



The VICTORIA NATURALIST



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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
478-8534**

THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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THE VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

VOL. 36, NO. 5

MARCH-APRIL, 1980

THE CATTLE EGRET

By A.R. Davidson

The Cattle Egret is a migrant and also a wanderer,
constantly extending its territory.

It is found, in suitable habitat, in eastern Africa
from the Sudan to the Cape. But it is also a resident
of Malaysia and other Asiatic countries including India.
It is also resident in countries as far apart as northern
Australia and Spain and Portugal.

The first records for the new world were Surinam in
1870 and British Guiana (the adjacent state) in 1911. From
there, presumably, it found its way to Florida via the
Caribbean Islands in 1940. Not satisfied with that, it
established itself in Massachusetts in 1952, and in
southern Ontario in 1962. Now it is resident in most of
the southern United States and is still spreading north.

The first record here was November 1973 at Saseenos.
Two years later one was seen again at Saseenos and another
at Sooke. Then in December, 1977 one stayed around a farm
on Welch Road, Central Saanich, for almost a month, another
bird being reported from Jordan River the same month. On
January 1st this year, the Tuesday Group on their way to
Lost Lake saw one among a small group of cattle. The
excellent photo on our cover taken by Mr. H.W. Anderson,
one of our members, was found on Grant Road, Sooke.

The last report I have is one on the Victoria Golf
Course on 13th January. Maybe by the time these notes
are published in the "Naturalist" more sightings will be
reported.

COVER

Cattle Egret at Metchosin

By H.W. Anderson

It was the importation of egret plumes, known to the trade as osprey, which led to the formation of the Society for the Protection of Birds in England in 1889. And, in 1905 a National Association of Audubon Societies was formed principally to have legislation passed to stop the killing of birds for their feathers. This was accomplished five years later.

"COME WITH US TO OREGON"

This is the title of the Suttills' illustrated talk at our General Meeting on March 11, and could also be the title of our trip to Oregon May 15 to 28 on a bus supplied by B.C. Travel, specially arranged for our members. A wonderful opportunity to see the wildlife and scenery; birds, wild-flowers, rhododendrons; fossil and lava beds; gather agates, watch sea-lions and Bighorn Sheep; marine biology.

Our main objective is Malheur Wildlife Refuge, for birding, botanizing and geologizing. 290 species of birds have been recorded in this region, including White Pelicans, Sand-hill Cranes, White-faced Ibis, and Egrets.

We will pay visits to the Klamath Refuge System, and hope to go up to Crater Lake. Also to be in time for the Florence Rhododendron Festival.

From Coquille to Astoria, our route runs by the Pacific Ocean, on our return journey.

If you are interested, contact as soon as possible: Steven Powell, B.C. Travel, 385-4732. Suggested by Kaye Suttill, the itinerary is impressive.

COST: Double: \$430.00 each
Twin: \$445.00 each (Meals Extra)
Single: \$540.00

To those going on the trip, be sure to send in your deposit to B.C. Travel as soon as possible to secure your seat in the bus, (not later than 18th March). Being on the list is not enough.

Bring sleeping bags and strong shoes, and a thermos. Most lunches can be taken outdoors.

*** OWING TO THE OREGON TRIP OVERRUNNING THE USUAL DATE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 29 INSTEAD.

REPORT OF PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

By Gwennie Hooper

A Publications Committee was set up in May 1979 "to study and recommend to the Board of Directors what form and frequency of publication, including methods of production and distribution, best meet the needs of the membership, with due regard to the costs involved". The members were Gwennie Cooper (Chairman), a Director of the Society, Merle Harvey, Editor, Harold Hosford, and Winston Mair, President, ex officio. Following several meetings, the Committee's report was submitted to the Board on November 30th. The seven major recommendations accepted by the Board, to take effect with Volume 37 of The Victoria Naturalist, are as follows:

1. Format - typewritten book form, 8-1/2" x 7".
2. Number of pages at the discretion of the Editor, maximum 112 (equivalent to 140 pages of 8-1/2" x 5-1/2").
3. A long feature article to appear in each issue and a guest editorial from time to time. (For a better balance between field trip reports and other articles.)
4. Frequency - bimonthly.
5. Postage - additional postage costs over and above the minimum to be avoided if possible.
6. Assistant Editor to be appointed. (Because of additional workload involved in producing a larger magazine and in soliciting feature articles.)
7. Publications Committee to be struck: Editor, Assistant Editor, person in charge of distribution, and a Director. (To review current issue, discuss problems that might have arisen and plan future issues.)

The Committee's Report concluded: "Since many, probably a majority, of the members of the Society take no active part in its affairs, the magazine is the one point of interest which draws them together. The annual dues for these members are, in effect, a magazine subscription. It follows, therefore, that the magazine should be of a size and quality to maintain their interest."

