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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1747, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y1

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Rare Bird Alert
383-0211

THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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A DAY ON THE HEIGHTS

by Jean McInnis

To date, I have been two places in Canada which, more than usual, fill me with awe and wonder. They are Peggy's Cove in Nova Scotia and the unglaciated sub-Alpine and Arctic-Alpine mountain tops of Hurricane Ridge, on the Olympic Peninsula.

Very different terrain, you will say! Yes, but it is the feeling these two places give me. Maybe this is a glimpse back to the "beginnings" when the Earth was taking shape for our habitation.

It was to this mountain Charlie Trotter led a group of over 50 members and friends on 9 July, 1978 for a second-year-look. The day was cool up in the mountain fog as the bus wound its way up Hurricane Ridge Road, but cleared gradually as the day progressed. We started off in several small groups, going in different directions to view the flowers, some to take photographs. One group counted 103 species; somewhat less by others.

Most numerous were the white Avalanche lilies, still blooming profusely on the shady slopes (we missed them last year). Next, the mountain Lupines, colouring the meadows, with here and there Columbia Lilies, Majenta and Orange Paintbrushes, Bistort, Larkspur, Indian Thistle (a true native), Silky and White Phacelia, Pink Heath, Mountain Wallflower, and several varieties of Mountain Sunflower.

COVER:

OLYMPIC MARMOT

by George Kellett

Focusing our eyes closer to the areas at our feet, we noticed the smaller flowers, no less beautiful. Spreading Phlox in different colours, Douglasia in rich pink, yellow stonecrop, lavender Polemonium, creamy Partridgefoot, Olympic Onion, Dwarf raspberry, Valerian, sub-alpine Buttercup, yellow Mimulus, alpine Veronica - that wonderful deep blue - Marsh Marigold, Spring Beauty, Montia, yellow Violet, Campanula, Owl Clover, Bluebells, Geum, white Bog Orchid, Tufted Saxafrage, Sickletop, and many others. One-flowered Cancer-root was growing in clumps on the Ridge and, being on eye level, its beauty was clearly seen.

Of the shrubs and larger bushes, the White Rhododendron was in full flower, with Serviceberry, Dwarf Blueberry, Mountain Ash, Red Elderberry, and two varieties of Rose - the Nootka and the Wood - their colours deeper than those at lower elevations.

Not only did the flowers occupy our time; Marmots were everywhere and several were seen with dried grass in their mouths, carrying it into their burrows, getting ready for a "blessed event". Deer were in many places, and one Black Bear was seen. Those who went higher on the Ridge saw Mountain Goat, 2 families of Blue Grouse, 1 Chipping Sparrow, Horned Larks, Juncos, Siskins, and even Robins at that elevation.

Fog was closing in again as we descended the mountain road, making one stop, where we saw Pentstemon, White Pigweed, and the little Pinguicula, but missing the Red Mimulus and Elephanthead Pedicularis and Jeffrey's Shooting Star seen the previous year at this elevation.

Oh well, we will perhaps return next year. How about it, Charlie? Many thanks to you for the organization and leadership of this year's trip to another world. And our thanks also to those who dealt with the business of tickets and phone calls.

To those who were disappointed, we would say - put your name in early if you wish to go to the "High Tops" of Hurricane Ridge next year. The bus only holds so many!

* * * *

EDITORIAL

This has been a busy summer for our members, with outings and trips outwith Victoria. Some of these are in this issue and make interesting reading.

Alex Peden reports that Marine Biology has been popular, and Tim Murphy broadened the Ornithological scope to include boat trips to look at ocean birds. There have been many Botany outings of which one to Hurricane Ridge was the highlight to 56 members and friends, and Miracle Beach came a close second.

One of our Honorary Members; present Librarian; ex-Editor; Audubon ticket seller; and Leader of the Tuesday Group reaches his 90th Birthday next month. We send him our greetings and wish him:

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

As there will be NO magazine issued in OCTOBER, this reminder is to warn you that the GENERAL MEETING is on the 17th, the THIRD Tuesday instead of the usual second in October. And this will be the last 'Naturalist' sent to those who have not renewed membership.

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER issue - 1st October. Please send in your contributions as early as possible.

