

The
VICTORIA
NATURALIST

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

MARCH -APRIL 1979
VOL. 35, NO. 5

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Rare Bird Alert
383-0211

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A PERFECT WINTER'S DAY

By Roy Prior

On 13 January, nearly 50 enthusiasts met at the Robert Service Memorial, under the gaze of a splendid Bald Eagle, who watched them as they watched four Trumpeter Swans in a field close by. We drove a short distance to Cowichan Estuary, then walked along the railway track. It was a perfect winter's day, but mild and windless, with good visibility, the ground whitened with frost and the pools frozen. We had a good close view of a Long-billed Marsh Wren, and then 14 more Trumpeter Swans sailed across the Estuary. A Merlin sat on a post to be admired, and a Peregrine Falcon was also seen. It seemed to be a morning for raptors, for there were also a Cooper's Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk and another 2 Bald Eagles. Walking back to the cars we saw a Stellers Jay with a large flock of robins, busy at the holly berries.

We ate lunch beside Cowichan Bay, and watched large numbers of herons sitting on the posts, and Barrow's Goldeneyes among the Common. After lunch we went on to Duncan Sewage Ponds, where the highlights were 2 Wood Duck and a Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler. At this point, the group had seen 55 species, and most people called it a day, but certain indefatigables, considering this an inadequate total, got to 69, including 2 European Wigeon, near the frozen waters of Somenos Lake, and a Ruddy Duck at Cherry Point. Thanks to Mike Shepard for a very successful day.

P.S. from Editor: Older members will be interested to know that we met John Comer, who told us that a Yellow-billed Loon had been seen again in Cowichan Bay, where we looked during the lunch hour, but were unsuccessful.

COVER:

"Frost Pillars"

By Bertha McHaffie-Gow

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1978

Compiled by Michael G. Shepard

Eighty-six observers took part in the bird count on December 16, braving the stormy day to record a decent 128 species. Several record highs were posted: 4 Golden Eagles, 9 Trumpeter Swans, 14,943 Glaucous-winged Gulls, 5792 Mallards, and 14 Long-billed Marsh Wrens. Other birds of note included a Ring-billed Gull and a Horned Lark at Clover Point, and a House Wren near the University of Victoria. Numbers of seabirds, particularly loons and grebes, were far below normal. The 2 Marbled Godwits at Cadboro Bay avoided detection on Count Day, but were seen during count period.

Thank you to all participants of this year's count; and to Gwen Hughes, Mary Anderson and Teresa Shepard for arranging refreshments for the post-count gathering.

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.

*It was a VERY stormy day,
It nearly blew our caps away.
The birds were at the roots of trees
So we went down on hands and knees
To peer, and count each little one
Till we were sure our count was done.*

*The waves were high and crashing on
The beaches; tops with flying foam
Made counting seabirds difficult
And affected the Count Day result.
But despite storm, it does appear
We'll volunteer another year.*

E.M.H.

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
Common Loon	0	0	2	3	1	3	9	0	4	0	0	1	23
Arctic Loon	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7
Red-throated Loon	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	10
Red-necked Grebe	0	1	4	10	9	7	8	0	0	0	4	0	43
Horned Grebe	0	6	24	25	15	28	46	0	22	0	9	0	175
Fared Grebe	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Western Grebe	0	0	4	14	5	0	4	0	0	0	5	0	61
Pied-billed Grebe	3	6	4	4	5	29	1	16	0	0	0	0	38
Double-crested Cormorant	0	5	5	43	122	6	21	24	2	0	0	1	230
Brandt's Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pelagic Cormorant	0	0	15	24	108	116	112	0	11	0	3	37	426
cormorant species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
Great Blue Heron	1	6	3	15	4	1	3	7	1	0	1	0	42
Mute Swan	5	8	8	10	4	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	34
Trumpeter Swan	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Canada Goose	18	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	124	46	0	0	211
White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Snow Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mallard	190	217	220	64	1585	81	393	556	315	396	1775	0	6792
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	5
Pintail	8	4	1	0	0	0	0	33	4	311	431	0	793
Green-winged Teal	0	54	17	0	2	5	16	251	1	172	1	0	519
European Wigeon	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	12
American Wigeon	180	476	169	388	436	1440	2068	431	328	366	4480	0	10762
Northern Shoveler	0	10	2	3	16	5	4	7	1	40	15	0	116
Wood Duck	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	11
Ring-necked Duck	40	30	8	11	0	0	0	3	31	0	42	0	165
Canvasback	0	0	6	17	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Greater Scaup	0	0	33	205	36	60	60	12	0	0	25	0	431
Lesser Scaup	0	0	8	0	1	40	0	0	29	0	0	0	78
scaup species	0	0	0	0	7	107	0	0	0	0	0	0	107
Common Goldeneye	2	35	62	96	7	38	18	0	9	0	17	0	284
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	8	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	15

