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COLUMBIAN SILK MOTH

By Merle Harvey

On April 15th, the Tuesday Group, consisting of members of the Victoria Natural History Society, and friends, had a walk at Rithet's Bog. Rob's eye was caught by a "knobby" thing on a branch of a bush, and on looking closer found it was an unusually large chrysalis. Knowing Bertha's interest in these, he broke off the slender branch and took it to her. She stuck it on a plasticine base to keep it upright and steady; looked up her Butterfly book, and identified it as a Columbian Silk Moth chrysalis. It was oval, about 2 inches by 1-1/2 inches; brown, and streaked with silvery, silky fluff.

Four days later the moth emerged and clung quivering to the branch while blood was pumped through the veins, causing them to expand. The minute wrinkles smoothed out, and in about 6 minutes the moth attained its full size - 5 inches across, 2-1/2 inches deep, with a plump, furry body. A beautiful creature of beiges, browns and pinks.

Bertha photographed the process and got this shot of the moth as it waited by the chrysalis. When the wings were fully expanded, the blood was recalled into the insect's body, and both membranes and veins began to harden - a process which required an hour or more. Then it was ready for flight.

The moth was released back at Rithet's. In the shoebox on the way, the moth laid 9 eggs, showing it was a female. Bertha brought the empty chrysalis to show us on the following Tuesday. The amazing thing was that no hole could be detected in it. How did that large moth get out and leave no sign of its emergence?

It is interesting to compare this photograph with that of the White Admiral Butterfly in the May/June issue of the "Naturalist" - the difference in size of the chrysalis; the difference in the antennae (the butterfly's "clubbed" at the ends, the moth's "feathers"); and the difference in the bodies. I wish we could have produced this in colour.

COVER:

COLUMBIAN SILK MOTH

By Bertha McHaffie-Gow

OBSERVATIONS OF BIRD LIFE AT QUICK'S BOTTOM
SAANICH, B.C. December 1978 - November 1979

Most of the visits to Quick's Bottom this year were to observe the abundant bird life. Studies are also needed on other marsh and pond life, including small animals, insects, fish and plants, and it is an ideal location for this, but no-one is doing this at present.

Quick's Bottom is a marshy hollow fed and drained by Colquitz Creek. The small farms and residences which encircle it changed little since last year's reporting, but the Saanich Municipal Nursery on the west slopes expanded. In fact, erosion of the latter's fields is noticeable, with some silting into the pond.

During the period reported on here, some 15 members of the Victoria Natural History Society made between them about 31 recorded visits, although there were undoubtedly many unrecorded visits also. As would be expected, the commonest sightings were of a variety of waterfowl.

The numbers and species of birds seen during recorded visits to Quick's Bottom are given in Table 1. There were 29 species not seen the previous year but 11 species seen then were not again observed in 1979.

The number of recorded visits to Quick's Bottom by VNHS members generally has increased since 1972, as has the numbers of different species of birds observed. This is likely due to more thorough coverage at more different times of the year, but suggests at least that the site is not declining in its attractiveness to birds.

The number of visits and the number of different species found each year since 1972 was 48; since 1977 the average number per year was 62. This increase may be due to the recent deepening of part of what formerly was only a marsh, creating a year-round deep-water habitat.

Principal contributors of data for this summary were J.E.V. Goodwill and R. Satterfield, plus a dozen or so other VNHS members. It is hoped that members will increase their visits in the coming year, and expand their interests to include organisms other than birds. It would seem to be an ideal locale.

COMPILED BY J.W.E. HARRIS
 April, 1980

(Tables are too long to include here but a copy may be borrowed from the Secretary, Mrs. Alice Elston, (592-1400) by anyone interested.)

BIRDING AT FRANCIS PARK

By Peggy Johnstone

Saturday, May 10th, was a beautiful Spring day, a perfect time for a walk in Francis Park. Under the leadership of Merle Harvey, with the able assistance in bird identification of Rob Mackenzie-Grieve and Alf Porcher, 22 birders had an enjoyable ramble through the Park. Fifty species of birds were listed; 3 different kinds of Blue butterflies, a Fritillary, and a Pale Swallowtail; a brown spotted Dragonfly and later, a small blue one. Also many wildflowers and an unusual fungus.

On arrival at the parking lot, we immediately saw a Western Tanager, the sun shining on his brilliant yellow and red plumage, and also a flock of Evening Grosbeaks in the fir trees behind the Nature House. We followed the Lyre Tree and Grand Fir Trails, noting a number of Calypsos and Trilliums among other flowers, and Spotted Coralroot caught by the sun slanting through the tall fir trees.

Emerging from the forest, we walked along the road to the Hydro Power Line and covered the area. There were a number of small birds in this open part of second growth deciduous trees - Rufous Hummingbirds, perched on a wire, White-crowned Sparrows and Goldfinches, to name a few. Above our heads an Osprey and a Red-tailed Hawk were noted, and suddenly a pair of Canada Geese appeared in flight across the sky. Away off on the horizon we saw a number of Turkey Vultures.

