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RARE BIRD ALERT - 478-8534

COVER PHOTO: by Tim Zurowski

Sapsuckers at nest, Tugwell Creek - see article below.

SAPSUCKER HYBRIDIZATION

Ray Williams

A second glance wasn't needed - the mate of the Red-breasted Sapsucker was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The red bar on the back of the neck further identified the sapsucker as the "Red Naped Race" which is the western counterpart of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. I hadn't chanced on the sapsuckers, I had been looking for a sapsucker nest.

It had all started a few weeks earlier on May 21st, while birding with Vi Peters and my wife Marg. I had spotted a Red-breasted Sapsucker in an old barn and knowing it was nesting season, I had decided to return as soon as possible to look for the nest.

However, it wasn't until June 11th that I was able to return to Tugwell Creek. Rain fell throughout the day, and it wasn't until a lull in the rain just before noon that I was able to locate a Red-breasted Sapsucker. Once I found the sapsucker I was able to find the nest tree by following the flight of the bird, whenever it had food in its mouth. As it approached the nest tree, it emitted a nasal call which prompted its mate to leave the nest hole and fly off in the opposite direction.

The nest tree was a dead coniferous tree located in a small glade at the base of a rocky outfall and by the looks of the trunk, it had probably been used for similar purposes in previous years. The nest hole was completely round and placed about 40 ft. off the ground. Approximately five minutes after I found the nest, the mate returned uttering the same sapsucker call as it approached the tree. The Red-breasted Sapsucker exited the nest cavity and its mate entered. As it entered the nest, I realized that the mate was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

During the next two hours, I watched the changing of the guard at the nest site and was able to get good views of both birds through my scope from 30-40 ft. Except for a period of heavy rain, the birds took turns feeding the young every 5 to 10 minutes.

I had stumbled on a mixed marriage, the hybridization of two species, that had until recently been considered two races of the same species. While hybridization is a possibility where the ranges of the species adjoin, near the crest of the Coast Range, the chances of finding hybridization on Vancouver Island at the western extremity of the Red-breasted Sapsucker range are not very good, but it had happened. The resulting offspring of this unique pairing could be heard from deep inside the nest tree.

A regular routine was established where I visited the nest site at least once a week in hopes of viewing one of the hybrid young. Observing the sapsuckers at my leisure, I was able to gain some insight into their nesting routine. Besides bugs and larvae, the young were fed both red and blue berries. Both adult birds removed fecal sacs from the nest but only the red-breasted sapsucker cleaned its bill after dumping the sacs.

My only view of the young was on July 1st as one of the young fed from the parents at the nest hole, while others could be heard from within the cavity. I could only see the head and chest of the young and there were no distinguishing features, other than its uniform dark colour.

As to which adult bird was the male perplexed many of the birders that visited the site. After several hours of observing the birds, I came to the opinion that the male was the red-breasted sapsucker. On two separate occasions, I saw this bird drumming on a dead tree, like a male would do during courtship. In addition, Vi Peters noticed that the yellow-bellied sapsucker had a thin zone of white in the chin area, which is diagnostic of a female of the species.

On July 9th, I returned to the nest area to find the nest cavity empty and the sapsuckers gone. For the next two weeks, I returned to the area and searched for the sapsuckers but none could be found. The food supply in the nest area would have been heavily depleted to meet the demands of the adults and the growing young, so it is natural that they would move to more productive areas.

So this winter, if you see a strange sapsucker on your apple tree that doesn't look like any bird in your Peterson's Bird Guide, remember the hybrid sapsuckers of Tugwell Creek and count yourself lucky.

GLACIERSIDE LIFE AMID CANADA'S HIGHEST MOUNTAINS

Kaye Suttill

Thanks to the advertisement in the Spring 1983 B.C. Naturalist, we experienced the specialness of being in the first non-climbing group to camp beside the Steele Glacier in the Yukon's St. Elias Mountains, which contain the largest icefield outside polar regions. These are the highest mountains in North America, the highest coastal peaks in the world. Together with the foothill Kluane Ranges, they make up Kluane National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1980.