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
Bufflehead	1	48	208	153	330	185	74	68	86	12	56	0	1221
Oldsquaw	0	0	0	21	5	50	9	0	3	0	36	0	152
Harlequin Duck	0	0	2	1	7	49	21	0	0	0	2	0	82
White-winged Scoter	0	0	164	6	15	13	16	0	0	0	10	0	224
Surf Scoter	0	11	78	7	33	114	31	0	36	0	50	0	360
Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Ruddy Duck	0	0	3	4	2	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	27
Hooded Merganser	0	15	24	39	47	30	21	9	36	0	20	0	241
Common Merganser	9	89	22	40	41	0	3	8	180	0	5	0	397
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	5	24	10	52	11	0	0	0	11	0	113
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	4	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	10
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	9
Red-tailed Hawk	1	3	2	4	1	0	4	2	2	4	1	0	24
Golden Eagle	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Bald Eagle	2	5	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	0	19
Marsh Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
American Kestrel	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
California Quail	9	31	0	0	15	47	39	6	39	0	41	0	227
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	3	2	1	0	1	6	9	4	5	2	0	33
Virginia Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
American Coot	11	70	226	185	1	10	41	143	218	3	2	0	910
Black Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	16	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
Killdeer	0	0	0	0	1	12	37	70	0	10	1	0	131
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	70	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	32	0	112
Surfbird	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Black Turnstone	0	0	8	0	0	60	1	1	0	0	0	0	70
Common Snipe	0	0	17	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	22
Greater Yellowlegs	0	0	0	3	1	20	5	15	0	5	0	0	49
Dunlin	0	0	1	0	0	10	40	0	0	0	33	0	84
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Glaucous Gull	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
Glaucous-winged Gull	1085	1232	275	2409	6200	685	830	135	605	661	619	207	14943
Western Gull	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Herring Gull	0	2	10	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	17
Thayer's Gull	0	1	0	0	1	12	10	0	0	0	0	0	24
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mew Gull	30	425	382	14	5000	250	610	427	220	0	24	0	7412
Bonaparte's Gull	0	0	1	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	8
Black-legged Kittiwake	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common Murre	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	134
Pigeon Guillemot	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	7	0	14
Marbled Murrelet	0	0	0	5	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	16
Ancient Murrelet	0	0	0	0	0	0	189	0	0	0	0	0	251
Rhinoceros Auklet	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Band-tailed Pigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	20	0	22
Rock Dove	9	20	0	6	325	15	26	65	0	100	0	0	566
Screech Owl	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	8
Saw-whet Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Anna's Hummingbird	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
Belted Kingfisher	0	7	4	6	7	1	2	3	3	0	0	0	33
Common Flicker	4	20	8	14	3	3	39	7	18	22	6	0	144
Pileated Woodpecker	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	12
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Downy Woodpecker	0	7	2	3	1	2	5	0	3	5	1	0	29
Skylark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	32
Horned Lark	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Steller's Jay	1	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Common Raven	4	36	4	9	4	1	9	8	3	7	5	0	90
Northwestern Crow	80	130	84	88	67	134	1198	63	1193	127	1498	0	4662
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	26	60	43	101	9	29	148	38	74	51	43	0	622
Bushtit	8	0	0	0	48	17	65	19	12	26	0	0	195
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	11	4	10	1	0	9	1	9	7	3	0	61
Brown Creeper	2	2	4	5	2	2	2	0	2	1	2	0	24
Dipper	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
House Wren	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Winter Wren	1	6	2	3	6	5	31	4	8	10	8	0	101
Bewick's Wren	0	0	0	11	8	5	17	2	14	9	4	0	79
Long-billed Marsh Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	9	0	0	14
American Robin	27	433	58	339	5	57	454	395	299	951	75	0	3261
Varied Thrush	1	29	12	10	1	0	5	0	1	4	9	0	93
Hermit Thrush	19	17	0	18	0	0	5	0	0	6	0	0	7
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	34	0	14	0	99	3	43	64	27	0	347
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	1	10	2	2	3	50	10	21	0	6	0	106
Water Pipit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	31
Cedar Waxwing	4	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Northern Shrike	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Starling	600	114	92	170	36	317	1855	83	488	456	449	0	4660
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
House Sparrow	3	0	0	12	62	23	95	1	18	8	0	0	222
Western Meadowlark	0	0	5	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Red-winged Blackbird	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	54	10	30	0	98
Brewer's Blackbird	0	0	0	0	5	50	0	9	84	90	88	0	327
Evening Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
Purple Finch	0	20	0	6	0	0	17	4	4	15	0	0	229
House Finch	0	7	8	18	5	26	132	8	19	45	6	0	1002
Pine Siskin	55	332	0	50	45	35	143	70	107	88	120	0	1002
American Goldfinch	2	0	0	8	35	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	45
Red Crossbill	0	5	0	47	9	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	85
Rufous-sided Towhee	3	13	9	16	9	0	38	7	15	11	5	0	126
Dark-eyed Junco	62	242	66	122	70	59	205	54	111	74	55	0	1120
White-crowned Sparrow	0	2	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	9
Golden-crowned Sparrow	0	17	4	2	1	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	35
White-throated Sparrow	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fox Sparrow	0	10	1	4	9	9	23	2	6	4	0	0	68
Song Sparrow	7	8	5	1	2	7	24	9	7	8	14	0	92
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	2757	4375	2572	4967	14911	4452	9526	3131	4955	4181	10313	611	66751