The "Bluebird" Trail revealed an unusual sight - a pair of Cooper's Hawks displaying in the sky above us. Further on, a Western Bluebird's nesting place was discovered, with both male and female observed coming and going to it. Nearby both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were at work on dead trees. Six warblers were spotted - Wilson's, Townsend's, Yellow, MacGillivray's, Orange-crowned and Yellowthroat. Two vireos - Warbling and Solitary; several Olive-sided and Western Flycatchers.

As we reached the parking lot for lunch, Chipping Sparrows and Oregon Juncos were clearly seen, picking up grit from the road, and a Brown Creeper was noted. The Evening Grosbeaks were still as noisy as they were when we arrived.

After lunch, 11 of us went to the Calverts' Private Bird Sanctuary and were given permission to watch the swallows building in the nest boxes by the house, the violet and green very clearly seen at such close quarters. A pair of Canada Geese had 7 goslings, and there were a pair of Muscovy ducks to test our knowledge. We did not see the pair of Wood Duck, unfortunately.

Our thanks to Merle for a very interesting day.

THE BIOLOGY OF THE LACEWING

Mary-Lou Florian

The swollen abdomen too heavy to carry alone
the evening breeze lifts the awkward insect
the evening sun fires its iridescent lace wings
Chrysopa oculata
a beauty

A succulent green seedling with succulent green aphids
its airport
it alights on leaf

Egg laying

The twitching contracting abdomen with protruding vulva
now poised for oviposition
touches the leaf
exudes a drop of jelly
is raised stiffly upward to pull a stalk
and on top
an egg appears
the abdomen suspended in midair awaits the stalk to harden
then a jerk
and then to start again
this done three hundred odd times and so ends the instinctive
female

Embryo

The egg elongate elliptical light blue
chorion unmarked
the egg held high on delicate pedicle
the egg inside
spinning gyrations of chromosomes
one cell two four eight sixteen thirty-two to thousands
five to twelve days now a twitching embryo

The eager embryo pushes chitinous toothed egg burster
chorion rips
a loop of larva pops out
slowly the larva withdraws its head
swings up on tip of abdomen
positioned to dry its colorless and soft soon to be smoky
and rigid skeleton

Larval Feeding

First instar larva swaying on egg stalk
three pairs of legs strong large jaws
segmented body hairy with ordered setae
excited
hungry
reaches out for anything anywhere
finds egg stalk
grasping with claws slides head first to leaf

Excited aphid-lion
hungry aphid-lion
darting
quickly forward here there
held firm by rubbery pulvilli
darting
antennae feeling
an egg stalk a protected egg from predacious jaws
antennae feeling
an aphid
the prey
speared
with paired maxillae - mandible straws
the liquid viscera sucked up
the prey twirled in jaws exhausted to last drop
the aphid pith flopped over head to blanket abdomen of
aphid-lion
a camouflaging cape against cocked eyes of birds

Larval molt

Ten to twenty aphids a day
and so for seven days
seven days growth
the rigid skeleton now too small
inside a soft new skeleton has grown
the larva becomes quiet
ready to molt

Anal secretion securely glues the larva to a point of leverage
ripples of abdominal contractions and jerky twists
frees the naked larva within its now glassy shell
pushing pushing pushing forward
a break larger larger larger
a hump of back appears
carefully and slowly the complex mouth is drawn from useless mould
folded setae spring up
legs walk out

abdomen is freed
 the second instar larva swings on tip of abdomen
 balanced by legs
 puffs and swells to stretch the soft new skeleton
 soon to harden oversized
 the molt eight minutes of olympiad effort
 the larva now ready for five more gorging days
 then another molt and another larger larva
 the third instar larva

Pupation

Ninety-nine aphids after
 growth complete
 hormones flowing
 larva takes quiet refuge
 on underside of leaf
 and sets to spin

Sets to spin a cocoon
 the magic capsule for metamorphosis
 in larva out adult

The aphid-lion twirling on its back
 with agile abdomen tip
 spins a framework of viscid silk
 attached to camouflaging cape
 two days of circular setae-shearing shifting
 and precision three cornered weaving
 a parchment white
 parchment strong
 parchment thin cocoon
 spherical for setae-less larva

Within the larva
 embryonic cells
 parasitize the plumb larva
 to recreate a new form
 the pupa
 a crumpled mummified adult

After a winter or three days
 the pupa sheds the larval skin
 quiescent differentiation for five more days
 to then crawl from the cocoon through its circular lid

Emergence of adult

The walking grey mummy finds a select spot
 huffs and puffs and blows itself up
 the pupal skin bursts
 slowly the uncrumpled adult emerges
 with bright green body and golden eye
 stubby wings to be inflated by blood

Inflating wings
 drying skeleton
 and strained defecation of larvas' excrement
 a critical half hour
 vulnerable
 but protected by color and distasteful stench

