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at the above address.*

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

Please forward fees to Membership Chairman at the above address.

NOTICE TO MEMBER SUBSCRIBERS

Those members who do not receive their magazine in reasonable time, please
contact Phoebe Williamson at 598-1091. If the delay is caused by anything
other than slow postal delivery, she is in the best position to straighten
it out in the least time.

Thanks - Jean D. McInnis, Membership

*The Victoria Natural History Society wishes to send best wishes to our
former editor, Merle Harvey, who has been ill and unable to attend our
meetings and field trips.*

*We miss you, Merle, and are so glad to hear you are feeling better. Hope
you'll improve right along and that you'll soon be with us again, happy
and strong.*

Love from all the Members,

*Marjorie Ketcham, Editor
Marjorie Elston, Asst. Editor*

*Do come and let us meet you. Be at our next General Meeting, on Tuesday,
March 10th at 8:00 p.m. and come join us on our next field trips and
programs. You'll find them exciting, interesting and friendly.*

SNOWY OWL (Nyctea Scandiaca)

As November crept into December, the possibility of seeing a Snowy Owl was renewed for another season. Snowy Owls are normally found in the northern tundra where they feed mainly on Lemmings. When the annual Lemming population drops, a large number of the Owls wander south in search of food. It is when the owls wander that many Victorians get a chance to see these magnificent birds.

The last large invasion of Snowy Owls was in the Winter of 1973-74 when many were sighted in various situations such as sitting on roofs, chimneys, telephone poles, fence posts, and even on the ground. The Winter of 1980-81 also saw a fairly large invasion of these birds. By the end of December and the beginning of January, reported sightings were almost a daily occurrence. One particular Snowy Owl, for several weeks, was a regular visitor to a mound of dirt in a field near Sidney.

The Snowy Owl, measuring an average of twenty inches in height and weighing approximately three pounds, would often go unnoticed if it were not for the crows that so often pester it with relentless furor. A flock of mobbing crows is an excellent indication that a Snowy Owl, or any owl for that matter, is near. This is, in fact, how the Snowy Owl pictured on the cover alerted the attention of Rosemary Love, who spotted the bird sitting on the roof of a Gordon Head house. This particular bird is an immature female because of its very dark markings. An immature male would be slightly lighter and smaller in size. Adult birds on the other hand are not as heavily barred, with the male very often being almost totally white.

The crows were fearless, often coming within inches of the owl's head. The owl, however, was too slow to even attempt an attack. Instead it simply sat and watched its tormentors, having to duck occasionally to avoid a diving crow.

One of the great misconceptions about the Snowy Owl is that they starve to death when they venture south. Many are probably shot by trophy hunters who feel the owl should be shot since it is going to die anyway. Although many Snowy Owls are killed by automobiles or power lines, a much greater portion feed very comfortably on ducks and other water fowl which occur in such large concentrations in the winter.

COVER

SNOWY OWL by Mark Nyhof

During the Arctic Summer, many Snowy Owls feed readily on migratory water fowl rather than Lemmings. Some owls even continue to feed on water fowl well into the Fall and are drawn south as the migratory birds leave the North. This probably accounts for the small migrations which occur annually even during good Lemming years.

As Spring nears the Snowy Owls move back to their northern nesting grounds. Another infiltration of Snowy Owls is over but for the many who were lucky enough to see these magnificent birds, the memories will surely be long-lived.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors will present a motion to increase fees at the General Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 10th. The proposed revisions are: FAMILY - \$12.00; REGULAR - \$9.00; GOLDEN AGE - \$8.00; JUNIORS unchanged.

SOCIALISING AT OUR GENERAL MEETINGS

Unless you're dead tired, or have a book that must be finished, please don't hurry into the Auditorium the moment you arrive for our General Meetings. There's a large foyer at the Newcombe, so why not come early and fraternize, renewing old acquaintances and meeting the newer members. (Too bad we can't offer coffee, but) there'll be a number of seasoned members (duly labelled) acting as hosts and hostesses. (Even if you don't go into the Auditorium until 7:59 p.m., you will still be able to sit in your favourite seat!)

Katherine Sherman

BOTANY NIGHT, NEW FOR 1981

by Mary-Lou Florian

Starting in February '81, a monthly "Botany Night" is planned for members. This is intended as an informal forum to present and exchange ideas, information, experiences regarding local plant-life, and to become involved. The leader for the first four sessions (Feb.-May) is Leon Pavlick who invites the involvement of those interested in spring wild-flowers on southern Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands (and Olympic Peninsula?). Some points for exchange are what kinds of spring wild-flowers, their flowering times, how to know them, where to see them, etc.

