



The VICTORIA NATURALIST

PUBLISHED BY THE
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
VICTORIA, B.C.
ISSN 0049-612X

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1979
VOL. 35, NO. 4

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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

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Annual dues, including subscription to "The Victoria Naturalist".

Juniors - \$2.50 Golden Age Single - \$6.00 Regular - \$7.00
Family (Golden Age or Regular) - \$9.00 Sustaining - \$25.00

The financial year is May 1 to April 30. New members joining after January 1 and before March 1 - half-dues.

Rare Bird Alert
383-0211

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REGIONAL MEETING OF THE FBCN

At the meeting in Duncan on October 14, 1978, 6 clubs from the Island plus Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association and Saltspring Trail and Nature Club were represented, David Orton being our delegate.

The Barbara Chapman Award was discussed and was finally left to be dealt with by our Society.

The FBCN Newsletter was discussed - our feeling is it is becoming too bulky, causing the postage to all our members to be too costly. The chairman revealed that discussions on the contents of the Newsletter had been going on for a year and there would be substantial changes in it. It was added that local clubs should send in articles for the Newsletter. 7000 copies are sent to clubs, direct members, schools, libraries, Perks Branch, Guides, Scouts, and others.

The next Regional Meeting was held in Victoria on December 2 (much discussion but nothing new) and a third will take place on March 3, 1979, in Nanaimo.

The FBCN is in urgent need of funds, and members could help by taking out the individual subscriptions of \$5.00 ea.

Summer Camps at Waterton Lakes National Park in June (3 to 9, and 10 to 16) with first choice given to those who have not been before. There will also be a Camp at Nanoose Bay May 5 to 11, 1979. Registration limited - forms from Bill Merilees, 1659 Sherrifs Way, Nanaimo, B.C., V9T 4A4.

The 2.4D treatment of milfoil in Okanagan Lake is to be stopped - mechanical harvesting only to proceed.

COVER

WHICH OWL IS THIS?

Courtesy Mark Nyhof

SO YOU'RE GOING TO POINT PELEE?
EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

By Jim Wilson

Welcome to Canada's Deep South! This is a brief outline of what to expect in one of North America's best birding areas.

Point Pelee National Park is a long sand spit jutting into Lake Erie near Leamington, Ontario. There is a so-called "lake effect" here, which retards foliage growth on the Point until almost mid-May, making birding easier with less leaves on the trees.

Geographically, Point Pelee parallels the California/Oregon border and has thus been coined the Sun Parlour of Canada. It is overlapped by both the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways, with its diverse habitats offering a stop-over for many species of birds. Over the years, the second weekend in May usually marks the peak of the Spring Migration.

Each year local motels are booked months in advance, as birders trek to see the Spring spectacle. An accepted pattern of bird movement at Pelee is first quality then quantity. This means when the migration is warming up in the first week of May, rare birds such as: May 75 - Virginia's Warbler, May 76 - Yellow-throated Warbler, and May 78 - Swallow-tailed kite have been recorded. Then the migration is in full swing, with 100 species and 30 warblers in a day being the usual goals.

This past May at the Point was exceptional, to say the least! There were the rare birds as usual, but the common species such as orioles, grosbeaks and tanagers were in such numbers that birding was extremely exciting - everywhere you looked, there were birds! I had good looks at hard-to-see birds, such as Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers as well as Louisiana Waterthrush, and Prothonotary Warbler. An unheard of half-a-dozen Hooded Warblers were seen in one day, a mile apart. Also Henslow's, Grasshopper and Le Conte's sparrows were being regularly reported.

The weather at Pelee is at best changeable. Some have seen snow in May, but more likely cool to cold morning and evening, with warmer (light jacket) temperatures prevailing during the day. By the second week in May, a jacket is discarded during the noonday sun. Rain showers can be expected, depending on the weather systems in the area at the time of your visit.

One good thing to remember that makes Point Pelee such an exciting place to watch birds and enjoy nature, is that you can always expect something good - but you never know what to expect! At any time of the year, a good time will be had by all - enjoy your visit!