The area above treeline where we lived for ten days included glacial rock moraine; the silt and sand bottom of an ice-dammed lake which drained while we were there, stranding innumerable icebergs; rolling tundra meadows broken by waterfalled streams; and rocky scree slopes ascending to the

longest lava ridge in Kluane Park, erosion-sculptured, carved into columns and outcropped with volcanic vents. The mountains on both sides of the Steele Glacier were patchworked with incredible weathered mineral colours, a sort of Grand Canyon descending from the snow and ice giants of Mt. Steele, 16,644 feet, and Mt. Wood, 15,885 feet, a few miles west. Across the Steele Glacier directly south from us was the site of the Canadian Alpine Club base camp for the Yukon Centennial Climbs in 1967, at the foot of glaciers winding around pinnacled snow and ice peaks.

As soon as we landed from the helicopter we found the weathered rock minerals had life-chained into soil nutrients fostering a profusion of special flora. Naturally, in this exposed habitat subject to the strong St. Elias winds and adverse tundra conditions, plants tended to be low-lying. The flower I'd most hoped to see was everywhere: the Lapland Rose Bay Rhododendron, as well as innumerable pink Woolly Lousewort and yellow Oeder's Lousewort, like dwarfed floral pineapples. I think this late June was the climax of the tundra flowering, with usual Yukon proliferation of all species. Moss Campion and Mountain Avens grew here in the herbmat rather than on rock outcrops. The tiny white Sweet Androsace, looking like albino forget-me-nots, were all over the tundra our first few days but had finished their blooming before we left ten days later. Purple Saxifrage covered the exposed red snowmelt lava powdered rock.

Stream rocks and glacierside homed tiny Siberian Phlox, Dwarf Hawkbeard and other composites, as well as the expected Wideleaf Fireweed. However, I was surprised to find the loveliest Nootka Lupine growing on steep scree. Low and sometimes prostrate willow, dwarf birch, arctic bearberry, low-growing Mackenzie's Hedysarum, Roseroot Sedum and the hanging bells of Mertensia paniculata were everywhere in the glacierside tundra, along with two new-to-us little fingers of blue Weasel Snout (Lagotis glauca) and pink Plumed Bistort (Polygonum bistorta). White heather, forget-me-not and cinquefoil covered the hillsides and brilliant lichen painted the rocks. Only at one rocky streamside did we find Arctic Poppies.

These were food for the little ground squirrels and Dall Sheep, whose skulls lay wherever we were, and whose footprints sometimes underlay our own. Their special dish was Artemisia frigida with its silvery green foliage and pungent aroma. Sheep tracking, be it 8 or 10 or 30 or 40 spotted through scopes and then followed on foot, inevitably led to them being higher than us when we neared, mostly ewes and lambs ascending steep scree. Kluane sheep are more like goats the way they climb up and up the steepest angled ridges.

Our tussocky glacierside herbmat was home to Horned Lark families; we counted four nests poking into the clumped soil around camp. Water Pipits frequented the streams, and an occasional Smith's Longspur was sighted. Sometimes a Golden Eagle would scan the sky eastward, and we had Say's

Phoebes for company up the valley. Once we startled an Upland Plover in the tussocks, and alarmed a mother Rock Ptarmigan with her chicks in a high meadow. But we anticipated more birdlife than we saw. However, Kluane Park officials were helicopter-checking bird sites when we were there; perhaps the chopper enabled them to spot the nests of the Gyr-falcon and Golden Eagle up in the cliffs.

Most of all our tundra was food for the resident grizzly there. Kluane grizzlies are primarily herbivores, favouring the roots of sweet vetch and willow catkins and sedges, all of which our bear had in quantity and turned over huge chunks of herbmat everywhere. We, of course, were squatters in his home, and he kept us under surveillance daily over miles of terrain. Yet he was not interested in our food, not even the sausage exposed in a snowbank "refrigerator", and seemed to find our scent odious; the merest whiff would send him speeding off. Whilst unaware of us he would snooze and browse, hardly moving. Like Pooh Bear, he seemed to love honey in the hive, too.

Now the Steele glacierside is all for the birds and the Dall Sheep and the grizzly in sole possession of camp again. The fourteen squatters have only 10,000 pictures plus movies to hold the life up there in late June, 1983, and we are possessed of longing to be there in the presence of the Great Peaks, in the hall of the Great Mountain King, always.