HERITAGE TREES TOUR: There is a possibility of another tour led by Michael Gye in the 3rd week in September. Watch the newspapers and listen to the Bird Alert for further information.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS will be held on Saturday, December 16th. Harry Davidson will be the Organizer (479-1286) and Michael Shepard the Compiler. More information in the November issue.

REMINDER:

Society Library at 2144 Brighton Avenue,
(off Victoria Street)
Librarian A.R. Davidson.

Phone 598-3088 before calling.

FBCN WATERTON LAKES CAMP

by Kaye Suttill

In June the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists held the first Nature Group Camp at Waterton Lakes National Park, organized by Bill Merrilees and Roy Edgel. Ten of us from Victoria attended Week Two, and experienced one of the highlights of our lives.

Waterton has unique habitats, for not only do the mountains overthrust on to the Prairies in the NE, no foothills between, but being on a main storm track, tremendous wind intensities blow down areas of lodgepole pine like avalanches and weather-exposed rocks into alpine sites. Only 500 feet above Waterton Lake we found Draba, Androsace and other flora usually associated with above-treeline, while where the Prairie invades Horseshoe Basin besides the usual grassland and deciduous plant life, one small hill held two seasons, two flora: bare dry rock homeing phacelia, penstemons, saxifrage, while the other side was all freshly-awakened glacier lilies and Prairie crocus of the mountain spring.

The Camp was in the red rocks of the Blakiston Valley, a throughway inhabited by Man for 8000 years or more, an area of lush streambanks, grassy hillsides and eroded dry ridges, a paradise of flowers and range for mountain sheep - a perfect centre for rambling after our super-hearty and delicious dinners.

Park Naturalists gave half their busy days on Monday to lead us into Horseshoe Basin for the Geology-Prairie side of Waterton, and Tuesday up into the mountain habitats around Bertha Lake. Other birders went to Maskinonge Marsh and other nearer areas.

A 'bird-for-the-record' at Waterton arrived on 24th May this year - 3 double-crested cormorants, a new order, family genus and species, not only for Waterton but for this part of Alberta.

Fellow naturalists shared their expertise leading groups over the mountain trails. One special Field Trip led by Dr. and Mrs. Brink of Vancouver went over Akamina Pass into B.C. to personally look at the area which many

conservationists feel should be preserved as a Park to complete the natural unit of Waterton-Glacier.

And so we have all come back with our own very special memories: of Rocky Mountain Big Horn rams around us on ridges high above Camp; of beavers play-sliding their dam sites; hawks soaring and swooping low above us with fresh prey; forest trails vibrant with bird song, especially Swainson and Hermit thrush and Western tanager; trails snow-covered switchbacking up to icebreaking lakes; and waterfalls jewelled with flowers. I never knew there could be so much Saskatoon in flower, or Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium pulcherrimum*), and the omni-invasion of dandelions into the montane area. But outstanding to us all florally was of course Bear Grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) with its inflorescence akin to a giant Death camas, used by the Squaws for weaving into cloth and baskets.

For Dennis and me, though, it was our first encounter with a bear that most specialled Waterton, when we were off on our own on a frequented trail where our fellow campers had been before and after. The sight of that golden bear crossing the stream behind Dennis, and then having to meet him at 20 yards away, when the young Grizzly turned away, and hugging a tree, looked round at us, will remain for always in our memories. We gave him our respect and did not photograph him, and hope by not reporting him he may still be there alive and enjoying his home so invaded now by humans.

So all of us give thanks to Bill Merilees for organizing this first FBCN Camp, and to Roy Edgel for taking over the second week, and long for the Federation to have another camp next year.

HELPFUL HINTS

If contributors typing their articles would keep their lines to 55 characters it would greatly help the editor. And, please, Leaders, could you warn at the START of the Outing, those whom you wish to write it up?

MANDARTE ISLAND

by Rita Dickson & Ann Raymond

Nineteen seafarers left Sidney Wharf at 9 a.m. on July 1 aboard the small "Maryville", with Tim Murphy as bird pilot. Rhinosceros auklets, pigeon guillemots, marbled murrelets were all noted en route to the Island. Surf and white-winged scoters appeared and 1 Common Loon. Eight or more blue heron were stationed along the spit.