Newcomers might find that this will serve as an introductory workshop to the local flora. Meeting place: Swan Lake Nature Centre, at 8:00 P.M. Thursday, March 5th and Thurs. April 2nd.

A BOTANY NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Dr. Chris Brayshaw, Botanist with the B.C. Provincial Museum, gave an enlightening program on the structural adaptation to an aquatic environment of many of the common plants in Victoria.

The lecture was illustrated with slides of many of Dr. Brayshaw's beautiful pen drawings of these plants. The illustrations are for a forthcoming B.C. Provincial Museum scientific publication on aquatic plants.

Dr. Brayshaw made us all think about the different needs of plants in aquatic and terrestrial environments. What are some of the adaptations seen in submerged or amphibious plants? In the leaves alone there are many. Air spores for buoyancy such as in the floating leaves of Yellow Pond Lily or Arrow Grass. The flexible leaves of the Pondweeds and the Bur-reed which allow free movements with the water. Look how beautifully the Eel Grass moves with the waves. The fine hair-like leaves of the Western Water Milfoil, which offers an extensive surface area for absorption of gases. There is about 1/40 the amount of gases in water than in air.

The solutions to the problem of fertilization of the flower are varied and unique in the water environment. Dr. Brayshaw told us of canoeing on a stream covered with minute buttercup-like male flowers of the Water Crowfoot. The male flowers float into a female flower by chance for fertilization.

Aquatic free-floating plants no longer need roots. Most of us are familiar with the Duckweed, which is essentially only floating leaves.

There were other secrets of plant adaptation that Dr. Brayshaw revealed. Those 25 who attended the program I am sure will all be looking eagerly for these in their next trip to aquatic environments.

Many thanks to Dr. Chris Brayshaw.

BIRDING TRIP TO SOOKE*by D. Scott Slocombe*

It was with some trepidation that Don Carruthers and I agreed to lead the birder's trip on Saturday, November 15th. Although the weather was none too encouraging when we met at Mayfair Lanes (it never did start to rain), we set off at 9:00 a.m. and arrived in Sooke an hour later.

Our first, quick stop was at the Sooke River which we looked down upon from the side of the highway. There we saw a Bald Eagle, a great Blue Heron, Juncoes and some of the common ducks, but nothing of great interest, so we moved on, without further ado, to Whiffen Spit.

We had no sooner got out of our cars when a Peregrine Falcon was spotted in a nearby tree. He remained for some time and eventually flew out to sea, diving on some ducks as he went. Walking along Whiffen Spit, we saw: a Snow Bunting which caused a stir, Savannah Sparrows, California Gulls, Common Goldeneye, Common Scoters, a Marbled Murrelet, a Pigeon Guillemot, Golden-crowned Sparrows and others. Lunch was eagerly consumed by all present before we left Whiffen Spit and moved on to Billings Spit (or Point).

Here, we again were lucky: one of the first birds to be seen was an European Wigeon. As well, a family of Mute Swans, a Steller's Jay, several Gadwall, Green-winged Teal and other small birds brought themselves to our attention.

Altogether, we saw 42 species of birds, from the Killdeer that flew over at Mayfair to the last glimpse of the Steller's Jay at Billings Point. The only thing the day lacked, for me at least, was a bit of sunshine.

TOM McMILLAN, ENVIRONMENT CRITIC*by Marjorie Elston*

The role of an environmental critic is a very sensitive one, even involving members of his own party as it trespasses on the territory of other critics, as there are very few portfolios in the House of Commons that do not involve the environment. It is an educational role both for the critic and other MP's. But his role as a critic is not just to criticize but also to work together with the other parties, on issues such as acid rain. Acid rain results when oxides of sulphur

and nitrogen, from industries, combine with water in the atmosphere to form weak sulphuric and nitric acid. The build-up of these acids kills fish and other aquatic life creating "dead" lakes, a very serious problem in Ontario.

Tom McMillan said that both the Federal and Provincial Governments seem hell-bent on exploiting our raw resources for a fast buck. In his opinion, the ideal situation for development in Canada would be to tally both the benefits and costs of the project in relation to the community and if "high costs, why encourage development". The conservation of the environment and habitat of animal and plant life is imperative as once gone, they cannot be replaced. One problem, according to Mr. McMillan, is the politicians themselves, who are short-term oriented and can't see beyond the deadline for the next election, and the result is the environment is sacrificed for electoral expediency.