UNUSUAL NESTLINGS AT CORDOVA SPIT

Roy Prior

On July 16th, while birding at Cordova Spit, I flushed a Common Nighthawk from the ground. The bird perched on a log about ten feet from me, giving a faint hissing with mouth wide open, splaying its wings, and quivering. It allowed me to come within six feet before taking flight; it was immediately joined by a second and they flew up and away, but not far. It was clear that they were breeding, but I did not want to search the area, since I felt there was a considerable risk of trampling on the eggs (or the young!). I decided I would make another visit, flushing the bird and noting where it had come from.

The following Saturday, July 23rd, I came back and approached across the logs from the beach. The bird flew up from a point just on the land side of the logs, and again perched on a log nearby, wings splayed and hissing gently. I approached carefully, and with some difficulty made out the two eggs, a dull off-white, faintly speckled, almost indistinguishable on the sand. I noticed with some excitement that they were both cracked, and that a minute bill was working at the opening of one of them; I withdrew quickly.

The next day I came back, staying only long enough to satisfy myself that the two small objects on the sand, a dull grey-green in colour, and looking more like baby toads than baby birds, were in fact breathing. Five days later, I made a further visit with Mark Nyhof, and photographed both the adult and the young. On August 7th they were still there.

On my third visit, moreover, I had noticed an odd phenomenon nearby. As I walked away southward, three adult Glaucous-winged Gulls showed considerable consternation; two of them flew around me, uttering repeated cries, "Gug-gug-gug, gug-gug-gug-gug", and coming very close as if trying to get the courage to attack me. I had seen this sort of behaviour in nesting gulls in Europe, but I knew that these birds are not known to nest in such a spot as this. And yet the meaning of the behaviour was unmistakable. I left them alone for the time, but when we came to photograph the young nighthawks, Mark Nyhof and I investigated and found, first, several empty nests, and then an unfledged gull hiding among the logs on the beach. Mark took photographs while three adults flew around screaming their disapproval. The presence of the third agitated gull and of the nests strongly suggests, of course, that more than one pair was breeding there this summer, and that there were more young concealed among the driftwood.

I learned subsequently, from a conversation with Wayne Campbell at the Provincial Museum, that this is the first record for British Columbia of Glaucous-winged Gulls nesting on a spit. Some 35,000 pairs breed in the Province, most of them on islands in Georgia Strait, and there are isolated instances of nests in odd places: on tops of buildings, on pilings, one on a derrick, and even one in a piece of heavy machinery at Burrard dry dock. The colony at Cordova Spit clearly represents a pioneering effort, probably by younger birds driven by the severe congestion in normal nesting areas.

PORT RENFREW ROAD BOG

Sharon Godkin/Katherine Sherman

For wet-land botany enthusiasts, there is a delightful small bog on the north side of the Jordan River - Port Renfrew Road, 3.8 miles west of the east entrance to Sombrio Beach Park. It is in no way distinguished-looking from the road - just a scattering of half-dead pines and cedars. But stop near telephone pole number 18-9 and look down into the ditch. Here colorful clumps of Round-leafed Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) nestle in carpets of green and red sphagnum moss. When we visited the bog on June 26 the sundew flowers were not quite open.

A jump across the ditch lands you in the bog. Within 5 minutes we had found Spleenwort-leaved Gold Thread (Coptis asplenifolia), Western Swamp Laurel (Kalmia occidentalis), Northern Starflower (Trientalis arctica), False Asphodel (Tofieldia glutinosa), Crowberry (Empetrum nigrum), Bog Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccus), Bunchberry (Cornus canadensis), False Azalea (Menziesia ferruginea), Deer Cabbage (Nephrophyllidium crista-galli), Douglas Gentian (Gentiana douglasiana), Twinflower (Linnaea borealis), and the Slender Bog Orchid (Habenaria saccata). Nearly half of the species were in seed.

We stopped at interesting roadside wet places along the way, and were treated to a great show of the dainty Coast Boykinia (Boykinia elata) and Brooklime (Veronica americana), as well as other wet-loving plants such as the Yellow Monkey-flower (Mimulus guttatus).

Perhaps a field trip can be arranged to this area in 1984. If we went before the end of May, the mosquitoes should be less abundant! Also, more species should be in bloom, but there can be no "best time" for everything.

WHO WAS ANNA?