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION F.B.C.N.

The winter meeting of the Vancouver Island Region of the Federation of B.C. Naturalists was held December 1st, 1979, at the Duncan City Hall. Eight clubs were represented by 14 voting delegates and in addition there were about 20 observers. Victoria N.H.S. was represented by Wilford Medd and Doug Turnbull. The acting Regional Vice President Allan Brooks, was in the chair.

Correspondence was read about the transplanting of Mountain Goats to Vancouver Island. The meeting reaffirmed the decision previously made that we have problems now without importing mammals not native to the Island.

It was reported that the Region had a deficit which by the end of the year may amount to \$100.00. The VNHS had indicated that they would make a grant to assist the Region and at the next meeting of the VNHS Board of Directors, a grant of \$100.00 was made.

The Mittlenatch Island Trips showed a loss of \$300.00 last season which was made up from the Nanoose Bay Camp surplus. The Minister has promised that a naturalist will be stationed at Mittlenatch Island next summer, so boat trips will again be planned.

Bill Merilees announced that there will be a Naturalists Camp at Nanoose Bay again this year (May 4 to 10) but there will not be a camp at Waterton.

David Routledge, the co-ordinator of the Vancouver Island Marmot Survey and Inventory team, reported on this project, which has been a major activity of the Region. Stan Baker showed slides. The official report of the Survey is being prepared and video tape programs are being assembled for Cable TV and schools.

A motion was passed advocating a moratorium on all mining of and exploration for Uranium in B.C. until the report of the Inquiry Commission has been received.

The F.B.C.N. executive were represented by Bert Brink, President, and Bill Merilees, Vice-President. The president reported briefly on F.B.C.N. affairs. An editorial committee had been considering the F.B.C.N. Newsletter, and a new editor, probably Paul Jaslyn, will be named shortly.

On March 8 and 9, the F.B.C.N. is sponsoring a Workshop in "Endangered Species" to be held in Langley. They are pressing for more sanctuaries and more enlarged reserves.

A motion was passed that a protest be sent to the Minister that Species Management Plans were being issued at the Fish and Wildlife Branch before any action had been taken to modify the Wildlife Management master plan in the light of widespread criticism.

The ladies of the Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society provided morning coffee, a sandwich lunch and afternoon tea, all without charge, which was greatly appreciated by all those attending.

The next regional meeting will be held in Parksville on 1st March, 1980. The Annual General Meeting of the F.B.C.N. will be held at Castlegar May 16, 17, 18, 1980.

* * * * *

The camp at Nanoose Bay will be at the Pentecostal Church Camp, just north of Nanaimo. Date May 4 to 10.

CAMP FEE: \$70.00 per person per week. This includes accommodation and all meals from supper on 4th to lunch on 10th. (\$10.00 of this fee non-returnable.)

REQUIRED: Own bedding, pillows and other personal needs. There are some small cabins accommodating 4 people. Pay showers, camper and tent space available.

REGISTRATION: First come, first served. 75 persons only. Vehicles to be pooled for field trips and all passengers EXPECTED to share drivers' expenses.

PLEASE make all cheques payable to the F.B.C.N. Camp Committee, 1655 Sherwood Drive, Nanaimo, B.C., V9T 1H2. (NO post-dated cheques, please.)

A one-day trip to Mittlenatch can be arranged. Cost \$20.00 per person. If interested, please include this fare with your Camp fee. The wildflowers are superb in May on Mittlenatch.

BIRD HIKE*By Elsie Turnbull*

Listed simply as Bird Field Trip, Saturday January 19, Esquimalt Harbour, Leader Harold Hosford, it told us nothing of the air like chilled wine, the sun burnishing beach sands and placid waters, nor of the yellow-capped, red-jacketed Pied Piper who lured 50 birders and a dozen strangers (to say nothing of a couple of dogs) with a theme song of Birds; Birds; Birds. It was a winter day in Victoria, perfect haven for the feathered visitors from the Arctic as they foraged for mollusks in the shallow channel, dove for fish in lagoon or strait, or pecked the sands and rocky islets for small organisms, or merely scavenged for what could be found.

