, as well as many water birds including murrelets, auklets, and perhaps even shearwaters and storm-petrels. The recent Victoria Christmas Bird Count tallied many interesting species in these waters: 40 Sooty shearwaters, 2 Short-tailed shearwaters, 2 Black-legged kittiwakes, 546 Ancient murrelets, and 23 Cassin's auklets.

COST: \$19.00 per person.

LEADERS: Wayne Campbell, Michael Shepard and George Sirk. Operated by Swiftsure Tours Ltd., 119 - 645 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. Telephone: 388-4227.

Call the tour office or Tim Murphy (385-5357) for reservations or more information. Space Limited.

## FEATHERS AND FLIGHT

*by Rod Muirhead*

*"An elementary examination of the structure of birds and the dynamics of flight".*

This programme is presented by the British Columbia Provincial Museum Services to schools for intermediate grades 4, 5, and 6. The Wednesday afternoon team of Docents who teach programme, invite a group (32 persons maximum) of interested members of the V.N.H.S. to come on the evening of Tuesday, February 28 at 8:00 p.m. "as a class" and participate in this programme.

Phone in to Rod Muirhead (384-6005) to place your name on the list. The "class" will be held in Room 112 of the Provincial Museum under the auspices of The Education and Extension Services of the B.C.P.M.

This is an opportunity to see and hear how Docents teach children some particularly interesting things about the flight adaptations of birds. You might like to join.



## THOSE DANGLING INSECTS!

by D.A. Ross

It was 5:30 in the afternoon in mid-November, 1977. As I turned off Foul Bay Road, the headlights of my car spotlighted a cloud of drably-coloured moths over my lawn under the Garry oaks. It was immediately obvious that the winter moth would persist as a severe defoliator problem in 1978!

What manner of insect has descended on Victoria? The winter moth, a defoliator of broadleaved trees, was accidentally introduced into Nova Scotia from Europe in the 1930's. Subsequently it became a pest of fruit trees, elms, and oaks in the towns and cities of the Maritimes. The date of its arrival on Vancouver Island has not been thoroughly investigated, however, specimens were collected annually since 1972 by Canadian Forestry Service personnel in Victoria, often together with its close look-alike, native relative, the Bruce spanworm. They were all called Bruce spanworms until after a student at Simon Fraser University, David Gillespie, recently collected specimens from Victoria designated by federal government taxonomists in Ottawa as the winter moth. Fortunately the species is still limited to the southern tip of the island.

The female winter moth has mere vestiges of wings, making it flightless. On the other hand, it has well-developed legs and can move nimbly from its pupal case in the ground, up the tree trunk. The males are good flyers and seek out the climbing females - under cover of darkness. In November and December eggs are deposited in crevices in the bark of the limbs and twigs and under the bud-scales in any part of the host tree's crown. Each female can deposit from 50 to 70 eggs. Eggs hatch in the spring when the oak buds are swelling. Many of the new unfed larvae lower themselves on long threads of silk which may be caught up by air currents. Larvae may be carried to another part of the tree, to nearby trees, or occasionally to distant foliage. Dispersal is in the direction of the prevailing air currents. Larvae attack the burgeoning buds and foilage: at this stage the larvae are bright green with three whitish, narrow stripes on

either side of the body. By mid-June, trees may be severely defoliated: fruit trees may be stripped of their fruit-producing flowers. When defoliation is moderate to severe, larvae become restless in their search for food and may dangle down on threads. At times the air is so festooned with webs that it is irritating to walk beneath the infested trees. Further dispersal, including on motor vehicles, occurs during this period.

Distribution of the insects is such that defoliation is "spotty", thus some trees may be denuded whilst others retain a good deal of green, albeit frequently tattered, foliage.

Completely defoliated oak trees send out a new crop of leaves by mid-July; others such as the Japanese cherry may develop branch die-back.

The larvae grow to three-fourths of an inch in length and drop to the ground to pupate in the soil beneath the crown. Pupae, particularly the females, tend to be concentrated at the base of the trunk. They are in the resting stage and remain quiescent, usually until after the first frost, when the pupae wriggle up to the soil surface, and the moths emerge into the winter months.