Jim Wilson, from the Point Pelee area, is a new member of the Society and obviously a keen birder. His article on the Point will be read with interest by both those going there in May and by those who were unable to join the Trip. List now closed. NEW DATES: 6th to 13th.

FUN AT CAMP

by Shelagh Belton

At Camp this year there were 18 kids and 5 adults. We came over to Saturna Island on a sunrise ferry. We got off and hiked one or two miles (although it seemed like fifteen) to the Camp, while a boat carried our gear.

We got to Camp, had lunch, then settled into the cabins. After, we went exploring. We saw many interesting things; birds, rocks, shells, a dead Turkey Vulture in a field, and plants. We got back and washed for the cook-out. At the cook-out we got dough and wrapped it around weiners to make hot-dogs. After eating supper we did some skits.

Next morning we started packing because we had to leave later that day. We still had a few hours on our hands. There were some horses which were fun to play with. We gave them all our apple cores. We played a few games, then we hiked back to the ferry.

Camp this year was a success.

THE FALL SALMON RUN

By Alex Peden

On October 21st, more than 20 Victoria naturalists trekked up-Island to observe the annual ritual of salmon seeking their ancestral spawning grounds in B.C.'s rivers and streams. Of the province's 5 salmon species, most of the Pink Salmon had already completed their spawning ritual. This species, often called humpback because of the male's enormously humped back, at spawning time, is usually breeding by September or early October. It is also shortest lived, and completes a 2-year life cycle. We did see Chinook, Cohoe, Chum and Sockeye salmon during their migration into either the Big Qualicum River or Robertson Creek, near Port Alberni.

Saturday afternoon was sunny as we observed large numbers of Cohoe at the Big Qualicum River. Numerous fishermen were dragging hooked lures through the river, which didn't seem very sporting. However, the Fisheries Department must have decided that there were surplus fish this year. The salmon were so abundant that it would be very difficult not to have snagged a fish. The large Spring salmon had already finished their migration and the Federal Fisheries Department were merely holding them in nearby ponds until they were ripe enough for artificial propagation.

The newer Qualicum installation was very accessible and frequently visited by the public. However, recent construction and bull-dozed gravel in the river beds detracted from the natural setting. The sky was overcast the following Sunday morning; however those naturalists who had stayed overnight in Parksville were more than rewarded when they met again at Robertson Creek. The innumerable leaping salmon reminded us of the large salmon runs long ago before western civilization changed the face of the west coast. Spring salmon were migrating up-stream in droves, and they were large. 30 to 40 pounders were everywhere. They were filling the Creek to its limit, and it is quite likely the government's propagation programme had increased the salmon run even beyond the Creek's normal capacity.

Spring salmon differ from other species by usually requiring larger rivers for spawning, and going to sea anywhere from 2 to 6 years before returning to spawn and die. Cohoes are more widely distributed and often seek much smaller streams. Usually their fry stay in small tributaries for about a year and then head out to sea. We only saw a few Chum salmon which ascend most coastal streams at spawning time; however, they are not noted for going as far into head-water creeks as do other salmon. The Sockeye salmon has the most demanding spawning requirements. They must spend a year in a lake before migrating seaward.

We were lucky to see several of the latter species which develop red bodies and green heads at spawning time. Although it is only conjective, I believe that the Sockeye which we saw were lost, because the fish could have swum up the Stamp River to Great Central Lake and thus bypass Robertson Creek. Then the descendants of these fish would have a large lake for their first year of life.

I felt our Robertson Creek visit was the most successful part of the trip, and if we can have as much success in arriving at the peak of this run again, you can bet that I will lead another group of naturalists to Robertson Creek again next year.

WORLD WILDLIFE NEWS ITEM

The Mauritius Kestrel (*Falco punctatus*) one of the rarest in the world, may be saving itself as a result of change in nesting behaviour.

This falcon was reduced to only 5 or 6 survivors in 1973 largely because of destruction of the forest habitat and predation of eggs and young by monkeys introduced by man to the Island.

So one of the surviving pairs chose to nest in 1975 on a cliff face where the monkeys could not interfere, and successfully raised 3 young, the first to survive to maturity for at least two years.