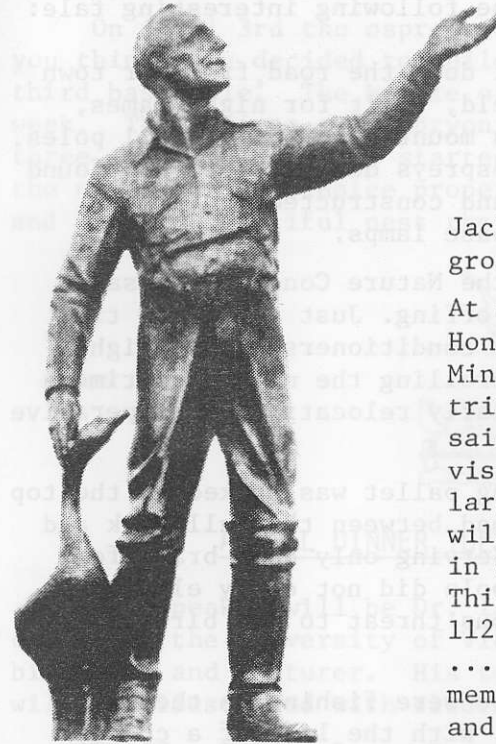
It was also a perfect winter day for warmly clad birders, as binoculars and scopes picked up colours deepened and made vivid by strong sunlight, and emphasized identifying marks half-hidden in poorer light. It was easy to see the differences in female mergansers - the Hooded's brownish crested head and dark short dagger bill contrasting with the Red-breasted's red bill and glowing cinnamon crest. The White-winged Scoter's clearly visible wing patch and spot behind the eye distinguished it from the Surf Scoter who showed white nape and forehead and multi-coloured bill. A rounded head, shiny green in colour, separated the Greater Scaup from the Lesser with its shorter white wing stripe and purplish head and neck.

Among the swarming Mew and Herring Gulls, each with black wing tips, it was possible to pick out the yellow eye and pink legs of the Herring, while the strongly yellow bill of the Double-crested Cormorant stood out alongside the darker, smaller Pelagic species.

There was a myriad of birds - ducks, swans, coots, and gulls, grebes and waders, feeding in lagoon and outer waters of Royal Roads. Half a dozen Great Blue Herons perched on conifers along the shore while, to our surprise, a small Horned Lark fluttered among the logs. We counted 39 species in all. Then suddenly, a young Bald Eagle flew overhead, creating panic among the birds, just in time to get his name on our list and bring the number up to 40.

The
Jack Miner
MIGRATORY BIRD FOUNDATION Inc.

JACK MINER
Father Of
Conservation



In 1977, the citizens of Kingsville, Jack Miner's home town, the most southern town in Canada, observed the 125th year of its founding, by erecting a full-size bronze statue of Jack Miner on their municipal grounds.

At the unveiling ceremony, the Hon. Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, in paying tribute to the late Jack Miner, said, "Jack Miner, with his vision and determination, was largely responsible for those wildlife conservation measures in existence in N. America today. This tribute to him, on the 112th anniversary of his birth ... created as his national memorial, is richly deserving and will serve as a reminder to us all of his valuable and enduring work".

We do well to remember those who did their part in preserving the wildlife which we enjoy today, and which we hope to preserve for future generations to enjoy.

Wildlife, whether flora or fauna, cannot live without suitable habitat, and this we are losing at an alarming rate. Are YOU concerned about it? You should be, as a member of our Society.

Take a notebook and pencil with you on your walks or field trips. Note the birds, trees, flowers, insects, animals and mammals you see, and where you saw them. If you duplicated the walk or field trip a year hence, do you think they will still be there? Or will you walk among houses? Or can we prevent that by being "Jack Miners"?

Contributed by Merle Harvey

HOW TO MOVE AN OSPREY'S NEST

By *Merle Harvey*

The other day, someone gave me a cutting from a magazine which contained the following interesting tale:

"There is a field just down the road from our town beach. It's a fine ball field, built for night games, with powerful lamp clusters mounted on top of tall poles. In March, 1978, a pair of ospreys decided they had found their dream building lot, and constructed their nest right on top of the third-base lamps.

The local members of the Nature Conservancy saw nothing but trouble in the offing. Just about the time we'd be dusting off our air conditioners, those high-wattage lamps would start broiling the nest each time a night game was played. Clearly relocation was imperative before the eggs hatched.

So -- a wooden shipping pallet was spiked to the top of a utility pole on the road between the ball park and the pond across the way. Serving only as a brace for nearby poles, the utility pole did not carry electrical wires, so it posed no obvious threat to the birds' well-being.

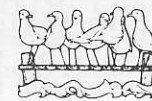
While the parents-to-be were fishing on the bay, members of the Conservancy, with the loan of a cherry-picker, transferred the nest to the pallet. The ospreys seemed to take their forced house-moving in their stride, merely fussing with a few misplaced twigs that might have obscured their view of home plate.

All went well as spring grew into summer. When the fledglings had gone with their parents, it was time to make plans to provide a more secure sanctuary for the birds for the next year.

The pond wore 10 inches of ice in early March of the following year, but the second Saturday dawned with a breath of Spring. Two linesmen were at the pond with a pole and an end disc from a broken wire reel. A hole was chopped in the ice near the middle of the pond and the pole anchored, with the disc attached on top to form a platform for the nest. This was then daubed with green-tinted preservative and some dead branches attached. Ropes secured the pole on each side.