At present the only effective control is with chemical insecticides early in the spring. If there are numerous larvae, a second or even a third spray at 7- to 10-day intervals may be necessary to give the desired protection.

Some damage by the winter moth may be prevented by encircling the trunk with sticky bands. This method is most successful on isolated individual trees since the larvae are capable of dispersal to neighbouring trees by air currents. Even where successful, other kinds of defoliating insects are unaffected by the bands.

The Canadian Forestry Service has carried out preliminary investigations on biological control of the winter moth in Victoria, however, nothing concrete can be expected for several years.

I expect to again see numerous winter moths fluttering over my lawn amid the Garry oaks in November 1978.

## VICTORIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

DECEMBER 17, 1977

by Michael G. Shepard

On Saturday, 17 December, 87 observers participated in the best ever Victoria Christmas Bird Count. Both the total species - 139, and total individual counts - 70,301 were record highs, and five species: Sooty Shearwater, Short-tailed Shearwater, Cattle Egret, American Bittern and Least Sandpiper, were new for the count list.

Significant all-time records were for Western Grebe - 2842 (previous high 2055 in 1975) and American Wigeon - 14,889 (previous high 8419 in 1975).

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this year's tally, especially to Harry Davidson for organizing the count, and Gladys and Alf Porcher for once again hosting a most enjoyable post-count gathering.

Seen in count period but not on count day were Green Heron, White-fronted Goose, Red Phalarope, Tufted Puffin, White-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Grosbeak.

## KEY TO AREAS

- A. Prospect Lake/Durrance Lake
- B. Florence Lake/Goldstream
- C. Esquimalt/Witty's Lagoons
- D. Portage Inlet/Thetis Lake
- E. Beacon Hill Park/Esquimalt
- F. Clover Point/Oak Bay
- G. University/Cadboro Bay
- H. Swan Lake/Panama Flats
- I. Blenkinsop/Elk Lake
- J. Burnside/Quick's Pond
- K. Martindale/Island View
- L. Chain, Trial and Chatham Islands

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Total
Common Loon	0	2	16	12	8	8	23	0	25	0	9	6	109H
Arctic Loon	0	7	1	5	1	3	2	0	4	0	0	75	98
Red-throated Loon	0	1	0	12	1	2	12	0	7	0	4	5	44
Red-necked Grebe	1	4	8	30	54	43	15	2	6	0	8	23	194
Horned Grebe	0	7	24	68	39	26	226	0	147	0	33	15	585
Eared Grebe	0	0	5	0	4	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	19
Western Grebe	0	8	2213	110	96	253	143	0	0	0	9	10	2842H
Pied-Billed Grebe	8	49	0	6	6	1	0	4	1	0	2	0	77H
Sooty Shearwater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	40F
Short-tailed Shearwater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2F
Double-crested Cormorant	6	6	20	33	42	18	47	39	40	0	0	12	263
Brandt's Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	500	512
Pelagic Cormorant	0	2	24	42	27	85	79	1	16	0	17	173	466
Cormorant Species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	30
Great Blue Heron	0	7	13	13	12	3	4	8	4	1	20	5	90H
Cattle Egret	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1F
American Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1F
Mute Swan	0	6	5	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Trumpeter Swan	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6H
Canada Goose	64	0	4	96	3	0	0	0	117	0	0	0	285H
Snow Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mallard	328	194	84	120	936	80	175	249	673	223	1353	17	4432
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	7	0	0	22H
Pintail	6	81	4	1	0	0	0	94	0	23	80	0	289
Green-winged Teal	7	35	5	50	0	3	25	135	50	85	3	0	398
Green-winged (Eur.) Teal	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
European Wigeon	2	0	0	0	3	3	0	4	0	0	2	0	14
American Wigeon	503	645	343	100	345	731	624	874	570	503	9650	1	14889H
Northern Shoveler	11	85	6	0	0	6	4	67	22	9	0	0	210