During the recent nesting season, 3 pairs nested on the cliff face and raised 7 young, bringing the world population to 20.

THE STORY OF A HUMMINGBIRD

By A. Knowles

Minx, our cat, was crouched suspiciously behind a bush. "What have you got?" I asked her. Looking closer I saw a tiny bit of beak and a few feathers protruding from each side of her mouth. Prying it open, I was horrified to see a hummingbird drop out. It was still breathing, so throwing the cat in the house, I popped a box over the bird and left it. About an hour later, I peeked under the box expecting to find a dead bird, but to my surprise it was sitting up, bright-eyed and perky. But it was not able to fly properly, only buzzed erratically over the lawn. I caught and held this minute feather-weight bird and put it into a small cage, adding a feeder and a dry poppy stem, placed an inch off the floor, as a perch.

Although we never actually saw the bird feeding, it obviously was as the fluid went down and the bird flourished. I came to the conclusion that this was a young male Rufous Hummingbird as it had a few red spots on its throat.

Once another hummingbird flew briefly to the cage, which was hanging in our front porch, out of reach of cats, who incidentally, took turns sitting on the planter under the cage. Minx, especially, kept guard, as it was HER BIRD, she said.

Each day brought improvement in its ability to lift off the cage floor, and another perch was added, higher up. Experts thought that the wing had been bruised and that time would heal it. I had planned to let it go on the sixth day after it was caught, but he flew out on the fifth day while I was putting food in. He flew low with much squeaking and crash-landed in a rose bush. I rushed to rescue him, but before I could catch him, he flew slowly and heavily to the top of a tall tree.

That was the end of that, we thought, but next morning there he was, feeding at an Abelia bush not far from where he had been caught. He spent some time in the bush feeding and preening. I knew it was "our bird" as the central feathers were missing. He was seen several more times during the month of August, so I hope he gained speed and strength before his migration flight a few weeks later.

EDITORIAL

The bird on the November issue cover was a Black-bellied Plover in winter plumage. Can you identify the owl on this cover and write down why you think so?

The Annual Dinner on February 17 will be in Holyrood House again, at 6:00 p.m. a No-Host Bar, and at 6:30 p.m. a Roast Beef Dinner. Tickets now on sale at \$7.50 from Dorothy McCann or Betty Lothian.

We sadly said Goodbye to Tim Murphy on December 1st and wished him and his family well in Saudi Arabia. Mike Shepard has taken over the Field Trips (387-3544); W. Winston Mair became Vice-President in Tim's place, and Gwennie Hooper has consented to replace Tim as a director. We welcome another woman to the Board.

Charlie Trotter has resigned as Leader of the Botany Section, and Dr. Bob Ogilvie, Chief Biology Curator of the Provincial Museum, has agreed to take his place.

Membership now stands at over 500, of which 75 are new members. 40 memberships lapsed through unpaid dues, in spite of the reminders!

The World Wildlife Fund collection taken at the Audubon in November came to \$265.00.

The Point Pelee Trip in May - date changed to 6th to 13th. List now closed, with 30 names on it.

Volunteers are needed by the Francis Park Committee to help clear trails, etc., also to help the Mount Douglas Trails Committee. Contact Gordon Alston-Stewart (477-1300).

Oregon now has a Rare Bird Alert (292-0661) which gives the latest information on what to see around that State. Tape changed every Thursday. And the Seattle Hot Line is 455-9722 for bird sightings.

Tsitika Watershed: A logging plan has been approved by the Provincial Government and the Moratorium has been discontinued.

GEOLOGY AT FORT RODD HILL*By Ruth Lash*

On November 12, the weather was cold and exhilarating when a party of members under the leadership of Dr. Robert Brown met to study the geology of Fort Rodd Hill.

Until recently, these rocks were thought to be our youngest local volcanic rocks but lately some workmen, who were digging a trench in Saanich, came upon an unusual kind of basalt not previously found here. They contacted the University and it was found that these rocks had been spewed out by a local volcano much more recently than the Fort Rodd Hill ones. No one knows the location of this youngest volcano nor where are the other rocks it tossed out. Under some neat suburban lawn, perhaps?