Next, the team arrived with the cherry-picker to remove the last year's nest and pallet from the utility pole, to prevent the birds from resuming housekeeping at the old stand.

On April 3rd the ospreys came back. Where you do you think they decided to build? Right on top of the third base pole! The battle of persuasion lasted a week. Three times the embryonic nest was removed and three times the ospreys started anew. They finally saw the merits of the choice property standing in the pond and built a beautiful nest there."



ANNUAL DINNER TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1980

The speaker will be Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, Chancellor of the University of Victoria, world renowned biologist and lecturer. His topic, "Birds and the Sea", will be illustrated with slides.

PLACE: Tundra Room, University of Victoria

TIME: Cocktails, 7:00 p.m.; Dinner, 8:00 p.m.

TICKETS: \$8.25 per person

Tickets will be available at the General Meeting in March and in April, or they may be obtained from:

Mrs. Katherine Sherman
2168 Guernsey St.
Victoria, B.C., V8S 2P6
Phone: (598-3237)

Mrs. Rita Dickson
301 - 2065 Oak Bay Avenue
Victoria, B.C., V8R 1E6
Phone: (592-1862)

If you wish to have tickets mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your cheque, which should be made out to: "Victoria Natural History Society".

*Jeanne S. Mair,
Dinner Convener.*

EDITORIAL

On 31st December each year, \$1.00 per member is paid to the Federation of B.C. Naturalists by all clubs and societies within the Federation.

At the end of December 1979, our Society had 540 paid-up members, plus children:

SINGLES:	170	SUSTAINING:	5
SENIOR SINGLES:	89	LIFE:	6
FAMILY:	128	HON. LIFE:	7
(Wives)	128	JUNIORS:	7

It would save volunteer officials a great deal of work and worry if members would pay their dues by 30th April each year. After that, according to our Constitution, those who have not re-registered are no longer members and it has been only by the courtesy of the Board of Directors that they received the "Naturalist" until they paid their dues.

Please note that the parking lot off Superior Street which was mentioned in the January Editorial is available ONLY AFTER 6:00 P.M.

On the inside of the front cover, the names and phone numbers of all the Leaders of the various branches of the Society are published. Bring lunch to all Field Trips.

The Audubon Film on March 21 and 22 is to be shown by John Wilson, who filmed more than 60 islands in the Galapagos. An excellent program of the special wild-life and wilderness of a unique world, and the adventures of John and his two companions.

Mary Wainwright has offered to become Assistant to the Junior Leader, Johanna Baldwin.

David Routledge has been voted Vice-President of our Regional F.B.C.N. in place of David Orton, who has moved to Nova Scotia.

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE MARCH 29TH for May/June Issue.

LIVING LAND * LIVING SEA

From Kaye Suttill

Special thanks to the Provincial Museum Staff for the new natural history exhibit.

This LIVING LAND, LIVING SEA is an incredible, moving experience, which brings time alive and makes you feel part of it all, our B.C. coast from the Ice Age to the present land and sea environment.

And so, thanks to everyone involved in this epic odyssey of modern technology magic, for the vision, the integration of all the component parts, and the detailed craftsmanship. To all who have given us this LIVING LAND, LIVING SEA, our heartmost thanks. You make us all so very proud of B.C. and our living Museum.

(All who have seen LIVING LAND, LIVING SEA at the Provincial Museum have come away feeling much the same as Kaye does. We add our congratulations ... Ed.)

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

From Peggy Goodwill

<u>NO.</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AREA SEEN</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>
		<u>DEC.</u>		
1	Cattle Egret	4	Blenkinsop Lake	Tuesday Group
18	Water Pipits	6	Lochside Trail	D. Stirling
1	Sooty Shearwater	8	Clover Point	J. Wilson, R. Prior, A. MacLeod
1	Gyr Falcon	12	Swan Lake	M. Shepard
1	Rufous Hummingbird	14	Tudor Ave.	Mrs. J. Somerville
1	Glaucous Gull	26	Martindale Rd.	R. Satterfield
		<u>JAN.</u>		
2	Cassin's Auklet	1	Trial Islands	M. Shepard
4	Trumpeter Swans	4	Prospect Lake	S. McCulloch
1	Western Sandpiper	5	Gonzales Point	R. Satterfield
1	Tufted Puffin	6	Laurel Point	B&M Meiklejohn
2	Tree Sparrows	18	Cowichan Bay	V. Goodwill
1	Rough-legged Hawk	23	Empress Hotel	H. Hosford
1	Redhead	28	Prospect Lake	M&V Goodwill
2M	Pine Grosbeaks	29	Christie Point	Ralph Fryer
1	Rusty Blackbird	31	Goldstream Park	V. Goodwill

BEST HOUSE IN TOWN?*By Yorke Edwards*

"One hundred species? From that place you just bought? Since April?"