Capulation

Two days of virgin life
 female chooses male
 when near each other
 both jerk abdomen up and down and vigorously stroke
 antennae together

acceptance
 the nuptial walk
 side by side
 abdomens together
 male slips his abdomen under female
 ventral to ventral
 genitalia lock
 sperm swims to seminal receptacles of female
 sperm stored
 freed to fertilize eggs as layed

Adults fly in opposition
 break loose
 female abdomen swells with eggs

The swollen abdomen too heavy to carry alone
 the evening breeze lifts the awkward insect



By *Richard Sewell*

On Saturday, 3rd May, sixteen of us met at Thetis Park for a botany trip. Our leader was Katherine Sherman, and most valuable assistance was given by Therese Todd and Merle Harvey. It was an absolutely perfect day - brilliant sunshine with hardly any wind. At about 9:00 a.m. we started on our way up to the top of Mount Seymour (Therese has already been to the top and back to check that the flower name-boards were still in place).

Altogether we counted nearly a hundred different flowers, so this little report has to be confined to the most striking and the more uncommon. On the way up through the woods at the lower levels, there were many Calypsos (*C. Bulbosa*), some almost white. We also saw Beak Parsley (*Anthriscus candicina*), Purple Snake Root (*Sanicula Bipinnatifida*), Tall Bearberry (*Arcostaphylos Media*), and both Striped and Spotted Coral Root (*Corallorhiza Striata* and *C. Maculata*).

I had never before climbed Mount Seymour, and the view from the top was absolutely breath-taking. We searched vainly for Red Maids (*Caladrinia Ciliata*), but did find the tiny dainty little flowers of Baby Star (*Linanthus Bicolor*). Right at the top there were many Cancer Root (*Orobanche Uniflora*), the first I had ever seen.

To our great surprise, we were joined at the top by Eileen and Harry Davidson, who had come up by the Lewis Clark Trail. Merle, Lavender and I returned the way we had climbed up, while the others returned by the Clark Trail.

We had lunch at the bottom close to the Lake, sitting on the rocks in a small grassy clearing, surrounded by a blaze of colour - Sea Blush (*Plectritis Congesta*), Camas (*Camassia Quamash* and *C. Leichlinii*) and Spring Gold (*Lomatium Utriculatum*). While we were having lunch, we noted an osprey flying over. We also did some butterfly-watching - Swallowtails, Orangetips, Cabbage Whites and Columbia Blues. After lunch, the hardy ones that were left (the group was now down to eight) walked around Upper Thetis Lake. Many more flowers were seen, the best showing being Lyall's Anemone (*Anemone Lyallii*), which were still very deep pink in colour.

The day was not without interest to birders. Apart from the osprey which we hope will be nesting again, the Davidsons saw eagles, turkey vultures and red-tailed hawks on their way up the Clark Trail, and at the top of Mount Seymour, Harry spotted a chipping sparrow in a dead arbutus tree. At one point on our way up to the top, we saw a flock of 6 to 8 very noisy birds right at the top of a pine tree - probably crossbills, but difficult to say with certainty against the strong light. The thrill of the day for birders was near the parking lot at the upper lake, where two ravens were very cross indeed at the intrusion of a great horned owl. Not seen, but no mistaking the deep hoo, hoo-hoo.

A most beautiful and rewarding day, and the most sincere thanks of all of us to Katherine, Therese and Merle.

By *Elaine Goodman*

At the invitation of the Nanaimo Field Naturalists, members of naturalists' groups from Victoria, Duncan, Gabriola and other points on the Island, met in Port Alberni on April 12 and 13 to enjoy a ten-hour, 90-mile wilderness cruise down the Alberni Canal and around Barkley Sound to watch migrating gray whales.

This was an experience not to be missed. By mid-February these immense mammals, which grow to about 45 feet, start their annual migration from their southern breeding grounds in Baja, Mexico to the high Arctic.

The M.V. Lady Rose with about 80 eager naturalists aboard each day headed down the 22 miles of the beautiful Alberni Canal and cruised slowly through the breathtaking loveliness of the Broken Group Islands into the Pacific swell and slightly choppy waters of Barkley Sound. Bill McIntyre, naturalist for Pacific Rim National Park, was our very knowledgeable guide.

On Saturday, April 12 the sun shone, bald eagles soared overhead or sat high in the trees, Steller's and California sea lions and seals basked on some of the rocky islets, many familiar sea birds kept our binoculars busy and on our return trip up the canal, a black bear disappeared silently into the virgin forest as we cruised by in the golden evening sunlight.

The first gray whale blew as we emerged into the Sound and the Lady Rose changed course to approach almost alongside the huge creature. On this trip eight or ten gray whales were seen. First the spout from the blowhole on the whale's head, then an unbelievably long shadow lying just below the surface as the whale slowly rolled forward, partially lifting its great scarred back out of the water and finally its huge barnacle-covered tail. It was a truly awesome experience to see these magnificent primeval creatures in their natural habitat.