Continuing on to Mandarte Island in the very calm waters (virtually no breeze) we circled it very slowly to obtain good views of the nesting birds. A sanctuary under the auspices of the U.B.C., this tiny rocky island is dotted with bird "blinds", and naturalists are sent to study nesting habits. Other human beings are not allowed there, but our group was able to observe the nesting ledges of all three cormorants - pelagic, double-breasted and Brandt's - also those of glaucus-winged gulls. Several "chicks" were sighted - three on the far point as we rounded it. Also inhabiting the cliff shelves are our 3 alcids, some of whom we had seen on the water as we approached. An oystercatcher showed his brilliant red beak and a fisherman guillemot had a catch in his bill. On the island's far side we saw a naturalist with an egg carton, and wearing a rucksack from which 2 tall sticks protruded to discourage the annoyed birds.

When we had exhausted the possibilities of Mandarte, the "Maryville" returned to Sidney Island. In formation, 50 gull flew over the harbour as we entered. Walking along the cool paths the western flycatcher was first heard and later seen a number of times during our two-hour sojourn. Chickadees, siskins, song sparrows and a white-crowned sparrow. The latter sat quite still while we all admired him, and shortly afterwards a "savannah" sparrow was added to our list, while in the woods a downy woodpecker darted from tree to tree and someone saw a nuthatch and 2 brown creepers. Wrens, both winter and Bewick's were seen - and heard - with some perseverance.

Over a meadow a goldfinch was seen and a rough-winged swallow went swooping. Violet-greens and barns had already been reported.

Several times during the afternoon heron were flying from the heronry at the far end of the island, which has been visited on previous trips. Only two eagles were seen all day - one watched us from a dead tree as we circled Sidney Island, and another soared, far away.

Waiting for the boat, we descended to the beach below a cliff near the wharf. Here were nest holes in the cliff, of swallows and kingfishers. Three young barn swallows sat on a protruding branch near their nest while a busy mother hunted and fed them constantly. We waited to see a parent kingfisher enter their home, but the bird merely waited for us to leave - perched on a small rock in the water. It was still there when we had to go.

Again on the water we were sped on our way by a group of pigeon guillemots and then some auklets. One Bonaparte's gull was with a group of glaucus-winged. Thank you, Tim Murphy, for a good day's birding, with 40 species seen.

SOMENOS LAKE

from "News Release"

Conservation Minister Sam Bawlf has announced a 99-year lease of land situated between the Island Highway and the Lake and adjacent to the Forest Museum, which is to enable waterfowl management and recreational use of a piece of property fronting Somenos Lake, Duncan.

Somenos Lake covers approximately 100 acres in summer, but is supplemented during winter by flooding of adjoining lowlands to almost 200 acres of water surface area. These seasonal changes to lake and surrounding marshlands provide a rich and productive feeding ground which result in an ideal habitat for both local and migratory waterfowl.

Recreational opportunities at Somenos Lake will be enhanced through provision of a viewing area, accessible from the Highway and from the Forest Museum, providing better opportunity for observation of the abundant wild-life of the marsh area.

APPEAL TO SAVE THE TSITIKA WATERSHED

'The Tsitika Watershed is situated about 50 miles north of Campbell River on Vancouver Island. The Tsitika river empties into an undisturbed estuary in the Johnstone Strait between Kelsey Bay and Port McNeill. It is an important salmon, steelhead and trout river.

This is the last major unlogged watershed on the east coast. All the others have gone. It has remained basically unchanged and unlogged since historic times. Some of the trees of the watershed - principal species are Western hemlock, Amabilis fir, Western red cedar and Yellow cedar - are over one thousand years old.

The logging companies with timber licences in the area want the first growth timber of the Tsitika. The pressure is on for wood.

The watershed is home for many animals, including the northernmost natural population of the Roosevelt elk. Other animals frequent the Tsitika - cougar, Black-tailed deer, wolves, Black bear, wolverine and the small mammals local to the heavy snow areas of Vancouver Island. Many bird populations make their home in the river valley and the estuary. It is a naturalists' paradise.'

The above is selected from a leaflet handed to members at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, May 30th, by David Orton.