Right each time. From early April to the end of December, I saw 105 species of birds from 663 Radcliffe Lane. I was on the property when I saw all of them, but I also had a 20-power spotting scope to reach out to sea for a few extra species.

I was not doing much prolonged birding. The museum office claimed me through most days, and I worked hard with paint and putty on the days that I was home. But my ears are good, and I stopped every few hours to see what birds were about. There were always lots of them.

Without doubt we live on one of the best lots in Greater Victoria for seeing birds. Much of the Victoria Golf Course is in sight, with its rocky coast and its islands often covered with loafing birds. Enterprise Channel and beyond it Trial Island are due south. The fast tide rips in the Channel are rich feeding waters for sea birds. And the garden is attractive to wandering songbirds, for the shore is a flyway and we have the only shade trees in the immediate neighbourhood.

The seabirds seen were not remarkable. Most common ones were seen and only a scattering of rarer ones, like Skua, European Wigeon, Whimbrel, Pectoral Sandpiper, Pied-billed Grebe, and some gulls like Herring, Western and Ring-billed.

Resident landbirds are rather scarce in the garden. A half dozen common species about covers them all. But the coast is a highway for migrants, and the point with its inviting clump of trees by the house is an attractive trap for bewildered waifs. Hawks fly by, and one was a Peregrine, another was a Marsh Hawk. One fall day a Short-eared Owl bounced by. Three Purple Martins went over one warm August evening. On May 31, there was a Yellow-headed Blackbird hunting a sheltered lawn; on June 13 a Northern Oriole graced our poplar, and the biggest surprise was a dark and befuddled juvenile Gray Jay on July 20 that was a long ecological way from Boreal Forest in our "Mediterranean" garden.

Many birds, but two are special. Most days the telescope can find a Bald Eagle on Trial Island, doing what eagles do most - nothing, except watching eagle-eyed for an edible windfall. The other is Ravens. All summer we lamented the absence of the raven voices that made our previous home special. But we began to hear them in September's mornings, and in the dawns of winter their mellow talking assures us that once again we live in a rich and lively place.

More than I thought possible, an old idea of mine can be rested at 663, the idea that being a naturalist is not just something worn like an old coat when on expeditions to exceptional places; being a naturalist should be a way of enjoying everyday life, and lucky the naturalist who lives in a place that enriches all of Life's days.

Is this a record for a Victoria garden? - Ed.

* * * * *

And writing of records - Dave Stirling got 319 species (307 with no introduced birds) in B.C. during 1979. Anyone got more?

* * * * *

BOTANY 80

The editor has had a letter from Iain E.P. Taylor, Associate Professor, and Vice-President, Canadian Botanical Association, giving notice of BOTANY 80, a combined meeting of 5 major N. American botanical societies, which will take place at U.B.C. Vancouver, from July 11 to 16, 1980.

Any B.C. botanist, whether amateur, or school-teaching, in government or industry, is welcome to attend. The opportunity to meet so many fellow botanists does not often occur in Vancouver, so this is a unique chance for our members.

The editor has some information, but for fuller details of BOTANY 80, contact Dr. I.E.P. Taylor, Dept. of Botany, U.B.C. Vancouver, B.C., V6T 2B1.

PROGRAM: MARCH/APRILMARCH:

TUES. 11 GENERAL MEETING: Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
"Come With Us to Oregon". Illustrated Talk
by Kaye and Dennis Suttill.

SAT. 15 BIRD FIELD TRIP: Witty's Lagoon, Billings
Spit, Sooke River and Whiffen Spit. Meet
Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. or Whiffen Spit
Parking Lot 9:45 a.m. Leader: Vera Guernsey
(598-4968). Bring lunch.

FRI. 21 AUDUBON FILM: Newcombe Auditorium. 8:00 p.m.

SAT. 22 "Galapagos Islands". John Wilson.

SAT. 22 MARINE BIOLOGY: A Look At Freshwater Life.
Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. Leader: Alex
Peden (652-3598) - Seining at Colquitz Creek
9:15 - Move on to Durrance Lake by 11:00
a.m. - A look at salamanders and things, then
a stroll around the Lake. Bring lunch.

TUES. 25 BIRDERS NIGHT: Boardroom 7:30, Provincial
Museum. Bring slides and magazines.

THURS. 27 ENTEMOLOGY: Room 112, 8:00 p.m. Provincial
Museum. Brian Ainscough (478-8959).