Kaye Suttill

"Who was Anna?" one of my birder friends asked me, thereby restimulating a years-long interest in person names for birds.

Like Thomas Bewick of our Bewick Wren and the Bewick's Swan in Britain. A delightful raconteur he would be at one of our Birders Nights! Born in 1753, he started wood engraving as a teenager in Newcastle, England, establishing himself there as an outstanding artist and zoologist. His masterworks, The General History of Quadrupeds and The History of British Birds are both still regarded as classics of natural history. Peter Scott in the Wildfowl Trust's book on Swans says that Bewick's old telescope is still in use at Slimbridge, tracking down swans.

Do you ever wonder why those black-masked (or spotted-faced) gulls are called Bonaparte's? I used to ask myself every time I saw them. Now, think of Napoleon's nephew, brother Lucien's son Charles, who when he was nineteen married his cousin and went over to the U.S. for eight years where he was active in the Philadelphia Academy of Arts and Science and began American Ornithology. The Cooper's Hawk, for William Cooper, who had provided material on this hawk and other birds of the eastern U.S.A. in the early 19th century to various publishing naturalists, was so named by Charles Bonaparte whose wife, Zenaïda, is also remembered by three species of doves, including the Mourning Dove, Zenaidura macroura.

Another ornithologist of the Philadelphia circle in the early 19th century was John Kirk Townsend, who journeyed to our Pacific Northwest in 1834 with Thomas Nuttall. Audubon eventually gained access to his collection of skins, needed by Audubon to finish Birds of America. Townsend seems an ill-starred ornithologist all his life, having to give up on many projects, never achieving great recognition. However, he does live on in Townsend's Warbler and Townsend's Solitaire, in this Northwest he knew over one hundred and fifty years ago.

Townsend in turn named a warbler for William Fraser Tolmie, whom he met at Fort Vancouver in 1836, Oporornis tolmiei, which we know as MacGillivray's Warbler, for the distinguished Scottish zoologist who wrote most, if not all, of the text of Audubon's Synopsis of the Birds of North America. Since Townsend first described this species, he gets the scientific name he chose to honour Tolmie and another "deserved" the common name, MacGillivray.

A life-long birder who did get much merited recognition is honoured by a wee peep, Baird's Sandpiper. It seems incredible that from hobby collecting Spencer Fullerton Baird should range to the scientific clarification of North American fauna, from teaching natural history at Dickinson College to being eventually Secretary (Administrator) of the Smithsonian Institution. Married to the daughter of the Inspector-General of the U.S. Army, Baird was able to see that surgeons who were sent to army posts in the West, and those who went out with various railroad and boundary surveys, were enthusiastic ornithologists who would collect and send back specimens to the Smithsonian. In addition to all his administrative duties, scholarly research and unending writing, Baird also founded the great marine biology station at Wood's Hole, Massachusetts. All this lifelong natural history "action" is named in one small bird, Baird's Sandpiper.

But who was Anna? Audubon described her as "a beautiful young woman not more than twenty, extremely graceful and polite," this Anna deBelle Massena, wife of Francois Victor, Prince d'Essling and Duc de Rivoli, she of the jewel fire Anna's Hummingbird, Calypte anna.

If you are interested in more Who's for Birds you will find answers in various books; the one which stirs me most is Words for Birds: A Lexicon of North American Birds with Biographical Notes by Edward S. Gruson. Like a hypnotist, it will take you back into whatever person's life, whatever bird you open to, and best of all this 1972 companion is also available in our local public libraries and the Natural History library, too.

Who was Anna? An enchantress of a hummingbird!

OBITUARY

The Victoria Natural History Society was saddened to learn that one of their well-known and highly respected members, MARION DURKEE, died suddenly on June 28, 1983 while on holiday in England with her husband Arthur.

Marion and Arthur joined the Victoria Natural History Society in November, 1978 and she was a familiar and welcome sight at the Audubon films where she and Art helped. Marion quite frequently ushered or sold tickets wherever her help was most needed. They also attended meetings and field trips regularly.

Born in Mt. Dennis, Marion worked in Weston and Ottawa before retiring in Victoria. She and Arthur joined the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club in 1951.