WINGED TYRANT

By Charles A. Trotter

About December 15 last, there arrived at my bird feeder an Audubon Warbler to dine on suet and seeds. Since then he has taken over the management of the bird population of my backyard.

He is a most active little cuss - so different are his movements to those of the sluggish English Sparrows, House Finches and Juncos. He never sits still; not only does he move continuously from branch to branch of the tree near the feeder, but also his whole body is constantly active - head turning, tail flipping, wings twitching.

He is so intolerant of other birds, and his most hated enemies are the Chickadees, who, he must feel, are threats to his normal food supply which is insects, (which, because of the exceptionally cold weather are conspicuous by their absence). For the chickadees, he puts on quite a display - tail fanned out flat until you can see each individual feather, with the white border feathers prominently showing, then from a crouching position he goes into the attack. He charges at them or dive-bombs them until they have to leave the yard.

He really has his hands (wings?) full when the bushtits arrive, usually in a flock of a dozen or so. He goes mad as they swarm like bees over the feeder - allowing them about one gulp before his onslaught drives them away.

Two other Audubons have visited - the first, I suspect was a female, for he tolerated her for a short time. Then she got her walking ticket. To the other, probably a male, he gave the "bum's rush" each time he got within twenty feet of the feeder, chasing him as far as the eye could follow.