Dr. Brown, who reads rocks like a book, showed us the junction of the flow of basalt and the flow of gabbro. This could be traced by the larger crystals in the gabbro. Basalt and gabbro are the same substance but the gabbro forms much lower down under the basalt and so cools more slowly. Later earth movements brought it to the surface. There was a distinct green tinge on the surface of some rocks; this is the colour of the clean rock not discoloured by minerals.

In one place, there were several different kinds of boulders, at least 2 of these were not of local origin and must have been carried by the glaciers of the last ice age from the Interior. One local rock, AMYGDA-LOIDAL, had contained gas bubbles in it when molten. The holes left in it by the escaping gas as it cooled were filled by minerals which it also contained. These formed round darker lumps in the rock. Opals are formed in this way and are quite common locally (but not of gem quality).

The "glacial polish" on some of the large slabs of basalt was almost glossy. Here and there the surface was not quite so smooth, because the iron in the basalt had leached out.

We were shown how one could detect which way a glacier had flowed over a particular rock. The "up" side was smooth and rounded and the "down" side was cut almost vertically and not polished.

The wave action causes the beach to be continually in motion. In one spot, a possible future limestone bed was being laid, but it would only become limestone if many events and forces happened to it. The many logs which lie rotting on our beaches help to retain the sand and stop erosion, and the government has resisted all pressure to have them removed.

There are numerous white lines which criss-cross the basalt in places. The pressure of earth movement caused tiny cracks to form in this rock and these were either filled by molten minerals from below or minerals in solution from above.

We spent a few minutes climbing on the rocks beyond the lighthouse. Fossil shells were reported to be in some basalt rock there, a very rare state of affairs. But maybe because the tide was too high, we did not find them. We did notice how the lichens growing on the rocks had eroded the surface by their mild acidic action.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Dr. Brown for his interesting tour.

ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

Through the generosity of Herb Warren, the library has received two interesting books, "Wild Birds of Canada and the Americas", written and illustrated by T.M. Short, and "Birds in Peril", by John P.S. MacKenzie, illustrated by the same artist.

Terry Short is Manitoba's premier bird artist, and these books are a welcome addition to our library.

Herb Warren was administrator of Victoria's parks for many years, now retired, and a long-time member of our Society.

A list of Ecological Reserves is also now in the library.

B.C. is the first province of Canada to formalize and give permanent status to ecological reserves, of which there are now 88, totalling 88,904.5 hectares.

THE PLIGHT OF THE BANDIT

By Maureen Comely

"Could you take this wild animal away? He is into garbage cans, upsetting them and making a nuisance of himself," the dispassionate voice told the S.P.C.A. Inspector.

He was a full-grown Raccoon, thick-coated and healthy. With inquisitive nose he first inspected the Inspector's boots, pant legs and hands, then he let himself quite willingly be lifted into the cage and into the car.

At the kennels, he was released from his cage in the office quarters and allowed to wander at will. The Inspector was puzzled.

Bandit (for of course he came complete with mask) was fearless. He allowed us to touch him, to stroke his harsh fur, but please don't startle me - for if we came upon him swiftly, or interrupted his inspections too suddenly, a growl, soft but certain, erupted from him. The kennel cat was ignored, as were the dogs, who made friendly advances, uncertain as to who this fellow was, or what he was doing in their-so they considered-domain.

Fascinated, we watched the Raccoon take food, so cleverly, in his hands, washing it first before he ate, and omniverous creature he is, ate all before him, so long as he could wash it. Those "fingers", nimble as a tapestry weaver's, probing as a surgeon's, felt, turned, tasted and discarded, and watching him as he felt his way, there developed a growing concern in the Inspector's mind and a visit to the vet confirmed his suspicion. The racoon was totally blind.

Had he been someone's pet? Had the affliction come upon him slowly? And clever fellow he was, learned to fend for himself? We weren't to know. We only knew we had a sightless wild animal and perhaps the kindest treatment was euthenasia - a gentle sleep for ailing or unwanted animals.