Marion loved the landscapes but the birds were her favourite. She will be missed by those who knew and loved her. She is survived by her husband Arthur, Treasurer of the V.N.H.S., her sisters and brother, and many nieces and nephews.

BOOKS IN REVIEW

by M.C. Edgell

Barry Leach: Waterfowl on a Pacific Estuary

Provincial Museum, Special Publication No. 5, Victoria, 1982

In this attractively produced publication subtitled, "A Natural History of Man and Waterfowl on the Lower Fraser River", the author traces the complex and changing inter-relationships between waterfowl, man and habitat in the Fraser Delta. The overriding concern of Barry Leach in writing this book has been, apparently, to foster a deeper understanding and valuation of the fragile habitats and associated waterfowl of the Delta, in the hope of better ensuring their future preservation. Given the local and regional importance of the Lower Fraser River within the Pacific Flyway, and the intense developmental pressures that the Delta is increasingly subjected to, Leach's concern and effort are laudable.

The author, and others who have concerned themselves with waterfowl conservation in the Fraser Delta, draw much of their inspiration and dedication from British experiences, particularly those of the Wildfowl Trust. This debt is carried over even to the organization of this book, which down to the typeface used, is strongly reminiscent of many publications by Scott and Ogilvie, and of the Trust's own publication - Wildfowl. The author's own poems and drawings are used extensively to illustrate the book, and they add much to its appeal, eloquently testifying to Leach's fascination for and love of waterfowl and his compelling concern for their preservation.

Yet, with so much tradition, dedication and experience behind it, the book, in spite of its attractiveness, is somehow disappointing. Its impact is less than it could have been, mainly because Leach has attempted so much in too short a space. Into only 160 pages of main text are packed 24 chapters, organized in four main sections -- Habits and Habitat; The Waterfowl; Places and Projects; and Waterfowl Problems. Most of these chapters are far too short to develop their topics, and the result is a disjointed series of cursory vignettes, tantalising yet superficial. To adequately deal with the material in these 24 chapters, which range from Pleistocene development of the Delta, native relations with waterfowl, migration, individual species accounts, population changes and declines, conservation projects, to land use and pollution, demands a publication at least twice the length of the present one. Alternatively, within the present length, a more selective approach could have been taken, drawing out and more effectively emphasizing the main themes.

The reader is also left wondering who the book was written for -- the "general public", concerned environmentalists and naturalists, or those managers and politicians who make the decisions affecting the future of the Delta. By attempting to be so eclectic, the book really reaches none of these groups, therefore weakening its potential for concretely advancing the cause of habitat and wildfowl conservation in the Delta.

In spite of these problems, the book is still a welcome addition to one's bookshelf. The author's intense personal commitment to the subject matter shines through it, and is effectively communicated to the reader. Although it falls short of its potential, Waterfowl on a Pacific Estuary is a welcome addition to our understanding of the estuaries and associated wildlife that are such a critical, fragile and endangered part of British Columbia's coastline.

AN OPPORTUNITY

D.A. Ross

Nature Art has developed quietly in stature in British Columbia. Too quietly in most cases!

Allan Brooks (1869-1946) pioneered, becoming internationally known for the excellence of his paintings of birds in their natural surroundings. Francis Beebe gained public attention through his art, in various media, for the Provincial Museum. Fenwick Lansdowne, of Victoria, has become the most widely recognized living Canadian bird artist.

There have been numerous botanical artists in the Province, but the pioneers and even the most successful contemporary artists in that field are little known to British Columbians. Comments on or examples of their work appear in "Plantae occidentalis" by M.N. House, an exhibition catalogue published in 1979 by the Botanical Garden, U.B.C.

Other branches of Natural History Art have fared even less well in gaining public attention, although the late Tommy Brayshaw's illustrations of fish are known to the many followers of Roderick Haig-Brown.

Generally, Natural History Art has not been aggressively promoted as in the case of other art forms -- the root of the seeming disinterest among the public. Therefore it behooves concerned naturalists to make an effort to become familiar with the extensive talent in Nature Art attempting to flourish in British Columbia.