He is quite defiant of a Cooper's Hawk which has come several times charging through a large camelia bush where the sparrows hide. Sure, he retires at such times but reappears the moment the hawk has gone. I expect he is far too fast to be taken by a Cooper's.

I am not at all sure that I approve of the actions of this little tyrant, but I must say that he speeds up the activity around the feeder.

A BIRD HUNT

Anon. Contributed by Edith Valens

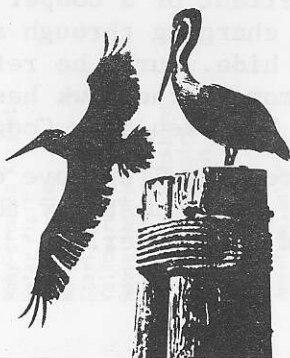
Some stormy Sunday afternoon when you are a bit lonely for the birds that have flown south, try seeing how many you can find in your Bible.

In the story of the Creation, birds are the second of the creatures endowed with life. First came the denizens of the sea, then the birds. After the account of the Creation one of the earliest mentions of birds is at the time of the deluge. When Noah was desirous of ascertaining whether the waters were subsiding, it will be recalled that he employed two kinds of birds, first a raven, and then a dove.

Birds are also mentioned in the passage of the Israelites through the desert. At one of the times when starvation faced them, it is told that "there went forth a wind from the Lord, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp." This is one of the earliest records of bird migrations.

There are at least 300 different references to birds in the Bible. Thirty-one species are mentioned. One hundred and thirteen of the birds mentioned are general in the sense that they are simply called "birds". The rest refer directly to certain species.

The dove is mentioned 35 times, the eagle 32, the raven, cock and hen 12 times each. The owl is mentioned 11 times, the pigeon 10, the sparrow 7, the stork 6, the pelican 5, the quail, swallow and vulture 4 times each, the ostrich, bittern, peacock and cormorant 3 times each, the crane, cuckoo, hawk, heron, nighthawk and lapwing twice each. The glade, swan, and the gier eagle are mentioned once each.



BIRDWATCHING IN FRANCE

By Helen Rodney

We spent six weeks in Bellac, a small town north of Limoges, in May and June 1978, and being eager if inexperienced birdwatchers, were soon considered eccentric by the inhabitants, as we explored the country-side on foot, binoculars in hand. We were soon identifying places by the birds we saw regularly there; e.g. Kestrel Corner and Harrier Hill. Other places, too, distinguished themselves for us by their birds; the crossroads in the village of Peyrat by the swallows, swifts, and housemartins building under the eaves; a grove of trees near La Ribiere by the pair of golden orioles; and one small orchard by its resident linnets. Long-tailed tits were only seen in one particular tree, and redstarts and black redstarts preferred the railway-crossing keeper's garden.

We made friends through birds too: the railway-crossing keeper showed us where several pairs of wrens were nesting, and over at Pernod, a tawny owl he had found dead, and stuffed.

There were a number of memorable sightings as well: an eagerly-sought green woodpecker at last appeared; the hoopoes returned from Africa - extraordinary crested cinnamon-coloured birds with moth-like wings; we saw a water pipit outside its summer range.

And we started to ask ourselves questions: why were the goldfinches which fed so noisily among the dandelions all males?

Many birds became familiar; some, like the elusive chiff-chaff, by their song, some by sight: blue and great tits, dunnocks, ciril buntings, nightingales, mistle thrush, jays. Some became favourites, like the perky stonechats on the power-lines, whose incessant calls sounded like pebbles being knocked together.

Altogether, in a very ordinary agricultural area of France, we saw 58 species, and missed a good many more; but, more important, we learned how to look for birds and how to observe them.

MALHEUR - BARGAIN FOR BIRDERS*By Kaye Suttill*

The best "birding bargain" we know is Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in east central Oregon. We paid \$3.00 each for room and \$3.50 each for full three meals, or \$6.50 per day full board/room, last May.

Allowing for some inflation this year, it is still the best value we know, and about 600 miles or one overnight stop from Victoria.