Another area is to re-educate the public from a "consumer" to a "conserver" of the environment. We, the general public, must keep actively concerned and involved with the environment to protect it and to keep our politicians informed, both in Ottawa and Victoria.

Mr. Tom McMillan is a Conservative MP for Hillsborough, P.E.I. and their environment critic.

COWICHAN BIRDS - OCTOBER 18, 1980*by Bill Sendall*

A day's respite from the previous gusty, cold, rainy weeks was our good fortune as 35 birders met at Cowichan Bay. As we walked down the industrial road we were disappointed at the lack of waterfowl, but soon realized the reason lay in the fact that we chose to come in the middle of hunting season. In spite of this, some of the more 'inedible' species of ducks were seen, in addition to most of the usual more common smaller birds. Steller's Jays made an appearance, a late Savannah Sparrow, Cedar Waxwings, Snipe, Water Pipits, a Marsh Hawk and a Northern Shrike were some of the other notables.

As one walks through this controversial estuary, long the target of industrial expansionism, one is worried and apprehensive. Worried that the mounting environmental efforts will somehow, in the end, fail. The pressure is great on both sides and we can only hope that the stamina of the conservationists will prevail, as the delicate ecology of this area could not long withstand the demands that the logging industry would want to make upon it.

In searching with the scope far out into the bay for more seabirds, we were amazed to see many dozens of very large salmon leaping clear of the water. These would be fish preparing to ascend the local rivers to spawn.

A cold sandwich and a hot coffee prepared us for a memorable sight at the Duncan holding ponds in the form of over 100 Wood Ducks. Perhaps in an effort to avoid the blazing guns in other parts of the Valley, over 2500 birds of all species had found a refuge here. As well as the unforgettable Wood Ducks were Canvasbacks, Shoveler, Bufflehead, Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Scaup, Western Grebe, Coot, Mallard and various gulls including Glaucous-winged, Mew, California and Bonaparte.

Cowichan Bay with its most valuable and unique estuary is an outdoor place for all reasons in all seasons. Let us make sure we do not lose it.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Mrs. Rita Sparling

There are people who seem to scorn scientific names. I write in their defence. From prehistoric times, animals and plants and people had names. Stopping there for a moment: names used by people have an interesting history too. Practically all surnames date from the 14th Century when the feudal system was changing and property deeds became necessary. But nowadays, there are few changes in the Western World.

The students of animal and plant life "managed" for many years, which meant that strange systems evolved, becoming more and more complicated. Finally, in the 18th Century, the Swedish botanist Carlos Linnaeus (1707-1778) worked out a system that eventually brought order out of chaos first in botany, then in many other fields. It was not until 1892 that an international system for naming fish was accepted officially, acknowledging that it was based on the Linnaeus system.

It would be too lengthy to set out the great diversions of scientific plotting from primates in animals to insectivora. What I have in mind is the final classification of, say, Lynn Hancock's Gibbon which has a species name, *Hylobatus*, then a variety name "bar". To ask what is the Latin name is not correct, though it may be most of the time. For Greek and occasionally other languages were used.

VICTORIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Difficult as some may seem, there is more than classification involved, especially in variety names. For example, *Zalophus californianus*. That in any zoo in the world is a California Seal. Another example is the *Charadrius fuscifrons* - easily understood by anyone who ever heard a Killdeer. Also, the variety name is frequently bestowed as an honour such as *Cynocitta stelleri*, our Steller's Jay. I read recently that to have one's name used without a capital is always an honour. I think there are some less honourable than others.

When one finds that *Argrope aurantia* indicates a very ordinary spider, it would seem that whoever did the naming enjoyed being difficult. But not all scientific names ignore the popular names. One example is the rose. *Rosa pisocarpa* is one of the common ones in B.C., but *Rosa* is also the common name in France, Italy and Spain.

We all use scientific names more than perhaps we realize. *Junco* is the species name. So is *Vireo* and *Anemone* and *Orchis* and *Saxifrage*. But thank goodness no-one wants us to use *Jaxacum officinale* for a dandelion or *Lophodytes cucullatus* for a Hooded Merganser. It could submerge before we got it said.

This must not sound as if all is completely harmonious around the world, for even yet the European and American ornithologists used differences, especially for the variety names. But the systems are useful. My own slight proof of that is a pleasure to remember. Many years ago our Russian neighbour had a visitor, a Russian botanist; though neither had a word of the other's language, he and I made a pleasant botany trip with nods and smiles and -- scientific names. Most of those were species names, then I'd (usually) be able to tell him our variety different from the ones he knew in Russia.