On Sunday, April 13 although no gray whales appeared, a large pod of about 25 killer whales was sighted near the entrance to the Sound. The largest of the dolphin family, these dramatic black and white creatures can grow to 35 feet. Another highlight on this day was a splendid view of an elephant seal which reared its head out of the water quite near the Lady Rose. These seals are rare in the area but it is hoped that a colony may be establishing itself.

Whales were revered by the Nootka Indians and occupy an important place in their art and culture. The grey whale was hunted only rarely and with great ceremony, unlike the commercial whalers of the past 100 years. These decimated the eastern Pacific herd until only a few hundred whales were left. Happily, since 1947, these creatures have been protected and the herd now numbers more than 13,000, the largest population of gray whales left in the world.

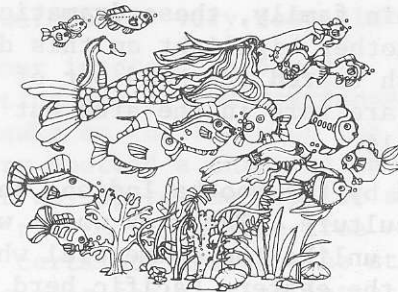
Barkley Sound is known as the grave-yard of the Pacific and the sites of more than 200 wrecks are known, which is the reason for the radar station we could see in the distance on Mount Ozzard near Ucluelet.

One beautiful little island we passed contains the ruins of a small Indian village, hidden in the trees. On the shore, we saw channels scooped out of the jagged rocks by the Indians in order to beach their canoes safely.

After the Saturday cruise, some of the Victoria group attended an operetta put on by the local Indian community. This was beautifully performed and costumed but played unfortunately to a very small audience.

At Englishman's Falls on our way home, Easter lilies tumbled down the sides of the gorge below the roaring Falls, while in the quiet woods above a varied thrush sang his high clear song. Picnicking later at Rath Trevor Beach, we saw a large flock of Black Brant and a glimpse of the osprey's nest on the Malahat was the climax of a fascinating and most satisfying weekend.

Very many thanks to the Nanaimo Field Naturalists and their president, Kim Goldberg, for organizing and asking us to join in such a splendid outing; it was great to meet so many of you. Our thanks, too, to Bill McIntyre, Captain R. McMinn and co-owner Captain J. Monrufet of the Lady Rose, and Bill Merilees, Vice-president of the FBCN, who all contributed so much to an unforgettable experience.



A VOLUNTEER FIELD WARDEN PROGRAM

A Program to Implement a Volunteer Field Warden Program for Ecological Reserves in B.C.

In September, 1979 the B.C. Government, under the Ecological Reserves Act, set aside approximately 85,000 hectares of land for the purpose of conserving some samples of our rich natural heritage. With only 2 permanent staff members, the Program is now experiencing difficulties with the management of the 96 reserves spread throughout the Province.

Volunteer wardens would assume both protective and educational roles in the reserves in their local areas.

It is recommended that this Program commence as soon as possible, with the appointment of an Ecological Reserves Warden Co-ordinator who will supervise the selection of 20-30 wardens throughout the Province's 7 Resource Management Regions.

It is recommended that wardens be given an initial training at the start of the Program, and kept in touch through a quarterly newsletter, telephone calls, visits by the Co-ordinator, and an annual workshop.

Also recommended that the Ministry undertake to reimburse the wardens for expenses incurred as a result of participation in the Program, e.g.: travel expenses, telephone expenses and postal expenses.

A 12-page explanation of the above Program may be had from the VNHS Librarian, A.R. Davidson (598-3088).

* * * * *

We, as members of a Natural History Society, should feel encouraged to take part in the protection of our natural heritage, which seems to be vanishing at an accelerating rate. How many of our old trails and places of beauty have you found closed in recent years? Or disappeared in a housing project?

The proposal to have volunteer wardens to protect what is left, and to help educate the public in appreciating that the health of future generations depends on what we salvage NOW, is long overdue. Let us hope there will be a good response to this proposal for Voluntary Wardens.

Merle Harvey

DIARY OF FEDERATION OF B.C. NATURALISTS
(at Nanoose Bay, May 4th to 10th, 1980.)

By Rosa Wood

Sunday, 4th

It was a beautiful warm, sunny day to establish ourselves in cabins for the week. During the afternoon, some hiked up Nanoose Hill, others explored the shore of the Bay and the Nanoose Estuary Wildlife Reserve - all near the camp.

Dinners in the evenings and breakfasts in the mornings were prepared for about 45 campers by Mrs. Eileen Briosi. We took the food to the tables when it was served and after the meals, did the cleaning up. Organized groups washed dishes, tables, and swept the floor, also set the tables for meals. The food for lunches was put on a table and we made our own to take with us on our daily outings.