April - early May is the time of waterfowl migration; April for Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes too. By mid-May nesting begins, and the shorebirds; the pelicans, too, in late May. June, warblers; July/August the Alpine country to the south. August/September, Sandhill Cranes "camping ground" on southward migration. But there is some hunting in the Autumn.

Summer School classes June to August in Natural History, Ornithology, Botany, Geology. It is also a fascinating volcano area. Classes are about 3 weeks long, and also very reasonable.

For further information contact Director, Field Station, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Burns, Oregon.

MOUSE TRAPPING AT SWAN LAKE*By Kerry Williams (11 years)*

On Friday 26 January, The Junior Naturalists met at Swan Lake to put live traps in the field and see if we could catch any mice. We set 9 traps and 2 pit traps. We used the pit traps to try and catch shrew. While we were digging one pit trap, we found a dead shrew and used it as bait. We scared up 3 birds and figured they were pheasants.

Then on Saturday, 27 January, at 9:00 a.m., we met again to see if we had caught anything, but there was nothing. After a while, Grace remembered that she had once seen a dead mouse a little off the trail, so we went and got the mouse and identified it.

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY*By A. R. Davidson*

The Library has received two additions lately, one by Walter MacKay Draycot, entitled "Early Days in Lynn Valley", which district is now part of the Municipality of North Vancouver.

I consider this a valuable addition to the history of British Columbia, and it is most interesting reading, written as it is in a very lively style.

It came in the mail with a Christmas card drawn by Mr. Draycot, and celebrating his 96th Christmas.

Mr. Draycot is an old member of our Society, and has contributed many articles to the "Naturalist" on many subjects. He participated in the Boer War, and at the outbreak of the 1914-1918 war, he was back in England with his own regiment, being invalided out of the service at the end of 1918.

He settled in Lynn Valley in 1911, and, outside of the war years, has lived there ever since.

I have kept in touch with him for many years now, and consider he is one of the most versatile of men I have known, being among other things, author, scientist, historian, soldier, lecturer, surveyer, birder and botanist.

And he's Irish too - maybe that explains it.

The second was given to the Library by Mr. Alf Porcher and is a book called "Wings" by Blanche Stillson, which I started to read from a sense of duty, but found it so well written that I was enjoying it and read it through. It is a complete history of flying, something that has always fascinated man from earliest times.

Starting with insects, the first flyer, she carries the theme through birds to man; our efforts to overcome the law of gravity and take to the air. I can certainly recommend this book to everyone interested in flying.

The third acquisition is a book on the life history of a pair of sapsuckers written by Louise de Kiriline, a lady who has received many awards for her descriptive writings, which are mainly on ornithological subjects and based on her own research.

This book is entitled "Mar - A Glimpse into the Natural Life of a Bird", and is a very interesting account by an obviously competent observer, who must have practically lived with the birds for at least a summer.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Mr. Ray Demarchi, Regional Biologist in Cranbrook for the Fish and Wildlife Branch, has been selected by the Shikar-Safari Club International as the first B.C. recipient of their annual award for outstanding work and achievement in the field of wildlife conservation.

Mr. Demarchi is the author of a number of publications on the subject of better wildlife management and has proposed and implemented many programs for the improved management of big game animals, particularly Big-horns, Grizzlies, elk and deer.

A grant of \$1750 from the Ministry of Environments Public Conservation Assistance Fund has been given this year to the Keremeos-Cawston Sportsmen's Association for a winter's feeding program, aimed at increasing the population of California Bighorn sheep in the Keremeos-Cawston area.



NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The N.P.P.A.C. is a non-profit citizens conservation organization dedicated to preserving our natural heritage for future generations through the establishment and wise use of parks. The recently formed B.C. Chapter represents over 200 provincial members on parks and recreational matters, providing briefs to government and sponsoring public meetings. The national journal "Park News" and a chapter newsletter are published quarterly. A membership drive is in progress; further information and applications can be obtained from:

British Columbia Chapter, N.P.P.A.C.
Box 6007, Postal Station "C"
Victoria, B.C.
V8P 5L4

EDITORIAL

The bird on the January cover was a Screech Owl.