Once in a while, I have met people who prefer to use only scientific names instead of the pleasant local ones. To me that is not to be encouraged, for the value in the classifications is for reference, not popular usage.

MYRTLE C. MELBURN -- AN APPRECIATION

by Terese Todd

The recent death of Myrtle C. Melburn has left a great void in the field of natural history in Victoria, particularly in botany.

Miss Melburn came to Victoria thirty years ago when she decided to take early retirement from teaching Nature Science at Hopewell

School and the Museum in Ottawa, her astute business sense having convinced her that there was a better financial future in investments rather than in teaching. It was her intention to relax and play golf, but it was not a part of her nature to remain idle and she soon abandoned the golf when, as she said, "I found myself looking at flowers instead of the ball". She became involved with the Victoria Natural History Society and was the leader of the summer botany outings for fifteen years. When plans were made for the formation of the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association, she became a charter member and served as Secretary-Treasurer for twenty years. During this time, she compiled an ever-expanding list of lichens, ferns and fern allies, and flowering plants of the Thetis Lake area. Her passionate love for Thetis led to many unflinching battles for its protection from those who wished to desecrate it and it was largely due to her persistence that the cairn, with its dial to indicate the surrounding mountains, was finally constructed, she herself taking an active part in helping to carry up water and rocks.

Another project at Thetis was the annual labelling of spring plants, something that was most appreciated by those visitors who were unfamiliar with the local flora. She continued to do this, with the aid of volunteers, until at the age of ninety, she could no longer climb the hill.

It is because of her keen interest in botany that Miss Melburn will be best remembered by those of us who were fortunate enough to have benefited from her extraordinary teaching ability and her eagerness to share her knowledge with us. Her happiest moments were spent searching for new species of plants or "running down" those that were brought to her for identification. To those who showed an interest in botany, she went to a great deal of effort to kindle that interest, wishing to pass on the pleasure that her love of flowers had brought to her life. The Provincial Museum is indeed fortunate to benefit from the gift of her herbarium and one need only leaf through their publication "Flora of the Saanich Peninsula" to realize the extent of her contribution to the botanical history of our area.

Miss Melburn's passing is deeply regretted and our sincere sympathy goes out to her dear friend and companion, Jo Brenton.

VICTORIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
DECEMBER 20, 1980

1980 was a year of change for the Victoria Christmas Count. Boundaries of the sub-regions were altered and the number of areas increased from 12 to 23. Despite the third year in a row of sub-standard weather, we managed to tally 128 species. Outstanding among these were BLUE-WINGED TEAL (new), GYRFALCON (third record), ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (third record), and TOWNSEND'S WARBLER (third record). All-time highs were noted for 18 species and all-time lows for three. The lack of SKYLARKS was surprising, as large numbers were present only a few weeks before the Count.

More people took part than ever before: 109 compared to 87 in 1979. Area coverage and effort was improved with party hours increasing to 223.5 from 177.5 the previous year.

The post-count gathering was held at the Garth Homer Achievement Centre.

I would like to thank all participants, especially area leaders, and the volunteers who helped at the post-count gathering.

Mike Shepard, Count Co-ordinator

COUNT AREAS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Butchart Gardens - Northern Highlands | 13. University-Cadboro Bay |
| 2. Central Highlands | 14. Ten Mile Point-Arbutus Rd. |
| 3. Goldstream-Finlayson Arm | 15. Gordon Head-Mount Douglas |
| 4. Thetis Lake-Hastings Flats | 16. Swan Lake-Cedar Hill |
| 5. Langford Lake | 17. Blenkinsop Lake-Panama Flats |
| 6. Albert Head-Triangle Mountain | 18. Elk Lake-Cordova Bay |
| 7. Esquimalt Lagoon-Mill Hill | 19. Prospect Lake-Quick's Bottom |
| 8. Esquimalt Harbour | 20. Martindale-Bear Hill |
| 9. Portage Inlet - The Gorge | 21. Zero Rock |
| 10. Victoria Harbour | 22. Chain Islets |
| 11. Beacon Hill Park-Ross Bay | 23. Juan de Fuca |
| 12. Oak Bay | |



VICTORIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
DECEMBER 30, 1980

	1	2	3&5	4	6	7	8	9
Common Loon	1	-	3	-	12	21	15	-
Arctic Loon	-	-	-	-	6	6	2	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-
loon sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	1	-	8	-	2	1	54	-
Horned Grebe	14	-	2	-	3	37	47	-
Western Grebe	-	-	1	-	24	1152	51	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	17	2	-	2	-	5
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	17	-	14	40	8	51
Brandt's Cormorant	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Pelagic Cormorant	-	-	-	-	6	20	133	1
cormorant sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	1	-	4	1	7	22	12	8
Mute Swan	-	-	4	-	-	5	-	5
Whistling Swan	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
swan sp.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	50	-	-	-	2	16	-	121
Mallard	457	5	224	168	76	153	45	91
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pintail	14	-	44	80	6	8	-	17
Green-winged Teal	1	-	181	23	11	1	12	65
Blue-winged Teal	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Wigeon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
American Wigeon	195	4	384	152	193	150	2	320
Northern Shoveler	-	-	17	2	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	32	3	24	11	-	2	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	45
Greater Scaup	-	-	4	-	-	17	4	185
Lesser Scaup	-	-	4	-	-	68	-	-
scaup sp.	4	-	-	-	4	-	1	-
Common Goldeneye	4	-	45	-	20	33	59	2
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	32	-	-	3	15	-
goldeneye sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	4	4	55	62	117	118	120	328
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	-	7	2	31	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	3	14	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	9	-	2	172	2	1
Surf Scoter	-	-	29	-	28	149	19	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Common Loon	4	4	3	3	3	11	-	-
Arctic Loon	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-
Red-throated Loon	-	4	5	2	-	11	-	-
loon sp.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	62	2	43	-	8	3	-	-
Horned Grebe	35	50	36	16	29	77	-	-
Western Grebe	11	60	24	-	-	17	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Double-crested Cormorant	9	2	2	-	10	4	7	2
Brandt's Cormorant	-	-	-	-	6	12	-	-
Pelagic Cormorant	55	29	60	13	33	17	-	-
cormorant sp.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	-	1	3	1	1	2	3	-
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whistling Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
swan sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
Mallard	58	608	94	70	112	45	81	336
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	73	93
Green-winged Teal	-	4	-	3	-	-	68	16
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Wigeon	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
American Wigeon	188	336	822	210	159	8	678	519
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	43
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	120	-	-	27	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	1	10	-	-	-	2	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	7	-	2	-
Common Goldeneye	1	10	89	3	3	32	4	-
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
goldeneye sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	18	81	104	77	26	47	14	4
Oldsquaw	7	14	50	1	44	66	-	-
Harlequin Duck	11	43	48	3	33	13	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	7	4	15	21	-	-
Surf Scoter	39	63	47	4	38	56	-	-
Black Scoter	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Hooded Merganser	4	2	9	7	11	2	5	-
Common Merganser	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	6	18	20	11	15	19	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Bald Eagle	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
Gyr Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Merlin	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
California Quail	-	-	-	-	30	19	1	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	1	-	3	1	2	5	4
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	1	2	8	-	-	64	1
Black Oystercatcher	-	-	23	1	3	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	6
Black-bellied Plover	-	140	19	12	-	-	-	-
Surfbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Turnstone	11	10	17	3	2	-	-	-
Common Snipe	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	3
Greater Yellowlegs	-	4	10	8	1	-	-	1
Rock Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	-	52	-	-	-	3	-	-
sandpiper sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous-winged Gull	218	190	100	55	238	158	166	276
Western Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Herring Gull	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thayer's Gull	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4
California Gull	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mew Gull	9	104	65	158	170	161	9	630
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
gull sp.	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Murre	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigeon Guillemot	5	-	5	-	6	23	-	-
Marbled Murrelet	5	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
Ancient Murrelet	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-
murrelet sp.	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rhinoceros Auklet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	18	19	20	21&22	23	total
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	11
Hooded Merganser	5	9	3	18	-	301
Common Merganser	188	3	-	14	-	284
Red-breasted Merganser	4	-	1	10	-	185
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	7
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	10
Red-tailed Hawk	-	1	3	1	-	24
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	2	-	11
Gyr Falcon	-	-	1	-	-	1 high
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	1	-	-	2
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	5 high
California Quail	7	-	10	-	-	111 low
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	2	1	-	-	26
Virginia Rail	3	-	-	-	-	3
American Coot	200	7	-	-	-	542
Black Oystercatcher	-	-	-	20	-	56
Killdeer	-	-	5	2	-	111
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	40	-	-	266 high
Surfbird	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black Turnstone	5	-	-	95	-	165
Common Snipe	6	-	-	2	-	38
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	3	1	-	44
Rock Sandpiper	-	-	-	37	-	37
Dunlin	-	-	200	-	-	278
sandpiper sp.	-	-	-	7	-	12
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	2
Glaucous-winged Gull	425	1392	685	587	100	12599
Western Gull	-	-	-	1	1	3 high
Herring Gull	-	-	-	105	8	228
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	24	-	55
California Gull	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	1	-	1 high
Mew Gull	22	302	812	524	800	4460
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	247	450	698
gull sp.	-	-	-	-	-	260
Common Murre	-	-	6	15	1500	1537
Pigeon Guillemot	-	-	9	71	3	133
Marbled Murrelet	10	-	-	14	3	51
Ancient Murrelet	-	-	-	475	150	640
murrelet sp.	-	-	-	-	-	15
Rhinoceros Auklet	-	-	-	-	1	2