SUN. 30 BOTANY: "Spring Flowers on Mill Hill". Meet
Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. Leader: Stephen
Mitchell (477-9248). Bring lunch and heavy
shoes.

APRIL:

TUES. 8 GENERAL MEETING: Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00
p.m. "Vancouver Marmots". Illustrated Talk
by David Routledge.

SAT. 19 PINK LILIES: at Cowichan. TENTATIVE DATE.
Check Bird Alert nearer time, as lilies may
bloom later. Meet Mayfair Lanes, 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Leon Pavlick (652-3305).

SUN. 20 BIRD FIELD TRIP: in the Elk Lake/Cordova Bay
area. Meet at Elk Lake Parking Lot, just north
of Piedmont Drive, at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Mike
Shepard (658-5850). Bring lunch.

TUES. 22 BIRDERS NIGHT: (last of season) 7:30 p.m.
Boardroom, Provincial Museum. Mike Shepard
(658-5850).

THURS. 24 ENTEMOLOGY: Room 112, 8:00 p.m. Provincial
Museum. Brian Ainscough (478-8959).

No Marine Biology this month. Alex Peden would
like volunteers who might lead other fresh-water
or marine water trips later in the year, especially
during times of year when he is tied up with out-
of-town work (652-3598).

JUNIORS

FRANCIS PARK: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SAT. MARCH 29; SAT.
APRIL 26.

WITTY'S LAGOON: 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., SUN. MARCH 30;
SUN. APRIL 27.

Monthly Slide Show, Nature Ramble, and Picnic.
Discussion of up-coming activities including:
FIELD TRIP to Reifel Sanctuary, SAT. MARCH 1ST.

Exploring and Working at Francis, Freeman King and Witty's
Lagoon Parks. (This includes Trail Work, Nature Study,
and Developing Displays - possibly also Archery and
Horse-riding.)

PLEASE NOTE: Until further notice, Nature Films at
Francis Park (1:00-4:00 p.m.) CANCELLED.

Emergency changes only on Alert (478-8534).
Enquiries should be phoned to Leaders or Section Leaders
(see inside front cover).

METAMORPHOSIS

By John S. Willis

*Yesterday we went and looked at ducks.
They swam and splashed and dived,
Hunting for juicy things to eat,
Enjoying themselves in mud and wind and rain.
Some of us in kindness threw them grain.
They quacked and pushed and pecked and fought;
I thought they'd go insane
And, seen against a distant steeple,
I swear they seemed to change to people.*

SUBMITTED BY EDNA V. STEARN

NEW ON THE BOOKSHELVES

Jack Miner may have been the "Father" of Wildlife Conservation, but the "Song Sparrow Lady" seems to have been the "Mother".

Margaret Morse Nice (1883-1974), American researcher, scientist, author, zoologist, active environmentalist, and the most famous woman ornithologist in the world (she was an Hon. Member of ornithological societies throughout Europe) had her autobiography published in 1979.

"Research is a Passion with Me" is published by Consolidated Amethyst Communications Inc., Toronto, and comes in hard cover at \$12.95, or paperback at \$9.95. A copy is in The Society Library.

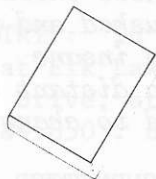
Also newly out "A Bibliography of B.C. Ornithology" by R.W. Campbell et al, Heritage Record No. 7, Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C., V8W 1X4. Cost: \$4.00.

Anyone going birding in N. California can obtain the new Annotated Field List from: Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., Ste. 206, Berkeley, Cal. 94705. Cost: \$5.50 (U.S.)

And just what new members are looking for is a booklet which gives information on rocks, plants, sea life, birds and butterflies. "A Naturalist's Guide to the Victoria Region" is not new, but will be on sale at the various meetings. A good investment for \$2.00.

Copies of "American Birds" containing the results of the Christmas Bird Count, 1978, may be obtained from The National Audubon Society, "American Birds", 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Cheques and Money Orders made payable to: "American Birds". Cost: \$5.50. Ask for July 1979 Edition.

The results of the 1979 Count will be in the July 1980 edition.