In the evening, Bill Merilees, Camp Committee Chairman, outlined our activities for the week. He also let us know that at 9:45 p.m. each evening, Eileen would have a "mug-up" prepared for us in the cookhouse.

Monday, 5th

What a great start! Oh how the rain came down! We ignored it and carried on and later the weather cleared. We had a choice of places to go. Many headed for the Cowichan Lake Wildflower Reserve, Honeymoon Bay, Skutz Falls, Somenos Lake and the Cowichan Lake Experimental Station - Provincial Forest Reserve, under the guidance of Dave and Adele Routledge. Some explored Piper's Lagoon Park at Nanaimo and were guided through part of the Pacific Biological Station by Dick Isaacson.

In the evenings, we assembled in the Lodge, in front of the big fireplace. This evening Bill showed slides of the trip to Mittlenatch Island last year, along with some other interesting pictures.

Tuesday, 6th

It was a warm sunny day. We left camp under the guidance of Kim Goldberg to explore the Nanoose Estuary Wildlife Reserve. From there we drove about 3 miles to Nanoose Hill and hiked along the network of trails. The marvellous views from the top made it all worthwhile, along with the usual interests of flowers and birds. That evening, Dave showed slides of the Vancouver Island Marmot.

Wednesday, 7th

Up very early (it's for the birds) to go to Mittlenatch Island. It was a perfect day for the trip and we were out on the highway at 7:00 a.m. under the guidance of Jerry McPetridge. We arrived at Campbell River at

9:00 a.m., parked our cars and boarded Doug Morton's cabin cruiser "Hostess" for the hour-and-a-quarter ride to the Island, situated at the north end of Georgia Strait. Mittlenatch Island Nature Park has a total area of 88 acres comprised of a rocky area of about 81 acres (maximum height above sea level 178 feet), and meadowland covering about 7 acres. A few lodge-pole pines and many flowers can be seen here - among them Easter lilies, camas, blue-eyed grass, rein orchids, tiger lilies, chocolate lilies and cactus. One may see 30 species of birds in a day and 60 in a summer. Those most prevalent at nesting time - glaucous-winged gulls, pelagic cormorants, pigeon guillemots, also some black oystercatchers.

After spending about 4 hours on the Island, we returned to the Bay where we had been brought ashore. Captain Morton collected us in his small boat - 7 at a time - and took us to "Hostess" anchored in Southeast Bay. On board, we were served coffee, sandwiches and cookies, before leaving at 3:30 p.m. We arrived back in camp about 7:10 p.m. Later, by the fireplace, Neil Dawe showed us slides of the Little Qualicum Estuary.

Thursday, 8th

Up early again to catch the 9:00 a.m. ferry to Denman Island - then on to Helliwell Park and Tribune Bay on Hornby Island, under the guidance of Diana Thompson. Her knowledge and delivery of information left us wishing that I had a tape recorder. We went through Helliwell Park to the southern cliffs along which we intended to hike. However, the wind and rain came with such force most of us retreated back through the timber to the northern part of the Park. We then drove to Tribune Bay Park for a short while, wandered along the beach and looked at the strange formations in sandstone. We left Hornby Island on the 4:00 p.m. ferry.

It was discovered that we had some real entertainers in the group - Ron Seaborn, who could really make that old piano come alive, and some good singers to lead the rest of us. So this evening, beside the fireplace, we had a real old-time sing-song.

Friday, 9th

We divided into 2 groups, both going to the same places but at different times. Neil Dawe guided us through the Little Qualicum Estuary. After lunch, Jerry McPetridge took us to Spider Lake where we explored for a while before going back to the Department of Fisheries Big Qualicum River Development Project - most interesting even at this time of year. In the evening, another sing-song in front of the fireplace.

Saturday, 10th

The big clean up! Then we packed up and went our separate ways with memories of a pleasant time together.

THE OREGON TRIP - MAY 1980

By Merle Harvey

It all started with the enthusiasm of Kaye and Dennis Suttill communicated to Charlie Trotter and others at the Tuesday Group, and developed into a full-sized tour round Oregon, thanks to B.C. Travel and a lot of hard work by the organizers.

Charlie was in charge, Vera Guernsey and Bill Sendall listed the birds seen (174 species). Betty Lothian and Rita Dickson are writing up about the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. Margery Ketcham is doing the same about Klamath area. Ruth and Archie Morrison are to describe the Coast. Jessie Woollett and others took photographs. And as co-editors, Margery and Merle scribbled non-stop throughout the trip. Ena Phillips is to describe our tour round the Myrtle wood factory.

We went south by the Hood Canal, and between Chehalis and Kelso, we saw the steam and ash belching out of Mount St. Helens with a red tinge reflected in the clouds above it. It erupted 3 days later.

First night in Vancouver, Wash., then along the north side of the Columbia Gorge; crossed by the Bridge of the Gods and had lunch in the Timberline Lodge among the snow and skiers.