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Total
Ring-necked Duck	37	23	8	6	1	0	0	6	45	1	23	0	150
Canvasback	12	0	1	0	2	1	0	14	3	0	0	0	33
Greater Scaup	33	1	7	217	51	121	53	1	64	0	9	10	567
Lesser Scaup	2	2	0	0	4	0	32	3	1	0	7	0	51
Common Goldeneye	2	21	41	68	21	50	71	0	49	0	14	45	382
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	18	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33H
Bufflehead	10	20	214	260	160	158	146	75	145	14	45	88	1335
Oldsquaw	0	0	10	0	28	43	116	0	26	0	11	420	654
Harlequin Duck	0	0	8	0	26	87	88	0	2	0	14	80	305
White-winged Scoter	0	0	63	10	60	21	28	0	55	0	11	25	273
Surf Scoter	1	4	134	4	48	50	39	0	157	0	17	78	532
Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
Ruddy Duck	0	2	3	1	5	0	0	14	25	0	0	0	50
Hooded Merganser	0	11	36	70	20	5	20	40	151	0	4	17	374
Common Merganser	8	33	0	6	3	0	4	22	331	0	10	0	417
Red-breasted Merganser	0	1	27	64	12	23	24	0	15	0	49	12	227
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	5	1	0	0	16H
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	1	1	0	8
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	12
Golden Eagle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bald Eagle	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	11
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Merlin	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
American Kestrel	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Ruffed Grouse	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
California Quail	22	9	0	0	6	19	48	9	1	11	0	0	125L
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	0	2	3	3	0	11	9	2	7	7	0	49
American Coot	66	175	191	82	5	14	34	151	331	26	0	0	1075

DECEMBER 17, 1977

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Total
Black Oystercatcher	0	0	1	4	10	31	0	0	0	0	0	2	48
Killdeer	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	75	27	200	0	308
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	6	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	24	1	69
Surfbird	0	0	0	0	11	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
Black Turnstone	0	0	6	27	25	16	0	0	0	0	0	18	92
Common Snipe	0	0	6	0	0	2	7	0	2	30	7	0	54
Spotted Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3H
Greater Yellowlegs	0	2	13	1	6	6	7	6	29	0	0	0	70H
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2H
Rock Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	7	3	5	0	0	0	0	25	40
Least Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1F
Dunlin	0	0	2	0	85	6	0	0	0	0	279	1	373
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	1	28	0	0	0	0	4	0	33
Glaucous Gull	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3H
Glaucous-winged Gull	2205	323	455	1000	271	95	428	374	565	180	250	800	6946
Western Gull	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Herring Gull	1	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	15	24
Thayer's Gull	105	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	30	143H
California Gull	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	1	0	0	1	17
Mew Gull	14	84	66	25	75	53	11	50	22	0	4	800	1204
Bonaparte's Gull	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5000	5004H
Heermann's Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1H
Black-legged Kittiwake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2H
Common Murre	0	0	1	14	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	182	201
Pigeon Guillemot	0	1	0	0	6	2	4	0	2	0	2	49	66
Marbled Murrelet	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	14



SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Total
Ancient Murrelet	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	25	0	0	520	546
Cassin's Auklet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23H
Rhinoceros Auklet	0	0	0	3	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	28	37H
Band-tailed Pigeon	14	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	1	0	0	0	51
Rock Dove	95	2	0	60	112	2	0	201	32	8	200	0	712
Screech Owl	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	11H
Great Horned Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Saw-whet Owl	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Anna's Hummingbird	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
Belted Kingfisher	0	3	7	12	4	1	9	1	4	0	1	2	44H
Common Flicker	19	24	10	28	7	10	38	23	20	14	21	3	217
Common (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hairy Woodpecker	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	6
Downy Woodpecker	2	3	0	4	3	0	7	6	2	2	0	2	31
Skylark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	28
Steller's Jay	0	12	10	1	0	3	13	1	7	1	0	0	48
Common Raven	44	25	5	6	5	4	18	2	8	8	5	0	130
Northwestern Crow	418	174	238	160	77	273	1198	388	559	35	328	44	3892
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	101	42	39	55	20	21	128	36	59	10	19	16	546
Bushtit	0	6	0	12	0	0	106	41	0	5	15	0	185
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	8	0	7	4	0	5	3	2	4	3	0	45
Brown Creeper	19	3	3	3	3	0	7	0	0	0	2	1	41
Dipper	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Winter Wren	6	6	6	2	6	6	39	4	5	3	7	2	92
Bewick's Wren	14	0	3	3	1	5	19	8	15	5	8	1	82
Long-billed Marsh Wren	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	2	1	0	11