PRESERVATION

QUICK'S BOTTOM, off West Saanich Road and Markham Street, is to be inventoried periodically by the Natural History Society if there are interested members who can visit the area and contribute information. A committee is being formed and anyone who is interested in helping in any way (in addition to those who have already volunteered) is urged to contact Dr. John W.E. Harris. Phone 479-2736 (home) or 388-3811 (office). A number of our members have considerable knowledge of various aspects of the flora and fauna there, and it is hoped that this information can be published periodically and form the basis of the Society's continuing efforts to maintain this area as a natural preserve.

BOTANY TRIP

by Katherine Sherman

Sunny skies greeted the 22 members who turned up at the Aylard Farm, East Sooke Park, on 18 June. Although a delightful place to spend any summer day, it was late in the season for the best show of flowers. No rare finds were made, but it is always good to refresh memories, and to find Bog St. John's Wort (*Hypericum anagalloides*), Creeping Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) and other bog plants in the wet places; Spotted Coralroot (*corallorhiza maculata*) and Slenderspire Orchid (*Habenaria unalascensis*) in the wooded areas, with a good display of Fool's Onion (*Triteleia hyancintha*) and Harvest Brodiaea (*Brodiaea coronaria*) in the more open areas.

Scrambling up the rocky bluff at Creyke Point, we found Goldenback Fern (*Pityrogramma triangularis*). Right at the top is a small water-tight depression. On the day of our trip the water had evaporated, but there in the still damp mud was our old friend Brass Buttons (*Cotula coronopifolia*). One marvelled that a plant with such special requirements could become established in such a small isolated puddle.

A few specimens of Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*) remained for our enjoyment in the meadow. The meadow also produced vast quantities of Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus crista-galli*) and Yellow Bartsia (*Parentucellia viscosa*), thus giving us a good opportunity to distinguish between these two, often confused species.

One shrub occurring in profusion in the wooded area and growing up to 6 feet tall was the Evergreen Huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*). It was sad to note that it is being attacked by a fungus, and that many branches had already been killed by it. According to Lewis Clark, this beautiful shrub is very popular with florists and that is why it is fairly uncommon closer to Victoria. We trust that in East Sooke Park, so recently opened to the public, it will be spared this fate.

THE HOUSE SPARROW

contributed by Ruth Lash

The following is an excerpt from "Thoughts on the Sparrow" by Eugene Kinkeat and contributed by Ruth Lash.

"The importation of the house sparrow to this continent was not motivated by nostalgia as were many imported flora and fauna, nor did it come by accident. Members of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences sponsored the importation in 1850 to control a common pest, the moanisory worm (*Ennomos subsignaria*). The sparrows were very effective for this purpose and more were imported until by 1864 they were spreading to Ontario and Quebec.

But by 1875 it was reported that the pest *Ennomos* had been replaced by another one, and this did not attract the sparrow. But for awhile the fashion for cherishing the sparrow continued; it had become a status symbol and was provided with nesting boxes and fed in winter, one man even arranging for his chauffeur to shoot the neighbourhood cats who were preying on the sparrows. He proudly reported a bag of nine!

But alas! by 1885 it was realized that the importation of the sparrow was a national calamity, the birds were now spreading all over the continent. Sub-zero temperatures did not deter them from breeding, and the technological improvement in farm machinery gave the sparrows a boost as the acreage of arable land increased. The government ordered a report by the scientist Dr. Barrow "who weighed with perfect fairness the pros and cons" and reached the conclusion that in the balance the sparrow was a major evil.

It was found that the sparrow's diet consisted of 96% grain and weed seeds and 4% insects (except for the nestlings who ate only insects). Their arrogance was noted, "instead of hiding in the centre of grain fields as other grain damagers did, they fluttered fearlessly from stalk to stalk along the edge". Cereals were attacked from time of sowing until safely stored in the barn and even then the sparrow managed to get in and gobble up the grain. It had a genius for substituting a diet of the buds of ornamental shrubs and fruits if grain was not available.

There were complaints that "nesting boxes set up for other birds were pre-empted by the sparrows; buildings were soiled and damaged; gutters were blocked and thatches destroyed."