On to Malheur Wildlife Refuge (many tales to tell about this) and desert heat; marvellous guide Stuart Croghan; marvellous bus driver Larry Clark taking us along the narrow roadways; marvellous birding; and evening strolls among the sagebrush, listening to the meadowlarks singing and the "pill-will-willet" and coyotes, in the still air.

Then to Klamath Falls - very hot walk among shrubs beside the Link River (birds, flowers, and 10 species butterflies) then the temperature dropped suddenly from 86 to 32 degrees and hail showers rattled down.

Mist and hail at Crater Lake was disappointing as we did not see the true blue of the Lake, but to make up, we had the most beautiful drive over a pass through forest trees covered in 3 inches of snow, weighing down the cedar branches and making an unforgettable picture of the Garry Oaks snow-covered.

Into California briefly to Tule Lake and had a very pleasant and informative guide in Jeff Fleishman. Then on to the Lava Beds and Caves and had our picnic lunch in the tiny Centre while hail showers fell. Who minded? Not us. When it cleared, some took tin hats and lanterns and went down into the caves while the rest birded or looked for flowers.

We had a guided tour round the Myrtlewood Craft Factory and also Tillamook Cheese Factory. (Delicious ice-cream sold here!)

At Florence, the rhododendrons reached up almost to the Power Lines and were covered in blooms. An evening walk in the damp, fragrant air, with a Swainson's Thrush singing, was memorable. And near here we walked in the Darlingtonia Gardens, full of azaleas and other shrubs and, of course, the Darlingtonias - insect-eating plants.

The Coast was misty, but the waves breaking all along the sand, and the beautiful scenery, and the stacks with nesting birds, and walks during our first full day out of the bus, and the quaint town of Cannon Beach (kept "antique" and "different") and all the "chef" meals that were so incredible to find in these tiny places - these made a memorable return north.

Owing to Mt. St. Helen ash on the roads, our route was changed, but we did go through a stretch which had Larry anxious about his bus. Grey ash could be seen on the backs of cattle; house roofs, trees and bushes.

The Columbia River was a sad sight all silted up, and ships waiting to have a passage dredged through to Portland.

I know all 31 of us, plus Larry, and Jim Robertson our courier, (and did he have a hard time changing his ideas about a bunch of tourists to a bunch of mad birders) all enjoyed the entire trip and would do it all over again.

We are writing a fuller report with sketches and photographs and comments to make an album to hand round later.

"TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED"

By Anne Knowles

An amusing incident was told to me about Red-necked Grebes on Gardom Lake, in the Salmon Arm area.

There are at least half a dozen nesting pairs of grebes as well as many other birds here. While on a walk, my friend watched a pair of grebes making a lovely nest of old rushes and new weeds, all very wet but well built up and floating on the water. About an hour later they returned to find a pair of mallards trying out the nest for size and of course, sinking it! Suddenly, one of the grebes reappeared, and coming up behind, the busy mallard on the nest, gave it a poke with its long bill! The mallard, with a started quack, left. But the grebe was not satisfied. He dived and came up under the floating duck, giving it another poke which sent the pair well away from the grebes' nest.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, CASTLEGAR, B.C.

MAY 16, 17, 18, 1980

This meeting was held at Selkirk College with the West Kootenay Naturalists Association as the host club. There was a good attendance of naturalists from many parts of the Province, and a particularly good attendance by representatives of the government departments concerned with parks, wildlife, and the environment. Selkirk College proved to be an excellent location for the meeting, with ample lobby space for registration, coffee and milling around, and a capacious meeting room adjacent. The cafeteria was available for Saturday's lunch.

On Friday afternoon, after a tour of the Selkirk College information displays and Biology Department, there was a Panel Discussion chaired by Nancy Anderson, with a total of eleven representatives from Provincial and Federal Departments, Ducks Unlimited and B.C. Wildlife Federation. Each representative spoke briefly and then there was a question period with a wide-ranging discussion of many issues of interest to the naturalists present.

On Friday evening, there was an illustrated talk on the West Kootenay, followed by a coffee party and social hour.

On Saturday morning, an early morning bird walk was followed at 9:00 a.m. by the Annual Business Meeting of the Federation with reports from the various officers and Committee Chairmen. The Treasurer's report stressed the precarious financial situation of the Federation and led to considerable discussion. A number of motions were passed to be implemented if necessary:

- (1) Club membership dues to be \$2.00 per year, beginning with those payable in 1981.
- (2) Individual memberships to be \$10.00 per year with suitable increases in other categories.
- (3) The Board of Directors were instructed to seek grants from government sources where this is possible without prejudicing our independence.
- (4) A vigorous campaign to be carried out for voluntary contributions.

There was considerable discussion about the "B.C. Naturalist", the first issue of which was distributed at the meeting. The original proposal was that this magazine, after the first mailing to all members,

would be mailed only to individual members with a limited number of copies available to the clubs for distribution. This procedure was vigorously questioned and it seems possible that the low cost of additional copies may permit a larger distribution to the clubs. Cost of the new magazine is less than the previous newsletter.