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Total
Rock Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1H
American Robin	167	61	99	40	86	103	794	71	201	330	1100	3	3055
Varied Thrush	31	10	9	2	6	0	24	1	4	2	5	0	94
Hermit Thrush	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	182	3	49	30	13	2	135	0	75	67	23	4	583
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	1	4	2	1	3	36	7	22	5	2	2	91
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Northern Shrike	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	7H
Starling	101	75	257	125	4698	352	949	663	689	197	980	12	9098
Hutton's Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
House Sparrow	6	0	10	6	68	80	179	13	12	41	25	0	440
Western Meadowlark	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Red-winged Blackbird	0	7	0	0	3	24	1	6	25	42	0	0	108
Brewer's Blackbird	0	0	0	0	9	0	40	17	132	60	200	0	458
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Evening Grosbeak	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Purple Finch	30	32	0	1	1	0	5	3	0	8	4	1	85
House Finch	7	2	12	4	8	18	89	21	55	0	37	3	256
Pine Siskin	0	40	0	8	60	0	71	21	65	0	61	0	326
American Goldfinch	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Red Crossbill	6	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	10
Rufous-sided Towhee	34	15	11	6	9	3	43	10	15	8	12	3	169
Savannah Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dark-eyed Junco	57	188	56	38	32	43	274	57	89	5	53	15	907

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Total
White-crowned Sparrow	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	6	0	10
Golden-crowned Sparrow	26	20	0	0	2	4	13	11	3	6	19	0	104
White-throated Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fox Sparrow	28	12	0	3	5	9	25	9	6	4	1	1	103
Song Sparrow	36	10	7	7	10	8	39	28	17	7	24	15	208
Lapland Longspur	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	4951	2662	4915	3211	7858	3116	6940	3916	6000	2033	15396	9303	70301
TOTAL SPECIES	64	66	62	68	93	69	78	61	77	46	77	64	139

### PARTICIPANTS

Anne Adamson, Joan Alston-Stewart, Elizabeth Armstrong, Barrow Baldwin, Grace Barclay, Margot Beauchamp, Mike Bentley, Margaret Blunt, Lorraine Bouchard, Gwen and Tom Briggs, Kay Brown, Clive Cardinal, Harry Carter, Betty-lou Chalmers, Linda Champion, Liz Courttnall, Joan Crabbe, A.R. Davidson, Eleanor Davidson, Harry Davidson, Rita Dixon, Phil Downey, Norman Fatt, Bruce Ford, Ralph Fryer, David Gaunt, Peggy and Vic Goodwill, Bertha Gow, Vera Guernsey, Leah Hallsall, John Hart, Mark Hart, Merle Harvey, Bob Hay, Gordon and Gwen Hooper, Norman Johnstone, Anne Knowles, Wally Lee, Enid Lemon, Nancy Lovatt, Donna MacLachlan, Rob McKenzie-Grieve, Lavender Monckton, Mike Moon, M. Muirhead, R.C. Muirhead, Tim Murphy, Bernard Neary, David Orton, Marilyn Paul, Stuart Reed, George Rigley, Leila Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Robnson, Ron Satterfield, Jane Seaborne, Ken Seaborne, Michael Shepard, George Sirk, Douglas and Reita Sparling, David Stirling, Dennis and Kay Suttill, Jeremy Tatum, Keith Taylor, Elmer Telvilla, Brenda Trotter, Hank and Rene Van Der Pol, Margaret Wainwright, Roy Wainwright, Ken Walton, Bruce Whitelaw, Carol Whitelaw, Dorothy and Jack Williams, Bob Willie, Mary Winstone, Rosa Wood, Thomas Youell. *Douglas Turnbull*

### APOLOGY

The cancellation at such short notice of the General Meeting on January 10th was most regrettable, and I humbly apologize for it to the members, especially to those who did not learn of the cancellation and were put to the trouble of going to the Auditorium for nothing.