COUNT AREAS AND PARTICIPANTS

- A. Prospect Lake/Durrance Lake: Harold Hosford, Don LiLeger, Syd, Dick & Rob Cannings.
- B. Florence Lake/Goldstream: Vic & Peggy Goodwill, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Briggs, Bob Ray, Leila Roberts, Rosa Wood.
- C. Esquimalt/Witty's Lagoons: Charlie Trotter, Vera Guernsey, Dorothy McCann, Bertha Gow, Vi Peters, Marjorie Ketcham.
- D. Portage Inlet/Thetis Lake: Roy and Margaret Wainwright, Dr. Bob Houston, Don Beresford, Phyl Downey, Rita Dickson, Leah Halsall, Lois Clark.
- E. Beacon Hill Park/Esquimalt: Merle Harvey, Ralph Fryer, Betty Lothian, Dr. and Mrs. Sparling, Adelaide and Jack Robinson, Jean Rimmington, Margaret Turner, Alice Elson, Lavender Monckton.
- F. Clover Point/Oak Bay: Jim Wilson, Alf Porcher, Doug Turnbull, Jane Toms, Mary Anderson, Kay Brown, Mary Winstone, Elizabeth North, Mary Richmond.
- G. University/Cadboro Bay: Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Davidson, Marion & Art Durkee, Nancy Lovett, Jean McInnis, Dr. George Sparrow, Anne & Peter Knowles, Joan Crabbe, Anne Adamson, Norman Fatt, Joan & Rowly Inglis.
- H. Swan Lake/Panama Flats: Rob & Margaret McKenzie-Grieve, Lynn Husted, Judith Robinson, Bernard Neary, Muriel and John Rennie.
- I. Blenkinsop/Elk Lake: Hank Van Der Pol, Gwennie & Gordon Hooper, Jerry Anderson, Peter Bricknell.
- J. Burnside/Quick's Bottom: Roy Prior, Kaye & Dennis Suttill, Helen Rodney, Alan Macleod.
- K. Martindale/Island View: Dave Stirling, Sheila Reynolds, Johanna Baldwin, Gerry Gardner, Sally Hamill, Margaret Jeal.
- L. Chain, Trial & Chatham Islands: Mike Shepard, Mary Wainwright, Ray Williams, Brian Finch. (Owing to bad weather, this area was not covered.)

VICTORIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - DECEMBER 15, 1979

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>
Common Loon			19	1	5	3	13		4		2	47
Arctic Loon			12		3	65			1		12	93
Red-throated Loon	1		13	21	1	11			2			49
Red-necked Grebe			7		4	47	2		2		3	65
Horned Grebe	1	3	49	40	44	105	88		31		18	379
Eared Grebe					1				7			8
Western Grebe	1		360	37	26	85	41				4	554
Pied-billed Grebe	9	10	6	10	2	1		4	1			43
Double-crested Cormorant	6	13	10	56	460	39	34	5	10		3	636
Brandt's Cormorant					14	1650						1664
Pelagic Cormorant	1		22	24	63	221	38		2		1	372
Great Blue Heron	4	2	6	27	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	52
Mute Swan	2	6	2	6	3			2				21
Canada Goose	75	1	1	4	2	23	18		111	58	76	369
Brant			1									1

White-fronted Goose											4	4
Mallard	258	272	50	48	538	158	222	520	500	510	1950	5026
Gadwall										23		23
Pintail		41		9	8			31		141	10	240
Green-winged Teal	6		7	1	1	6		52	5	121	2	201
European Wigeon		1			3			1		3	1	9
American Wigeon	91	201	36	45	337	869	158	680	533	895	3750	7595
Northern Shoveler		10			5	8		11	2	27		63
Ring-Necked Duck	57	8		31				31		41	6	174
Canvasback			10	57	3						8	78
Greater Scaup			51	222	38		134				8	453
Lesser Scaup	2	2						2			6	12
Scaup Sp.						239			64			303
Common Goldeneye	11	219	33	55	19	125	19		3		11	495
Barrow's Goldeneye	6	1	5		2							14
Bufflehead	9	40	206	250	17	389	129	11	65	37	43	1196
Oldsquaw			12	5	17	255	3		2		4	298
Harlequin Duck			2		11	88	34				2	137
White-winged Scoter			805		12	2	12		1		2	834
Surf Scoter			408		7	189	20		60		50	734

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>T</u>	92
Ruddy Duck		7	2	1	3			14					27
Common Merganser	6	95	8	15					19				143
Red-breasted Merganser		12	175	12	23	60	35		6		6		329
Hooded Merganser	4	17	79	60	22	71	8	4	56		11		332
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1					3	3		4	1			12
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	1		1		2	2	2		1		12
Red-tailed Hawk	5	7	1	3			1		1	3	11		32
Golden Eagle		1											1
Bald Eagle	6	2	5	3	1	2	7		4	1	5		36
Gyr Falcon											1		1
Peregrine Falcon	1										1		2
Merlin		1				2				1			4
American Kestrel			1								1		2
Ruffed Grouse		1											1
California Quail	8	38	15		4		61		15		1		142
Ring-necked Pheasant	2				1	1	3	5	1	1			14
Virginia Rail									2				2