As always, the decision was hard, for who are we to play God? and Bandit was unwanted? The word was out and there were offers. A friendly logger had long been entertained by 'those critters' in the bush and wanted to repay them.

Bandit had a home. A run was quickly made and at last report he was sharing the den chair curled up like a puppy (on his lap??)

So, there is murder in Cambodia and slaughter in the East but elsewhere a child is being saved and a logger is fussing with a blind racoon, so I guess there is hope for this old world yet.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

from Peggie Goodwill

<u>NO.</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AREA SEEN</u>	<u>OBSERVERS</u>
<u>Oct.</u>				
1	American Avocet	1	Martindale Res.	Bill Sendall
3	W. Bluebird	1	Metchosin Lag.	Mike Shepard
1	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	Isl. View Beach	Wayne Campbell
1	Upland Sandpiper	3	UVic Campus	George Sirk
1	Rough-legged Hawk	5	UVic Campus	Bill Savale
1	Sabine's Gull	8	Mary Tod Isl.	Wayne Campbell
1	Am. Bittern	16	Swan Lake	Grace Barclay
1	Marbled Godwit	21	Metchosin Lag.	Joan Inglis
1	Gt. Horned Owl	21	3450 Fulton Rd.	Fritz Karger
1	Tropical Kingbird	22	Sandgate Rd.	Beryl Holt
3	Snowy Owls	24	Gr. Chain Isl.	Bob Straith
1	Cassin's Auklet	28	Race Rocks	Mike Shepard
1	Am. Golden Plover	29	Beach Drive at Goodwin	R. Satterfield
1	Long-eared Owl	31	Feltham Rd.	Rick West
<u>Nov.</u>				
1	Redhead	9	McIntyre Res.	M&V Goodwill
1	Sandhill Crane	11	Uplands Park	A&K Downey
1	Western Gull	12	Harrison Yacht Pond	M. Goodwill
1	Lark Sparrow	12	1411 Merritt Pl	Tim Murphy
1	Rough-legged Hawk	14	Isl. View Beach	R.W. Campbell
1	Glaucus Gull	15	Clover Point	Jim Wilson
1	Snow Bunting	23	Coburg Pen.	Vic Goodwill

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Darwin's "Origin of Species" was published in 1859 in which he remarked that one of the main sources of his inspiration was the unique and diverse Galapagos wildlife. One hundred years later, the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands was founded under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources as an international organisation devoted to the conservation and study of the natural history of the Galapagos. At the same time, the Government of Ecuador set aside the Galapagos as a wildlife reserve, founded the Park Service, and enacted laws protecting the indigenous wildlife.

This last was necessary, as in the last two centuries man and the animals and plants which he had introduced, had caused great disturbance to this unique wildlife and it was finally realized that many of the Galapagos species and environments were in grave danger of disappearing for ever.

Thus the Charles Darwin Research Station and Park Service came into being.

A group from Victoria visited the Galapagos National Park recently and thanks to the enlightened outlook of the Government of Ecuador, were able to see and enjoy the "unique and diverse" wildlife that Darwin mentioned in his book. A pamphlet of rules included the following:

- 1) No plant, rock or animal to be moved.
- 2) Be careful to check that your clothing contains no seeds or insects alien to the Islands.
- 3) Animals may not be touched or handled.
- 4) Animals may not be fed.
- 5) Do not startle or chase animals or birds.
- 6) Do not take pets with you.
- 7) Do not force your way through bush (keep the trails).
- 8) Take litter away with you.
- 9) Do not buy souvenirs made from plants or animals, with the exception of objects made from wood.

One wonders how the Ecuadorians would deal with motor cyclists who destroy the forest undergrowth.

SIDNEY ISLAND, LATEST REPORT

The Sidney Island Committee believes that only a large scale public campaign will create conditions to preserve for future generations this "Pearl of the Gulf Islands", as part of our Park system.

The Committee is made up of the following organizations: Saanich Greenbelt Association, Outdoor Club of Victoria, Victoria Natural History Society, Sierra Club (Victoria Group), and the Trails Information Society.