The Barrows Report recommended that "the sparrows be systematically destroyed". Laws were passed making their importation illegal, and it was also illegal to give them food or shelter. A local sparrow killer was often appointed in a district and it was even recommended that "the sparrow be eaten as it had been for centuries in Europe, the flavour being much superior to that of quail". The encouragement and protection of predators was recommended; birds such as the Northern shrike, the sparrowhawk, and the Screech owl, which takes birds from their roosts at night.

By the end of the century the birds were still increasing. One of their most helpful allies was the horse. Draft horses need 4 - 12 qts. of oats a day; some of which was spilled from their nose-bags and some fell in their droppings. The sparrows love oats, and also the grain which was the food of the barnyard fowls.

But there was help for the control of the sparrow on the way - the introduction of the automobile and their gas-powered engines which replaced the horse. "Never again would it be possible to see 4,000 sparrows bathing at once in a pool in Central Park". By 1913 the peak had passed.

In 1927 a scientific investigation of the house sparrow found that it was not a true sparrow at all, but a "Weaver finch". Its heavy skeleton, its horny palate and its habits in nesting and moulting set it apart from the true sparrow, but it was too late to call it "European Weaver Finch", so House sparrow it remains.

The public's attitude to the house sparrow has changed since its vast numbers have shrunk. It has been found to be the heaviest feeder on the Japanese beetle of any bird - "in fact, it diligently searches out this pest by hopping under bushes, and darting upwards to seize its prey, or by catching it on the wing". It also eats alfalfa beetles, grasshoppers, cabbage worms and cutworms. The attitude is so much friendlier that in 1960 Congress lifted the ban on its importation.

THANKS TO THE BIRD ALERT

from Alf Porcher

On August 3rd, after five days away from the City, I dialed 383-0211 to hear for the first time on our Rare Bird Alert of a bird whose name was a completely new one to me! I consulted my Peterson, which allowed it five lines, among the "accidentals" ending with "Accidental in Alaska".

Up to now I had not considered going to Alaska to find birds!! I was impressed at once that here was a bird I had not only never seen but might never see again during my lifetime. I phoned several friends in Victoria who might be interested in helping me find it -- no one answering the phone -- a beautiful day! I also telephoned the reference number in Vancouver, and Jack Williams, but still no answer and it was already noon. The tape said it was appearing on a sewage lagoon at about 4:00 p.m.

My wife found a plane reservation for me at 1:30 while I assembled my gear. (The ferries had a two hour delay). That gave me time for a quick lunch and out to the airport. In Vancouver I repeated my call to David Mark for current information to no avail. I rented a Budget car and the clerk gave me a local map, assisting me in finding my way to the Iona Sewage Treatment Plant where it seemed everyone -- receptionist, laborers included, knew about "the bird". I was even invited into the lunch room to see a newspaper account showing John Touchin pointing to a PICTURE of the bird on a page of "Audubon". I quickly read the report and proceeded to the lagoons, where I found Wilson's Phalarope, yellow-legs, redwings, many sandpipers, some Semi-palmated Plover and the Ruff which had been reported there.

At about 3:30 p.m. I considered moving my car closer to the lagoon, thinking I might be searching until dark. Mr. Launder, the Plant Superintendent showed me an aerial photo of the plant exactly where the bird had been coming in on previous days and after returning to that spot for a few minutes, I was joined by John Touchin of the Vancouver Natural History Society and his son, plus a visitor from the U.S.A. who also brought scopes. Now there were three of us searching the flock of peeps for the one with the rusty head and it wasn't long before Touchin Jr. exclaimed "I've got it!"

Even before I found it, I was elated that this rare visitor had remained here one more day out of his life; in a minute or two I found it too, identifying its head and neck in the sunshine as a beautiful rusty-or-henna color. It flew occasionally when the other peeps did, but in a little while I was able to get excellent views of its SPOON-LIKE bill when it reached toward ground with its head in my direction.

While we watched it two media reporters arrived, plus Mr. Launder, his wife, a visitor from Arizona and several others. I left the scope trained on it and departed to have another look at the Ruff which I'd seen on only one previous occasion. Then John Touchin drove me the short distance back to my rental car.