	1	2	3&5	4	6	7	8	9
Band-tailed Pigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Dove	15	7	3	-	3	20	1	171
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Screech Owl	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anna's Hummingbird	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	1	-	1	-	5	3	6	2
Common Flicker	8	4	10	5	12	2	6	9
Pileated Woodpecker	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hairy Woodpecker	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	5	-	-	-	1	1
Steller's Jay	8	3	12	-	1	1	1	-
Common Raven	33	6	3	4	6	1	1	1
Northwestern Crow	795	13	435	23	145	44	56	377
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	8	43	37	5	82	27	3	10
Bushtit	-	4	12	-	-	-	-	38
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	2	3	2	2	3	4	3
Brown Creeper	3	6	4	-	8	2	2	-
Dipper	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	4	2	1	4	5	-	5	3
Bewick's Wren	-	2	2	-	-	-	5	2
Long-billed Marsh Wren	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
American Robin	694	404	985	181	135	2	5	48
Varied Thrush	1	3	6	-	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	26	51	35	9	59	14	3	19
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	1	10	1	-	2	1	3
Water Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Starling	420	856	245	310	55	65	-	283
Hutton's Vireo	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Townsend's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
warbler sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	-	5	-	-	-	4	-	23
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	3	-	82	-	-	-	-	10

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Band-tailed Pigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Dove	47	30	6	2	-	34	27	10
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Screech Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Anna's Hummingbird	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	-
Common Flicker	2	3	3	4	10	9	1	4
Pileated Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	1	2	-	1	2	6	-	-
Steller's Jay	-	-	3	-	1	3	-	-
Common Raven	-	1	2	-	7	13	3	2
Northwestern Crow	27	36	50	152	231	177	183	1000
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	2	34	21	38	75	82	3	28
Bushtit	-	-	51	21	40	76	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	1	-	1	5	2	-	-
Brown Creeper	-	2	-	3	3	9	2	1
Dipper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Winter Wren	3	3	2	3	9	11	3	1
Bewick's Wren	-	-	2	10	5	10	3	3
Long-billed Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	-	2	55	55	88	49	6	154
Varied Thrush	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	3	6	22	28	87	12	26
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	2	-	2	22	7	-	7
Water Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Starling	27	115	50	26	19	720	811	47
Hutton's Vireo	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Townsend's Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
warbler sp.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	9	1	-	85	25	11	10	6
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	25

	18	19	20	21&22	23	total
Band-tailed Pigeon	5	-	-	-	-	5
Rock Dove	-	-	71	-	-	447
Barn Owl	-	-	1	-	-	1
Screech Owl	2	7	-	-	-	12 high
Great Horned Owl	-	-	1	-	-	2
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1
Anna's Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	8
Belted Kingfisher	1	-	-	1	-	26
Common Flicker	10	6	4	3	-	115
Pileated Woodpecker	1	-	-	-	-	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	-	-	-	-	3
Downy Woodpecker	1	2	-	1	-	25
Steller's Jay	6	3	-	-	-	42
Common Raven	2	4	2	2	-	93
Northwestern Crow	191	35	1075	15	-	5060
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	33	11	2	4	-	545
Bushtit	18	-	-	-	-	260
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	-	-	-	-	30
Brown Creeper	1	4	-	2	-	52 high
Dipper	-	-	-	-	-	2
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	1
Winter Wren	5	2	-	2	-	58
Bewick's Wren	3	1	2	-	-	50
Long-billed Marsh Wren	-	6	-	-	-	10
American Robin	232	406	283	1	-	3785
Varied Thrush	-	1	-	-	-	12 low
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21	50	-	18	-	489
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	13	2	-	3	-	82
Water Pipit	-	-	-	2	-	2
Cedar Waxwing	-	5	-	-	-	8
Starling	66	12	1410	47	-	5584
Hutton's Vireo	1	-	1	-	-	7 high
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1 high
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1
Townsend's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	3 high
warbler sp.	-	-	-	-	-	1
House Sparrow	10	-	6	-	-	195
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	4	-	4
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	10	-	-	131