Such mix-ups may occur even in the best-run organizations, and the only thing one can do is to try to ensure that there is no recurrence.

*Eric Counsell*  
President

### PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE DUES

Owing to the cancellation of the General Meeting of the Society, which was to have been held on 10th January, the Extraordinary Resolution to increase Membership Dues, the text of which was given in the January issue of the Victoria Naturalist, and which was on the agenda of the January meeting, will now be presented to the members at the General Meeting on 14th March.

### LIBRARY

The following can be obtained from A.R. Davidson (598-3088) at our Society's library:-

"HUMANE TRAPPING" by Fisheries and Environment Canada.

NEWSLETTER of Greater Victoria Environmental Center (November/December 1977).

NONC NEWSPACKET (December 1977) from North Okanagan Naturalists Club, Vernon.



DECEMBER BIRD RECORDS

No.	Species	Date	Area Seen	Observer
6	Bohemian Waxwings	1	205 Island Hwy. (View Royal)	Mrs. J. Tait
1	Harris's Sparrow	1	William Hd. Rd. (near Weir's Beach)	Mrs. J. Holt
1	Eurasian Green-wing Teal	3	Ascot Pond	R. Satterfield
1	Long-b. Marsh Wren	3	Ascot Pond	R. Satterfield
1	Palm Warbler	3	Ascot Pond	R. Satterfield
2	Black-legged Kittiwakes	3	Clover Point	R. Satterfield
1	Dark Phase Fulmar	3	Clover Point	R. Satterfield
1	Cattle Egret	7	Welch Road (C. Saanich)	Mrs. Ed. Raper
1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	Ascot Pond	R. McK-Grieve
8	Barrow's Goldeneye	8	Helmcken Bay (View Royal)	Harry Davidson
1	Heermann's Gull	12	Oak Bay Marina	K. Taylor & Bob Hay.
1	Gt. Horned Owl	14	Lt. Saanich Mountain	Barrow Baldwin
1	Wh. Thr. Sparrow	16	William Hd. Road	Mrs. John Holt
7	Pine Grosbeaks	18	Lt. Saanich Mountain	Barrow Baldwin
11	W. Meadowlarks	18	Par 3 Golf Course - (Blenkinsop Rd.)	Mrs. H. Lovett
1	White-breasted Nuthatch	20	Lt. Saanich Mountain	J.B. Tatum
1	Cedar Waxwing	21	"	M. & V. Goodwill
1	Yellow-r. Warbler	22	Jackson St.	Eleanor Davidson
1	Rusty Blackbird	24	176 Cadillac	Ken Walton
1	Marsh Hawk	27	Dooley Road (C. Saanich)	J.B. Tatum
27	Water Pipits	27	Blenkinsop Lk.	"
2	Red Crossbills	30	Sherringham Point	M. & V. Goodwill
1	Y/B Sapsucker	31	3220 Beach Dr.	V. Goodwill

ATTRACT MORE BIRDS THIS WINTER

by A.R. Davidson

"Use beef suet the year round. This dry hard fat, available from your butcher shop, will attract at least six species - Bushtits, Chickadees, Downy Woodpecker, Flickers, Purple and House Finches".

The above is an excerpt from an article on bird feeding from the U.S. "National Wildlife" magazine for January 1978. In my opinion this is the top magazine in its class.

Personally I have always used beef suet the year round (50 years now), using small amounts in the warmer months. This is supplemented with chick scratch and brown bread crumbs.

. . . AND ANOTHER RECIPE

FOR THE BIRDS . . . . .