The Committee does not want Sidney Island to go the way of speculation and development in the Real Estate business. The price asked is \$3.75 million for the 1783 acres of the 2,000 acre Island which is for sale.

R.H. Ahrens, Deputy Minister of Recreation and Conservation, was reported as saying that if public funds could be raised to cut the provincial bill towards purchasing the Island, the government would look into the deal more closely.

The Victoria Natural History Society has donated \$25.00 to help with publicity.

Further information from Jane Toms (598-3417) or Doug Turnbull (592-6025).

AUDUBON ON JANUARY 26 & 27

Tom Diez presents two films which are a pure invitation to backpack in the wilderness. One takes you through the bush country of B.C., Alberta and the Yukon, and from southern Alaska to the islands of the Bering Sea. The other to a remote and spectacular wilderness in Pennsylvania.

Young and fit members will be fired to follow Tom Diez' example, while older members can see these places from a comfortable seat!

As over 50 people were turned away from the last Audubon film, please do remember to arrive early.

ISLAY - PARADISE ISLE

by Merle Harvey

Off the west coast of Scotland lies a chain of islands - the Inner and Outer Hebrides. The southernmost is Islay, an almost treeless green piece of land edged with high cliffs or miles of pure white sand.

Caves once used to store illicit whisky now make shelter for the wild goats who can be seen occasionally leaping nimbly from ledge to ledge on the precipitous cliffs. There many birds nest undisturbed by man - seabirds, ravens, jackdaws, peregrine, choughs. These last are crow-like birds with red 'dagger' beaks and red legs and feet. They can be seen only on Mull of Oa in Islay and a place in Cornwall. Threatened at one time with extinction due to jackdaws thieving their eggs, it is good to hear they have made a come-back in recent years and the latest count was 34 birds this year.

Off the west coast terns can be seen - arctic, common and roseate - also kittiwakes, fulmars, and skuas. On the muddy bay at the head of Lochindaal, shorebirds feed - herons, ringed plover, ruddy turnstone, knot, godwit, dunlin, sanderling and sandpipers.

On the tiny island lochans many birds breed - Mute swans, mergansers, goosanders, divers, teal and black-headed gulls harassed by the greater blackbacked and herring gulls. And where a few trees grow in sheltered hollows, the owls sound by night and the small birds sing by day - chaffinch, goldfinch, goldcrest, tits, creeper and wren.

On the bare uplands nest golden plover, lapwings, curlew, skylark, oystercatcher, wheatear, stonechat, whinchat and the meadow pipit in whose nest the cuckoo lays her egg. Hen harrier, merlin and short-eared owl occasionally hover over the moor, and sometimes the Golden eagle takes a flight over from the neighbouring island of Jura, with its four conical mountains surrounded by a narrow apron of land where thousands of red deer breed.

The heathery moors harbour red grouse, snipe and pheasant. In the streams dippers dive and wagtails, both pied and grey, flycatch continuously.

On the rocks by the sea edge, cormorants and shags sit among the seals; eider and shelduck swim alongside the mallard; scoters and guillemots dive and occasionally a puffin is seen. One severe winter a flock of Bewick's swans came into the loch to shelter. Gannets dive offshore, their graceful gliding suddenly broken as they sight a fish below and dive into the sea to get it, much as terns do.

The wintering population of geese has to be seen to be believed. Barnacles can number over 20,000; whitefronts and greylags not quite so numerous, and the Brent geese in large flocks. Their clamour as they rise suddenly to start their journey north is something to be remembered, as is the grace of flight in long skeins as they form in the air.

My Islay list contains a single sighting of a hawfinch, a little bunting, a mutant wheatear and a pair of pintail duck.

There is a song of praise of Mull beginning 'The Isle of Mull is of isles the fairest', but my choice has always been that paradise island - Islay.