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

	1	2	3&5	4	6	7	8	9
Brewer's Blackbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	2	5	-	-	2	6	3
House Finch	1	8	30	1	7	36	1	3
Pine Siskin	79	49	13	-	-	-	-	12
American Goldfinch	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Red Crossbill	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	6	2	4	3	5	2	6	2
Dark-eyed Junco	33	8	116	3	35	46	70	20
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Sparrow	7	1	27	-	30	-	4	-
Fox Sparrow	1	13	6	-	6	5	4	-
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	5	11	8	3	4	2	14	3
Total	7085	1593	4332	1325	1866	3166	2526	3592
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	100	-	-	25	-	96
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
House Finch	-	3	2	28	20	29	5	4
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	90	-	-	-	30
American Goldfinch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	6	3	6	13	27	7	7
Dark-eyed Junco	19	11	30	96	150	287	51	23
White-crowned Sparrow	2	-	-	2	8	7	-	-
Golden-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	24	7	16	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	1	1	11	12	21	18	11
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	11	12	6	20	16	17	17	6
Total	1139	2123	2256	1390	1808	2615	2385	3445



	18	19	20	21&22	23	total
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	150	-	-	372
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	1
Purple Finch	4	2	4	-	-	30
House Finch	9	1	52	-	-	240
Pine Siskin	2	282	59	-	-	626
American Goldfinch	-	4	15	-	-	24
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	10	7	11	2	-	130
Dark-eyed Junco	53	107	31	-	-	1189
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	6	-	-	25
Golden-crowned Sparrow	4	-	46	-	-	166
Fox Sparrow	4	2	8	1	-	125
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	4	2	-	-	6 high
Song Sparrow	20	16	23	48	-	262
Total	2519	3012	13467	4702	3320	69666

LAST AUDUBON FILM OF THE YEAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 &
SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Audubon Film, Newcombe Auditorium, Provincial
Museum, 8:00 p.m.

"Wilderness Trails"

Speaker: Charles T. Hotchkiss.

The rugged Rockies, glacier peaks, steaming geysers, tundra, mangrove swamps, golden glades, with their sharply contrasting wildlife, are featured in this dramatic film.

A large variety of animals, large and small, feathered and furred, are shown in their natural environment.



BIRD OBSERVATIONS

DECEMBER

No.	Species Seen	Date	Area Seen	Observer
2500	Brandt's Cormorants	6	Active Pass	Michael Shepard
1	Gray-crowned Rosy Finch	8	Victoria Golf Course	Ron Satterfield
1	Yellow-headed Blackbird	11	Wickheim Road	Mrs. E.M. Mundie
1	Eurasian Green-winged Teal	13	King's Pond	Ron Satterfield
1	Glaucous Gull	14	Trial Islands	Keith Taylor
1	Black-billed Magpie	18	Crestview Ave.	Mrs. J.D. Galbraith
1	White-throated Sparrow	19	3919 Woodhaven Terr.	Mrs. I. McTaggart-Cowan
1	Snowy Owl	25	Bushby St. at Joseph St.	Mrs. Katherine Sherman
1	American Bittern	26	Swan Lake	Ray Williams
16	Red Crossbills	27	Chatham Islands	Michael Shepard
1	Saw-whet Owl	27	Swan Lake	Ray Williams
1	Barred Owl	28	Piedmont Drive	Michael Shepard
1	Long-eared Owl	31	Swan Lake	Bill Anker
1	Tree Sparrow	31	Quick's Bottom	Scott Slocomb

JANUARY

10	Whistling Swans	5	Metchosin Lagoon	Vic Goodwill
9	Mourning Doves	18	Island View Road	Michael Shepard
1300	Arctic Loons	20	Active Pass	Michael Shepard
1	Cattle Egret	26	Tzuhalem	Miss L.G. Roberts
1	Yellow-billed Loon	27	Cowichan Bay	Vic Goodwill
3	Western Bluebirds	30	Granville Ave.	Rueben Ware
1	Virginia Rail	30	Slough pond, Witty's Beach	B & J Meiklejohn

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 - MARCH/APRIL 1981

THURS. MARCH 5

Botany Night, Swan Lake Nature Centre, 8:00 p.m.
 Leader: Leon Pavlick. Round-table discussion.
 Format for the program will have been discussed
 at the Feb. 5 meeting.