Arriving at the airport at 6:00 p.m. I was filled with elation and gratitude toward my fellow-birders who had made this wonderful event possible. I phoned Peggy Goodwill with an up-dated report and relaxed, awaiting my return flight home. What a day!

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEKEND

In connection with Environmental Week, a "Conserver Weekend" is being sponsored by the Energy Conservation Centre. There will be meetings in the Newcombe Auditorium, and the Victoria Natural History Society will co-operate by staging, on September 30th, a Field Trip to places in Victoria/Saanich area which are important to Naturalists and Environmentalists. This trip will visit Elk/Beaver Lake; Quick's Bottom; Swan Lake; and Panama Flats and will take about 3 hours. Buses will leave the Museum Parking Lot at 1 p.m. Saturday, September 30th. A charge will be made to defray the cost of the buses.

If interested, contact either the Environmental Centre (388-5317) or the Energy Conservation Centre at 1230 Government Street; or David Jackman (388-5772).

* * * * *

UNUSUAL BIRDS NOTED

In June, an Eastern Kingbird on Seymour Street by M. Pletz; a Dipper in Beacon Hill Park by J. Ryder; a Red Crossbill at Florence Lake by the Briggs; and a Long-billed Curlew at Clover Point by J. Kenning.

In July, R.R. Alton watched a White Pelican at Fulford Harbour; J.L. Hinton a Tufted Puffin in Saanich Inlet; V. Goodwill an early Horned Grebe in Pat Bay and a Trumpeter Swan at Sooke River mouth. The Inglis' saw 2 Green Herons at Quick's Bottom; Goodwills a Parasitic Jaeger at Clover Point and a Whimbrel at Island View Beach; V. Goodwill and R. Satterfield 3 Wilson's Phalaropes at Martindale Res.

No less than 2 pairs Bullock's Orioles have nested in the Saanich area this summer, notes A.R. Davidson, and there have been several reports of Green Heron.

Several members have been over to Vancouver to see the rare Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Alf Porcher describes his view of it on another page.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS: 33rd Season - 1978 - 79

Newcombe Auditorium. B.C. Provincial Museum. 8:00 P.M.

October 13 - 14. November 10 - 11. January 26 - 27.

March 2 - 3. March 30 - 31.

Season tickets:	Adults	\$ 7.00
	Golden Age	\$ 5.00
Single admission:	Adults	\$ 1.75
	Golden Age	\$ 1.25
	Students	\$ 1.25

Season tickets are now on sale at the following places:

Gift Shop, Provincial Museum, James Bay.

Community Project, 'The Mall', Simcoe Street.

Borogrove Bookshop, Centennial Square.

Dogwood Gift Shoppe, Oak Bay Avenue.

Bolen Books, Hillside Shopping Centre.

Woodward's Book Store, Mayfair Shopping Centre.

ORNITHOLOGY OUTING

by Merle Harvey

Cowichan Marsh was beautiful on 5th August, when 22 members arrived to look at the birds there. Swallows were everywhere - Barn, Cliff, Tree, Violet-green and Roughwinged; a Green heron flew past and several Blue herons were feeding in the water. We lost count of the Long-bill dowitchers busy in the shallows beside snipe and yellowlegs. Not many ducks - 16 Mute swans looked dazzlingly white on a deep blue sea, and a vast concord of Common mergansers ruffled the waters.

Eyes looking in every direction spotted Bald eagle, Turkey vulture, Redtail and Marsh hawks; and necks were craned to watch 2 Purple martins flying high above us.

Lunch was enjoyed in the shade at Quamichan Lake - unusually peaceful - where we watched Mute swans and their cygnets and 7 Canada geese; then caught glimpses of some smaller birds in the trees.

Duncan Sewage Ponds gave us good view of another Green heron, which seemed rather annoyed and gave out loud "chooks" as it flew away.

Altogether 55 birds listed, 18 fewer than on the same date last year, but although 14 species seen in 1977 were not seen, 7 were new to our list including a Ring-billed gull.

Some of the local members joined our company and we look forward to seeing them at future outings. Rob McKenzie-Grieve led a happy and productive visit to the area, and we thank him for looking the other way as we filled our bags with blackberries and listed almost as many wildflowers as birds!