WHOOPING CRANE REPORT

Mortality has been high this year at Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho, where scientists have been placing Whooping Crane eggs in the nests of Sandhill Cranes in an effort to start a second flock of wild Whoopers. Of the 14 foster chicks successfully hatched, only 3 are known to be still alive. The principal reason for the tragic mortality rate was exceptionally dry weather in the area; usually low water levels mean diminishing food supplies and fewer safe roosting areas for the big birds.

Undaunted, the National Audubon Society will continue to support this foster chick experiment. Meanwhile, the Canadian Wildlife Service reports happy news from the area where a wild flock nests, with 8 new young banded this summer.

JUNIORS PROGRAMMEFOR JUNIORS 11 AND UNDER:

- Tues. Jan. 9 Mystery Session at the Museum.
Room 112 - 4:00 p.m.
- Tues. Jan. 23 Build Your Own Live Mouse Trap.
Room 112, 4:00 p.m. Provincial
Museum.
- Fri. Jan. 26 Set Your Mouse Trap. 7:00 p.m. at
Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature
Centre, 3873 Swan Lake Road.
- Sat. Jan. 27 Check Your Mouse Trap. 9:00 a.m.
at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature
Centre.
- Sat. Feb. 24 Explore Mount Douglas to find the
first signs of Spring.
Meet Mayfair Lanes, 1:30 p.m.

FOR INTERMEDIATES, 12 AND UP:

- Sat. Jan. 27 BEACH SEINING with Dr. Alex Peden.
Due to tide conditions, this will be
an evening trip.
Meet Mayfair Lanes, 8:30 p.m.
- Sat. Feb. 24 ARCHAEOLOGY TRIP to Mount Tzuehalem.
Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. Bring
Lunch.

JOINT ACTIVITIES - ALL AGES:

- Sat. Jan. 13 FIRST AID and SURVIVAL for all levels.
Come, learn and practise emergency
skills, 1:30 p.m., 3873 Swan Lake
Road, at the Swan Lake Christmas Hill
Nature Centre.
- Sat. Feb. 10 FRANCIS PARK: This is YOUR park -
come and review and learn some natural
history so you will be ready to host
the Pender Island group in the
Spring.
Meet Mayfair Lanes 1:30 p.m.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY PROGRAMME

- TUES. JAN. 9 GENERAL MEETING: Newcombe Auditorium.
8:00 p.m. Dr. Leon Pavlic (Botanist
at the Provincial Museum) will speak on
"Plant Life in the Chilcotin".
- SAT. JAN. 13 Bird Field Trip: Meet Mayfair Lanes
9:00 a.m. or Robert Service Memorial,
10:00 a.m. Leader: Mike Shepard
(658-5850).
- WED. JAN. 17 MARINE BIOLOGY: Dr. Alex Peden.
Room 115, Provincial Museum, 7:00 p.m.
- THURS. JAN. 18 BIRDERS NIGHT: 7:30 p.m. Mike Shepard.
Room 100 M. Provincial Museum. An
informal gathering to talk about
Victoria birding. Through the year we
will discuss topics such as -
Identification, Publication, Photography,
and Special Projects.
- FRI. JAN. 26 AUDUBON: Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
SAT. JAN. 27 Speaker: Tom Diez, "Northwest
Adventures" and "Adventures in Penn's
Woods".
- SUN. FEB. 4 BIRD FIELD TRIP: Mayfair Lanes,
9:00 a.m. or Whiffen Spit Parking Lot
9:45 a.m. Leader: Mike Shepard.
- TUES. FEB. 13 GENERAL MEETING and ANNUAL DINNER.
Holyrood House. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
No Host Bar, 6:00 p.m. Speaker:
Wayne Campbell. "When The Tide Is
Out, the Table is Set".
- THURS. FEB. 15 BIRDERS NIGHT: 7:30 p.m. Mike Shepard.
Room 100 M. Provincial Museum.
- WED. FEB. 21 MARINE BIOLOGY: Dr. Alex Peden.
Room 115, Provincial Museum: 7:00 p.m.
- POINT PELEE TRIP: CHANGE OF DATE (List now closed)
Now 6 to 13 MAY, not 9 to 15.*
- DINNER TICKETS: Dorothy McCann (592-1992)
Betty Lothian (477-2345)*