Phone Leon Pavlick - 387-3215 for details.

SAT. MARCH 7 TO ?

Western Bluebird Survey. If you are interested
 in participating, please contact Mike Shepard
 (658-5850 or 388-4227) after March 4.

TUES. MAR. 10

General Meeting, Newcombe Auditorium, Provincial
 Museum, 8:00 p.m.

Speakers: Peter Darling and Terry Morrison.

Topic: Swan Lake Nature Centre - Present and
 Future.

Peter Darling is Management Consultant and
 Professional Engineer at the University of
 Victoria and he is responsible for developing
 the basic plans for the new Nature Centre.

Terry Morrison is the Naturalist at Swan Lake.
 The future plans are for a building which will
 be the most up-to-date nature centre in Canada.

TUES. MAR. 17

Entomology Evening, 8:00 p.m.

Tour of Entomology Collection at B.C. Provincial
 Museum.

Leaders: Rob Canning and Dr. Brian Ainscough.
 Meet at entrance of Curatorial Tower.

SUN. MAR. 22

Birding at East Sooke Park. Meet at Mayfair
 Lanes at 9:00 a.m. Leader to be announced.

TUES. MAR. 24

Birders Night at the Provincial Museum. Call
 Bird-Alert for room details.

Bluebird survey and Okanagan Trip will be
 discussed. Bring a few slides.

SAT. MARCH 28

Aquatic Biology Field Trip.
 Salamanders, fish and aquatic plants of Durrance
 Lake and vicinity.
 Leader: Alex Peden.
 Meet Mayfair Lanes.

THURS. APR. 2

Botany Night, Swan Lake Nature Centre, 8:00 p.m.
 Leader: Leon Pavlick.
 Round-table discussion. See March 5 program
 outline.

SUN. APR. 5

Botany Field Trip. Spring flowers on Mill Hill.
 Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Stephen Mitchell (477-9248).
 Bring lunch and heavy shoes.

TUES. APR. 14

General Meeting, Newcombe Auditorium, Provincial
 Museum, 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Alex Peden.

Topic: Collecting Fish in Bering Sea.

Dr. Peden is Chief Curator of Aquatic Biology
 at B.C. Provincial Museum. He has long been
 associated with the Victoria Natural History
 Society as one of the first Junior Members, and
 is now our Leader for Marine Biology. The talk
 will be fully illustrated by the many slides he
 took while collecting fish in the Arctic waters
 of the Bering Sea.

SAT. APR. 18

Botany Field Trip. Pink Lilies at Cowichan Lake.
 Leader: Leon Pavlick.
 Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m.
 TENTATIVE DATE: Check with Bird Alert nearer
 time of trip.

SAT. APR. 25

Spring birds at Witty's Lagoon.
 Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m.
 Leader: Bill Sendall (721-3040).

TUES. APR. 28

Last Birders Night of the season.
 Provincial Museum (call Bird Alert for room
 details). Bird quiz - prizes.

JUNIOR NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMMEMARCH - APRIL 1981MARCH 7

Natural History Scavenger Hunt, 10:00 to 12:30.

Leader: Mary Wainwright

Meet at Mayfair Lanes at 9:30 a.m. or at Francis Park Nature House at 10:00 a.m.

Bring lunch and a plastic bag.

MARCH 21

Visit to Mitchell's Sheep Farm, 9:45 a.m. (N.B.)

Leader: Marilyn Hewgill.

Meet at Mayfair Lanes at 9:15 a.m. (N.B.) or at Parking Lot of Witty's Lagoon Park, Metchosin Road at 9:45 a.m.

Bring binoculars if possible, and lunch.

APRIL 4

Fossil Hunting!

Leader: Rick Kool from Provincial Museum.

Meet at Mayfair Lanes for instructions at 9:30 a.m.

Bring lunch and have rubber boots.

APRIL 25

Marine Biology Outing.

Leader: Alex Peden from Provincial Museum.

Details for this trip will be sent to all Juniors at a later date.

Note:

There may be some changes to this Programme, but if so, all Juniors will be notified of the changes in their usual individual letters.



VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1747, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y1

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RARE BIRD ALERT
478-8534