A revised Constitution and By-Laws was presented to the meeting by the Constitution Committee and a lengthy discussion ensued. The meeting gave a number of instructions to the committee, which is to present a final revised edition at the fall meeting of the Federation.

There was considerable discussion of the role of the regions in the FBCN organization. The three largest regions expressed a desire to continue to operate as regions.

The meeting considered and endorsed a number of resolutions on subjects of interest which can be listed at some future date.

The Annual Banquet on Saturday night, chaired by Bill Merilees, was attended by over a hundred people. The Honorary President of the Federation, Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan, gave a most interesting address on "The Rights of Native Peoples in the Management of Wildlife Resources".

The Elton Anderson Award was not awarded this year. Two Club Service Awards were made, one of which went to Nancy Anderson.

Sunday was a day of field trips which included West Kootenay Wildflowers, sightseeing to the Keenleyside Dam, the Rossland Mine Museum and Bird Life at Ward and Saddle Lakes at Grand Forks.

Perhaps the most popular field trip was to the Creston Valley Wildlife Centre returning to Castlegar via the Kootenay Lake Ferry and the Kokanee Creek Visitors' Centre.

On the whole, it was a very interesting Annual Meeting and the West Kootenay Naturalists Association deserves high praise for their excellent arrangements.

Doug Turnbull, Representative of Victoria Natural History Society



EDITORIAL

It is with great regret that we record the resignation of Mrs. Jean Rimmington, our Society Secretary. She has helped in the smooth running of the Society for seven years. Mrs. Alice Elston has been able to replace Jean, and we welcome her onto the Board of Directors and wish her a pleasant term of office.

Four new members were elected to the Board at the Annual General Meeting - Mrs. Anne Knowles, G.W. Calvert, C.A. Trotter and M.G. Shepard. New officials have also been appointed (see inside front cover).

Victor Macgregor has been elected to the Francis Park Board.

Is there anyone you know that will serve the Society as Leader of the Juniors?

The Marmot Outing for May 31 was cancelled owing to snow at the habitat. Instead it will take place on Sunday, July 6 - see Program. The Nanaimo N.H.S. is looking for voluntary weekend help to protect the marmots from shooting and other disturbances. Phone Bill Barkley (477-3253) if interested.

The next F.B.C.N. Regional Meeting will be in September, at Campbell River. Date and place will be in the next issue of the "Naturalist".

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, September 9, Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00 p.m. Anyone who has not paid up by that date will not receive further copies of the "Naturalist".

Barbara Chapman Memorial - there were 3 applications for this prize which the judges awarded to Mark Wynja, Vancouver N.H.S. just before his 18th birthday. Congratulations, Mark.

A travelling show of Indian artifacts, called "Legacy", was so successful that the Edinburgh Festival has requested it for next summer and will house it as the first exhibition in their new cultural museum. Mrs. Ross of the Provincial Museum will take it to Scotland.

Our new Editor, Mrs. Margery Ketcham, will start with the September issue of the "Naturalist". DEADLINE - August 1st. Please send your articles to her and give her the backing that I have enjoyed from so many members.

NOTICES

The Canadian Wildlife Service gives notice of a Meeting in Victoria February 19-22 next year. The subject will be the Seventh Trumpeter Swan Meeting. For more information, write to: R. McKelvey, Box 340, Delta, B.C., V4K 3Y3.

A \$2,350 grant from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund has been given to the Vancouver N.H.S.; Alpine Garden Club of B.C.; and the FBCN in Vancouver. The clubs will use the money to print and distribute 10,000 posters depicting the threatened native species of B.C. and their habitat.

The P.C.N. Fund provides individuals and organizations in the Province with a total of \$50,000 a year for worthwhile conservation projects. For further information, contact: Chris Dodd, Fish and Wildlife Branch (387-1493).

At the General Meeting on 8th April, the members present agreed to set up a Conservation Project Fund in the accounts of the Society, giving authorization to place in this Fund at the end of each fiscal year, any funds which the Directors consider surplus to the current requirements of the Nehring and Audubon Accounts. The monies from this C.P. Fund would be used to defray the expenses of conservation projects as authorized by the Board of Directors, and reported to the members from time to time.

NEWS FROM JOHANNESBURG

Four penguins have turned up on their island home off the South African Coast after swimming 500 miles guided by the stars and the sun, to the astonishment of marine biologists.

Mr. Rod Randall, of Port Elizabeth University's Zoological Department, said that what is even more amazing is that they had a swim of nearly 30 miles per day on average to do it.

The four tiny Jackass Penguins (they are an endangered species) were among 130 birds airlifted to Cape Town in July 1979, after their small island rookery off Port Elizabeth was swamped by an oil slick. Those slicks are common along the South African coast caused by the 200 tankers that on average round the Cape of Good Hope each day. Much seabird and marine life has been destroyed in recent years.