ANTI-SPARROW PUDDING:

Boil together for five minutes 1 cup sugar and 1 cup water. Mix with one cup melted fat. Leave to cool, then mix with breadcrumbs, seeds, and a little boiled rice, and scraps until the mixture is very thick.

Pack into a tin or glass jar, leaving one end open. Lay tin on its side on a tree or on a windowsill, or any place where birds can perch and pick out the food. Tin must be placed securely so that it cannot be knocked down, and in such a way that rain or snow cannot get inside.

This recipe was taken from the "Bird Table Book" by Tony Soper.

## A RARE BIRD FOR VICTORIA

by A.R. Davidson

It was on the 20th December 1977 that the Tuesday Group made their way to the top of Little Saanich Mountain, otherwise known as Observatory Hill, one of the astronomers there having reported Pine Grosbeaks, an uncommon species here.

It was a sunny, cold morning with almost unlimited visibility. The Coast Range from Grouse Mountain back of Vancouver to well into the State of Washington, including Mount Rainier (120 miles distant) was clearly outlined against the horizon.

We found a few of the Pine Grosbeaks working on top of a tall Douglas fir along with a few robins.

Having succeeded in our quest we drove to Prospect Lake, which is just below the hill, for lunch.

We had met Dr. Jeremy Tatum while looking for the Grosbeaks, and he now appeared while we were having lunch to report having seen a White-breasted Nuthatch. Jeremy is well known to us, he is a keen birder and there was no doubt in his identification. So away we went back up the mountain, climbed the long range of steps to the top and there was Jeremy, away ahead of us, with the White-breasted Nuthatch energetically working over a small oak tree a few yards away. There was no doubt about it.

This is a most unusual bird for Vancouver Island. It has only been authentically identified twice during the last fifty-five years. Once at Comox in 1922 and once fourteen miles west of Campbell River in 1976.

### LIBRARY

The following can be obtained from A.R. Davidson (598-3088) at our Society's library:-

"AUDUBON WARBLER" (November 1977). Newsletter of the Portland Audubon Society.

## FEBRUARY PROGRAMME

- SAT. FEB. 4 BEACH SEINING FOR FISH: Leader Alex Peden. (652-3598) Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m.
- SUN. FEB. 5 ISLAND VIEW BEACH: BIRDS: Leader Tim Murphy. Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. or I.V.B. 9:30. Bring Lunch.
- FRI. FEB. 10 AUDUBON FILM: in Newcombe Auditorium.  
SAT. FEB. 11 8:00 p.m. Speaker Lionel Hudson. "Kangaroos Can't Be Cornered".
- SAT. FEB. 11 "Common Mosses and Liverworts".  
Leader Dr. David Jamison. Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. Bring rubber boots and raingear. (4 hours outing.)
- SAT. FEB. 11 BOAT TRIP: Race Rocks and Juan de Fuca Strait. Sealions and marine birds. See article this issue. Leaders: Wayne Campbell, Michael Shepard and George Sirk.
- TUES. FEB. 14 DINNER at Holyrood House, 7:30 p.m.  
Speaker: Mrs. Jessie Woollett on "Life at Low Tide".

## JUNIOR PROGRAMME

- WED. FEB. 1 Provincial Museum: 4:00 p.m. Room 112.  
Nature Talk: Goldstream Naturalists.
- SAT. FEB. 4 FIELD TRIP with the Goldstream Naturalists.  
Meet Mayfair Lanes 1:30 p.m.
- WED. FEB. 15 Provincial Museum: 4:00 p.m. Room 112.  
"Do's and Don'ts of Collecting Plants".  
Dr. Bob Ogilvie.
- SAT. FEB. 18 HIKE to Millhill to find early wildflowers. Meet Mayfair Lanes 1:30 p.m.
- WED. MAR. 1 Provincial Museum: 4:00 p.m. Room 112.  
"Indians and Plants". Nancy Turner.
- SAT. MAR. 4 AFTERNOON HIKE. Meet Mayfair Lanes at 1:30 p.m.

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