Deadline for May/June issue is 1st April. Please remember that the printers require 10 working days, and on top of that, a week must be allowed for mailing to members. So please remit contributions early.

This came to hand recently, and may remind members that the new session begins at the end of April.

*I fell asleep the other night
And while I had my snooze
I dreamed each member stepped right up
And promptly paid his (her) dues.*

*But when I found it was a dream
I nearly threw a fit
It's up to you to make it true
So won't you please remit?*

Doug Ross has been busy finding speakers and leaders for our programs of Spring and Summer entertainment. His is no easy task, but we show our appreciation by attending the meetings and outings he has arranged.

The Provincial Museum is looking for volunteers to train as Docents (Meeting and Greeting, and showing round adult groups) and also to help with the Publicity material. Apply at the Board Room at the Museum.

Also, volunteers are still needed at Swan Lake. This is members' chance to show their appreciation of the hard work put in by the VNHS leaders in all sections.

Has anyone got any information about the flora and fauna of Quick's Bottom? Please contact Merle Harvey (477-9634).

Another Hot Line to add to your list: If in Vernon, phone Pat Swift for rare bird information: Days, 542-3331; Evenings, 542-5897.

Next Regional Meeting of F.B.C.N. at Nanaimo, March 3rd.

AUDUBON: MARCH 2 AND 3; 30 AND 31

There are two Audubon films in March. The first is about the land bordering the Mississippi River, from its coastal wintering grounds for migrating birds to its headwaters in Minnesota, where Walter Berlet filmed the summer life of a pair of nesting loons. Human as well as wildlife interest in this film.

The second is Fran Hall's second major film study of the insect world. This, entitled "Grassroots Jungle", is an incredible and beautiful amalgum of life in a bizarre world within a small pond.

If these two films are anything like as popular as the preceding ones this winter, we shall indeed have a record high for good attendance, and will consider a Matinee next season as well as two evenings.

Will 5 members offer hospitality to 5 speakers for Audubon next winter? (Two nights each) Contact Jean Rimmington (592-6037) or Doug Turnbull (592-6025).

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

from Peggie Goodwill

<u>No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Area Seen</u>	<u>Observer</u>
		<u>Dec.</u>		
1	Wh. Thr. Sparrow	2	2600 Penrhyn	R. McK-Grieve
1	Yel-sh, Flicker	2	Martindale Rd.	R. Satterfield
1	Saw-whet Owl	4	547 Johnson St.	Rick West
1	Yel-hd. Blackbird	10	Doncaster Drive	M & J Fraser
2	Glaucus Gulls	14	Goldstream Riv.	M & V Goodwill
1	Gt. Horned Owl	17	nr. Point-No-Point	R. Satterfield
1	Black-legged Kittiwake	21	Jordan River	M & V Goodwill
20	Dowitcher Sp.	25	Quick's Bottom	E & A.R. Davidson
2	Palm Warblers	25	Salsbury Way	Dave Stirling
		<u>Jan.</u>		
15	Red Crossbills	2	Elk Lake	Tuesday Group
1	Short-tailed Shearwater	17	s. Discovery Island	R.W. Campbell
1	Marbled Godwit	18	Cadboro Bay	L.G. Roberts R. Satterfield
1	"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal	20	Tod Creek Flats	V. Goodwill