American Coot	12	70	582	272	3	8	2	8	72	9			1038
Black Oystercatcher					2	36							38
Killdeer		28	10		4	3		4			2		51
Black-bellied Plover			8		16	4					23		51
Surfbird			2			4							6
Black Turnstone			40		1	41							82
Common Snipe			1			4		10					15
Greater Yellowlegs		1			1	6	1	5	5	13			32
Spotted Sandpiper				1	1								2
Rock Sandpiper						4							4
Dunlin			46		23	55					370		494
Sanderling						15							15
Red Phalarope					8								8
Glaucous Gull	1	1				1							3
Glaucous-winged Gull	2225	805	335	324	1117	2195	442	85	187	217	750		8682
Thayer's Gull	30					396	4						430
Herring Gull						1							1
California Gull		1			1								2
Mew Gull	7	209	143	100	500	1214	92	1	306	2	109		2683

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>	94
Bonaparte's Gull		7	2	1	4	875	2	14					881
Gull Species				200					19				200
Common Murre				1	28	50							79
Pigeon Guillemot				2	3	8	1	4	56				14
Marbled Murrelet				9		3			4				12
Ancient Murrelet					9	200	1		2				210
Cassin's Auklet					2								2
Rhinoceros Auklet						6							6
Band-tailed Pigeon			1				1						2
Rock Dove	14	12	12		83	78	6	14	59	37	41		356
Screech Owl	1										2		3
Great Horned Owl					1								1
Saw-Whet Owl							1						1
Anna's Hummingbird		3	1				8						12
Rufous Hummingbird							1						1
Belted Kingfisher	1	4	4	4	6	2	3	1	3	1			29
Common Flicker	11	10	12	13	6	9	30	4	5	22	17		139
Pileated Woodpecker	1	1			1		2						5

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					1		1						2
Hairy Woodpecker	1												1
Downy Woodpecker	3	4	1	1	1	2	2		1	2			17
Skylark											11		11
Steller's Jay	3	19											22
Common Raven	34	13	4	6	2	3	19	2	3	23	7		116
Northwestern Crow	1922	125	151	70	103	627	547	274	401	284	825		5329
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	60	77	5	47	64	114	77	12	31	34	24		545
Bushtit	14			7	37	20	75	24	23	1			201
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	6		2			2		2	4	1		19
Brown Creeper	7	6	5	2	2	5	4		2	6	2		41
Dipper		1											1
Winter Wren	26	5	4		6		9	3		2			55
Bewick's Wren	14	2		5	1	4	21	3	7	6	3		66
Long-billed Marsh Wren	2								1				3
American Robin	60	69	112	70	17	115	193	123	104	19	255		1137
Varied Thrush	2	6			4	2	7			4			25
Hermit Thrush	1					1							2

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>T</u> ₉₆
Golden-crowned Kinglet	105	60	2	11	16	43	39	2	30	40	4	352
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9	12	1	200	1	4	20	1	6	1		55
Water Pipit											25	25
Cedar Waxwing							1					1
Northern Shrike								1	2		1	4
Starling	85	315	131	20	554	500	237	101	185	381	980	3489
Yellow-rumped Warbler					1							1
Wilson's Warbler							1					1
House Sparrow	10			8	2	45	55	23	1		8	52
Western Meadowlark					1			1	4			6
Red-winged Blackbird					1			61	45	12	31	150
Brewer's Blackbird						167		47	73	284	80	651
Brown-headed Cowbird											4	4
Evening Grosbeak									5			5
Purple Finch	12	1	1	10	1		29	7	6			67
House Finch	32	6	13	8	12	54	37	13	35	2	20	232
Pine Siskin	19	240	30				50					339
American Goldfinch											1	1

Red Crossbill		12			60							72
Rufous-sided Towhee	39	18	8	6	17	14	71	16	14	5	4	212
Dark-eyed Junco	168	238	85	34	64	86	297	17	70	40	135	1234
White-crowned Sparrow		1						2			8	11
Golden-crowned Sparrow	27	24		3	11	6	34	35	4	3	40	187
Fox Sparrow	18	26			9	6	65	12	16	4	4	160
Song Sparrow	23	22	7	3	10	8	39	6	12	2	7	139
<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>	5575	3466	4177	2282	4522	11763	3615	2296	3237	3327	9807	54067
<u>SPECIES</u>	63	64	64	54	84	76	67	49	64	46	65	130

Thanks to the efforts of 86 birdwatchers who participated in the count, we totalled a very respectable 130 species. Weatherwise, the day was cold and windy, but not as memorable as 1978 when winds gusted to 50 knots. Several new species, never recorded before on Victoria counts were found: Red Phalarope, Rufous Hummingbird, and Wilson's Warbler. There were several record highs, including 1664 Brandt's Cormorants and 369 Canada Geese. Among the record lows were 14 Ring-necked Pheasants and one Hairy Woodpecker.

Thank you to Teresa Shepard and all the volunteers who helped to make the Post Count Gathering a cheery success.