A rather interesting feature was the number of plants not often seen around Victoria - wild Asparagus in seed, for instance, and both yellow and white sweet-clover, Bur marigold, and 10 foot high bog sow-thistles.

* * * *

PROGRAM for SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER

- THURS. AUG. 30 ENTOMOLOGY: Speaker Brian Ainscough.
Room 112. Provincial Museum. 7:00 P.M.
- THURS. SEPT. 7 Room 112. Provincial Museum. 8:00 P.M.
Dr. A.W. Diamond, Dept. Zoology, Univ.
Nairobi, Kenya. Topic: TROPICAL SEABIRDS.
- SAT. SEPT. 9 BOTANY: Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 A.M.
Leader and Location later.
- SUN. SEPT. 10 Bird Field Trip: Leader: Bill Savele.
Meet Mayfair Lanes, 9:00 A.M. or
Thstie Lake Parking Lot 9:30 A.M.
(592-7747)
- TUES. SEPT. 12 GENERAL MEETING: Newcombe Auditorium,
8:00 P.M. Speaker: To be announced.
- SAT. SEPT. 16 INSECTS: Leader: Bob Duncan (388-3811
daytime). Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 A.M.
- SUN. SEPT. 17 LOCAL GEOLOGY: Leader: Dr. R.A. Brown.
(4 hour trip). Meet Mayfair Lanes
9:00 A.M.
- WED. SEPT. 20 MARINE BIOLOGY: Speaker: Phil Lambert.
"The Life of a Starfish". 7:00 P.M.,
Room 115. Provincial Museum.
- SAT. SEPT. 25 PLANTS in FRUIT: Leader: L. Pavlic.
Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 A.M. or
Island View Beach, 9:30 A.M. (652-3305)
- SAT. SEPT. 30 ENVIRONMENTAL BUS TOUR: See notice
on another page.
- SUN. OCT. 1 BIRD FIELD TRIP: Leader: Mike Shepard,
(387-3544). Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 A.M.
or Witty's Lagoon 9:30 A.M.
- THURS. OCT. 12 1-5 p.m.
- FRI. OCT. 13 10-12 a.m. OPEN HOUSE at
1-9 p.m. Pacific Forest Research
SAT. OCT. 14 10 a.m.- Centre, Burnside Rd.
5 p.m.

This is a good opportunity to visit the Centre. Fungi
Clinic - take your specimens for identification to
Dr. A. Funk, (388-3811).

- FRI. OCT. 13 AUDUBON: 8:00 P.M., Newcombe Auditorium.
SAT. OCT. 14 Speaker: Thomas A. Sterling
"The Marsh - A Quiet Mystery"
- TUES. OCT. 17 GENERAL MEETING: Newcombe Auditorium,
8:00 P.M. Speaker: Dr. R.S. Hunt,
Phytopathologist at Pacific Forest
Research Centre.
'Common Tree Problems'.
- WED. OCT. 18 MARINE BIOLOGY: Speaker: Dr. A. Peden.
7:00 P.M., Room 115, Provincial Museum.
'Marine Life Through A Microscope'.
- SAT. OCT. 21 Overnight Field Trip MARINE BIOLOGY.
SUN. OCT. 22 Leader; Dr. A. Peden (652-3598).
Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 A.M. Saturday.
Big Qualicum River, etc.
- SAT. OCT. 28 BIRD FIELD TRIP: Leader: Alf Porcher,
(477-7777). Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 A.M.
or Island View Beach 9:30 A.M.

JUNIOR PROGRAM

- SAT. SEPT. 16 PRE-CAMP MEETING: Swan Lake, 1:30 P.M.
All who mean to attend Camp, please
come to this meeting.
- FRI. SEPT. 22 CAMP: Grace must know how many mean
SAT. SEPT. 23 to attend by September 16.
SUN. SEPT. 24 COST: \$10.00.
- SAT. OCT. 14 EAST SOOKE PARK: Hike. Bring lunch.
Meet Mayfair Lanes, 9:30 A.M.
- SAT. OCT. 28 ORIENTEERING in BEACON HILL PARK.
Meet at Animal Pens, 1:30 P.M.

*PLEASE NOTE date of the October General Meeting is 17TH.
KEEP THIS ISSUE HANDY for dates and remember there is
NO OCTOBER ISSUE.*