MARCH/APRIL PROGRAM

- FRI. MAR. 2
SAT. MAR. 3 AUDUBON: Speaker: Walter Berlet.
- American Hartlands - The Great River
Story. Newcombe Auditorium - 8:00 P.M.
- THURS. MAR. 8 BIRD TRIP: No special leader. Meet
10:00 A.M. Beacon Hill Park, S/E
corner Douglas/Superior.
- SAT. MAR. 10 (or SUN. MAR. 11) HERITAGE TREES TOUR?
Details at General Meeting.
- TUES. MAR. 13 GENERAL MEETING: Speaker: Neil Dawe.
Canadian Wildlife Service.
"National Wildlife Areas on Vancouver
Island."
- SAT. MAR. 17 TRIP TO QUALICUM: Leader: Neil Dawe
(3 Hours). "Birds and Spawning Herring".
Meet 1:00 p.m. at Qualicum National
Wildlife Area or Mayfair Lanes 9:30 a.m.
- WED. MAR. 21 "Frogs and Toads as seen by a Fish
Person". Dr. Alex Peden (652-3598),
Room 112, 7:00 p.m., Provincial Museum.
- THURS. MAR. 22 ENTOMOLOGY: Dr. Brian Ainscough (478-8959)
Room 112, 8:00 p.m., Provincial Museum.
- SUN. MAR. 25 BOTANY: Leader Bob Ogilvie (658-8937).
Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. or
Metchosin Road Parking Lot 9:30 a.m.
(Witty's Lagoon).
- THURS. MAR. 27 BIRDS: Speaker Mike Shepard (387-3544).
Meet 7:30 p.m. Board Room, Provincial
Museum.
- FRI. MAR. 30
SAT. MAR. 31 AUDUBON: Speaker Fran Hall.
"Grassroots Jungle".
- SAT. APR. 7 GEOLOGY: Dr. Ken Northcote.
Meet Mayfair Lanes 8:30 a.m. or 9:30
at Cowichan Secondary High School.
- TUES. APR. 10 GENERAL MEETING: Speaker: Dr. Brian
Ainscough, "The Practice of Deceit".

SAT. APR. 14WED. APR. 18SAT. APR. 21TUES. APR. 24THURS. APR. 26SAT. APR. 28SAT. MAR. 10SAT. MAR. 24SAT. APR. 7SAT. APR. 21

BOTANY: Leader: Dr. Leon Pavlic
(652-3305). Meet 9:00 a.m. Mayfair
Lanes or 10:00 at Cowichan.

MARINE BIOLOGY: Dr. Alex Peden. Rm. 112,
7:00 p.m. "Tides, and How They Work".

VISIT OF WHITE ROCK BIRDERS: Meet Ferry
8:40 a.m. Phone Mike Shepard (387-
3544) for offers of transport for
visitors.

BIRDS: Mike Shepard. 7:30 p.m. in
Board Room, Provincial Museum.

ENTOMOLOGY: Dr. Brian Ainscough.
Meet 8:00 p.m., Room 112, Prov. Museum.

MARINE BIOLOGY: Dr. Alex Peden. Meet
Mayfair Lanes, 10:30 a.m. or Bazan
Beach 11:00 (Standard Time).

JUNIORS

Come and meet the Pender Island Junior
Naturalists and hike with them round
Swan Lake. Meet 2:30 p.m. Nature
Centre, 3873 Swan Lake Rd.

Do you know your way around? Come and
find out on a hike from Francis Park
to Mill Hill. This will be a chance
to do some orienteering, and for
beginners to learn how to use a com-
pass. (Bring one if possible.) Meet
Mayfair Lanes 10:00 a.m. Bring a
lunch, with something to cook if you
wish.

Swallow Box Building: Meet 1:30 p.m.
at 3873 Swan Lake Rd. Bring a hammer,
hand saw, and 10"x28", 3/8" plywood
if possible.

JUNIORS (up to 11 years). Enjoy a hike
up Bear Hill to see Spring wildflowers.
Meet Mayfair Lanes 1:30 p.m.
INTERMEDIATES (12 and over). Hike up
Mount Finlayson. Bring a packed lunch,
and wear sturdy boots or shoes.

*Shall we finish off the year with a Camp?? Please let Grace
know if you are interested in a weekend camp in late May
or June.*