At Cape Town, the penguins were treated at an oil-cleaning station run by a conservation organization, and on August 18th the now famous four, with 16 others, were put back into the water with rings on their flippers. No mention was made of the fate of the other 12 birds.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

From Peggy Goodwill

<u>NO.</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AREA SEEN</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>
<u>APRIL</u>				
1	Townsend's Solitaire	4	Thetis Lake Park	Mary Warren
9	Gray Jays	4	Weeks Lake	Rick West
2	Ruffed Grouse	4	Weeks Lake	Rick West
1	Rough-winged Swallow	6	Beaver Lake	R. Satterfield
2	Water Pipits	8	Blythwood Road	L. G. Roberts
1	Nashville Warbler	13	517 Witty Beach Rd.	M. & V. Goodwill
2	Mountain Bluebirds	15	Mount Douglas	N. Diverens
2	Red Crossbills	16	Metchosin Lagoon	Mike Shepard
1	Yellow-headed Blackbird	17	Victoria Golf Course	R. Satterfield
1	Hammond's Flycatcher	20	Beaver Lake Park	Mike Shepard
1	Pine Grosbeak	21	Keating Cross Road	Nancy Lovett
3	Purple Martins	23	Woodridge Place	E. & A.R. Davidson
1	Green Heron	25	Quick's Bottom	R. Satterfield
<u>MAY</u>				
1	Least Flycatcher	4	Triangle Mountain	Jeff Gaskin
1	Northern Oriole	12	Penrhyn Street	R. Mackenzie-Grieve
2	Vaux Swift	12	2425 Alpine Crescent	Anne Knowles
1	Willet	13	Coburg Peninsula	V. Goodwill
1	Am. Golden Plover	19	Whiffen Spit	R. Satterfield
1	Wagtail sp.	19	Whiffen Spit	R. Satterfield
2	Sandhill Cranes	21	Whiffen Spit	V. Goodwill
1	Barred Owl	23	Piedmont Drive	Mike Shepard
6	Northern Phalaropes	24	Clover Point	Mike Shepard
1	Western Kingbird	25	Rithet's Bog	Dr.G.F. Houston
1	Franklin's Gull	26	Clover Point	R. Satterfield
13	Black Swifts	28	Finlayson Point	R. Satterfield
2	Hammond's Flycatchers	28	Saanich Highlands	Mike Shepard
3	Wilson's Phalaropes	29	Ascot Pond	R. Satterfield
1	Pomerine Jaeger	31	Clover Point	R. Satterfield
7	Cedar Waxwings	31	Uplands Park	E. & A.R. Davidson

BIRD ALERT - 478-8534

It would be helpful if, when you see anything unusual or of interest, you phone 478-9715 right away, so others may see it, too. This is what the "Alert" is for.



PROGRAM - JULY/AUGUST

SUN. JULY 6

MARMOT FIELD TRIP: Leader - Dave Routledge. Limited to 30 persons. Phone Mary Lou Florian for details (386-8263). Meet at Green Mountain Turnoff at 9:00 a.m. (Road paved to last 1/4 mile).

SAT. JULY 12

WHIFFEN SPIT: Seaweeds. Meet Mayfair Lanes 8:00 a.m. Leader announced later.

SAT. JULY 19

HURRICANE RIDGE. Leader Merle Harvey (477-9634). Cost of \$21.00 covers bus and ferry fares. Meet Greyline Bus Mayfair Lanes 5:30 a.m. (for 6:30 Port Angeles Ferry). Cars may be left all day here. Bus will be available for resting, etc. at Lodge all day. Return 5:30 p.m. ferry. Arrive Mayfair Lanes 7:05 p.m.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE "VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY" and send to Merle Harvey, 1738 Schellenberg Place, Victoria, B.C., V8N 5H7, as soon as possible to reserve seat. At time of going to press, seats all booked and names already on a Waiting List in hope of cancellations.

SUN. JULY 27

GOLDSTREAM: Botany. Leaders Katherine Sherman and Terese Todd. Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. or at Goldstream Picnic Area, 9:30.

SUN. AUG. 3

HERITAGE TREES: Mrs. Virginia Bartkow, (478-5320). Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m.

SAT. AUG. 16

JORDAN MEADOWS: Leader Stephen Mitchell (477-9248). Meet Mayfair Lanes 8:30 a.m. Details from Charlie Trotter (477-4365).

SUN. AUG. 24

BIRDING DAY TRIP: Leader Harold Hosford (387-3288). Marshall Stevenson Wildlife Area, Nanaimo. Meet Mayfair Lanes 8:00 a.m. or at Marshall Stevenson Headquarters, 11:00 a.m.

Always take a lunch, and if wet, gumboots or strong shoes.

Check with Alert (478-8534) in case of change.

Mayfair Lanes is at the corner of Oak and Roderick, by Bowling Alley.

(Possibility of "Salmon Run" later).