Original works assembled for the Nature Art Auction sponsored for the benefit of the Swan Lake-Christmas Hill Nature Centre Society provide an opportunity to become familiar with the talents of over 20 artists, a majority of the best of B.C. Exhibitions of the works will be held in the lobby of Newcombe Auditorium, Provincial Museum, on Friday, September 30th and Saturday, October 1st, and in the Maltwood Art Gallery at the University of Victoria on October 13th and 14th. They will be sold by auction, courtesy of John Boyle, Lunds Auctioneers, on Friday evening, October 14th, 1983 at the Benefit Dinner in the Faculty Lounge at the University of Victoria. Proceeds will go towards the support of the Society's popular nature education programmes for children.

List of Co-operating Artists:

BEEBE, Francis	HEINE, Caren	STEPHEN, Elizabeth J.
BRAYSHAW, Chris	HUNTER, Michael	STOREY, Amy C.
CALVERT, Lissa	LANSDOWNE, Fenwick	TAYLOR, Keith
CESKA, Oldriska	MILES, Mary Comber	THOMPSON, Diana
CROSS, Rosemary	NOBLE, Lyn	WARBURTON, Tannis
DALRYMPLE, Neil	NYHOF, Mark	WARD-HARRIS, Joan
GIBBS, Wendy	NYSTEDT, Paul	WARREN, Mary Morgan
GRUNDLE, Jack	SMITH, Glen	WRIGHT, Allan
		WYATT, Robert

NOTES

Snakes in Victoria

Katherine Sherman

In the March-April issue of the Naturalist, I asked for reports of garter snakes within the Victoria area. For anyone new to the district, the only snakes we have on Vancouver Island are the completely harmless garter snakes, of which there are three species, commonly known as the Striped (Water), the Coast and the Puget. Although some people are repulsed by snakes, we should actually welcome them in our gardens. According to the Museum Handbook on Reptiles, a study carried out on the Puget Garter Snake in 1940 showed that 63% of their diet consisted of slugs!

Reports came in of plentiful supplies of garter snakes in Royal Oak, Gordon Head, Cordova Bay, and of dwindling numbers in Uplands Park and Ten Mile Point. One member reported snakes being carried off by crows and impaled on a barbed wire fence for easier eating! Fran Benton, Naturalist at Swan Lake Nature Centre, reports a plentiful supply of all three species of garter snakes, and a fair number of Alligator Lizards. There were no reports of any snakes in Beacon Hill Park or anywhere else within the City limits.

Grouse Encounter

Mark Nyhof

In response to the grouse encounter, I have had a similar experience on two occasions. The first was high in the mountains south of Christina Lake (June 1981). The second encounter was just this past June near the Manning Park alpine meadows.

The behaviour was the same on both occasions and almost identical to what was described by the Suttills. I managed to get some good photos by climbing down the road shoulder and taking pictures as the bird, unwilling to chase me down the bank, stood on the edge watching my every move.

To explain this behaviour, I've read that the male Blue Grouse, unlike other grouse species, will attend and guard a mate with young. The dates of all three encounters coincide fairly well with the time females would have young.

FIELD TRIPS

Hurricane Ridge, Sunday July 24th

Lyndis Davis

Forty people went over on the Coho to catch the bus to Hurricane Ridge. One group went up to Hurricane Ridge, seeing flowers, goats and marmots. Another group stayed around the Lodge for a quieter day, and a third group set off to Klahanie Ridge where the flowers were a bit different and the trails steeper. Two members of this group saw a bear.

Everyone voted the day a success and the weather was good although there was some cloud.

Witty's Lagoon, Saturday July 30th

Roy Prior

About 25 people gathered in the Nature House at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park to listen to a talk on the identification of stints, with special reference to Western, Least, and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. This was given by Keith Taylor, and illustrated by his own splendid painting showing the plumages of these small shorebirds. We then made our way to the Lagoon, with a brief stop on the way to view a MacGillivray's Warbler in the blackberry bushes. Careful study of the several hundred tiny shorebirds on the mud revealed four Semi-palmated Sandpipers, which most of us were able to get good views of through spotting scopes.

NOTICES

Park Surveillance

This program (as outlined in the May-June issue) is in operation but not really 100 per cent as yet. For some parks we now have two volunteers, which is highly desirable and commendable, as one person can't be around all the time. For some parks, one volunteer only, which is okay but another would be welcome. We do not (at the time this is written) have any as yet for Mount Douglas, Goldstream, Topaz, and John Dean Parks. A rush of volunteers is still in order. Phone Anne Knowles 477-3684 or any member of the Conservation Committee.

Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association will hold their first General Meeting for 1983 on October 20th at 8:00 p.m., Newcombe Auditorium. Mrs. Jessie Woollett will show slides - "This is Thetis".

Eurasian Wigeon Counts

Regular counts of Eurasian Wigeon are planned for this winter. Anyone wishing to participate in any of these should contact Mike Edgell (office 721-7339) or Roy Prior.

Publication of A Birder's Guide to Vancouver Island

We would draw the attention of local birders to a new book by Keith Taylor. This is an annotated list of birds of the Island, with emphasis on bird finding in the Victoria area, tips on identification, and notes on status. Price: \$5.00, available at B.C. Provincial Museum's gift shop, or ring 595-5561.

Bamfield Marine Station Sponsored Field Trips

September 15-19 Broken Group Islands Base Camp, Pacific Rim National Park, Anthropology and Natural History.
October 1-2 West Coast Mushroom Workshop.
November 11-13 Teacher's Workshop in Marine Biology. Contact: Jacquie Lee, Bamfield Marine Station, 728-3301.

FILM SCHEDULE

September 1983 to April 1984

September 30 & October 1 Ken Creed, "Wild and Wonderful Alaska".
November 11 & 12 Robert Fultz, "Olympic Wilderness".
December 9 & 10 Gary & Judy Green, "Search for the Wild".

January 13 & 14 Clint Denn, "The Golden Sea of Cortez".

March 2 & 3 Bob Roney, "Yosemite and The High Sierra".

April 6 & 7 R. Wayne Campbell, "Silent Wings, Big Eyes".

All are at the Newcombe Auditorium, Provincial Museum at 8:00 P.M. There is free parking at the government employees' parking lot, Superior St.

SEASON TICKETS are available during September from:

- * Gift Shop, Provincial Museum
- * Harvey's Read 'n Rite, James Bay Square (Simcoe & Menzies)
- * Borogrove Bookshop, 10 Centennial Square
- * Dogwood Gift Shoppe, Ltd., 2180 Oak Bay Avenue
- * Bolen Books, Hillside Shopping Centre
- * Woodward's Book Store, Mayfair Shopping Centre
- * Cadboro Fayre, 3826 Cadboro Bay Road

Season Tickets:	Adults	\$14.00
	Golden Age & Student	\$12.00
Single - Adult Admission		\$ 3.00
- Golden Age & Student		\$ 2.50

For information, please call: 598-1623 or 385-0504.

Seats NOT HELD for Season Ticket Holders after 7:45 p.m.

Audubon Wildlife Films are presented by the Victoria Natural History Society and the B.C. Provincial Museum.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

No.	Species	Date	Area Seen	Observer
JUNE				
1	Bobolink	1	Rithets Bog	Jo MacGregor, T. Morrison and David Newell
1	Wilson's Phalarope	3	Cedar Hill Golf Cse.	Alf Porcher
2	Red-eyed Vireo	11	Bright Angel Park	Bob Hay & K. Taylor
1	"Red-naped" Sapsucker	11	Sooke Hills	Ray Williams
1	Eastern Kingbird	20	Swan Lake	David Newell
1	Northern Goshawk	25	Spectacle Lake	Alice Elston & Anne Knowles
2	Green-backed Heron	25	Cowichan Bay	Anne Knowles
1	Magnolia Warbler	26	Sooke Hills	Keith & Roger Taylor
1	Northern Pygmy-Owl	26	Sooke Hills	Ray Williams
1	Northern Mockingbird	29	River Jordan	M. & V. Goodwill

JULY

No.	Species	Date	Area Seen	Observer
1	Townsend's Solitaire	1	Tugwell Lake	Ray Williams
1	Semi-palmated Sandpiper	3	Metchosin Lagoon	Keith Taylor
1	Arctic Tern	10	Clover Point	Ron Satterfield
1	Lesser Golden-Plover	11	Esquimalt Lagoon	M. & V. Goodwill
1	Merlin	12	6587 W. Saanich Rd.	Bruce Whittington
1	Tufted Puffin	16	Clover Point	Bob Hay and K. Taylor
1	Baird's Sandpiper	16	Cordova Spit	Bob Hay and K. Taylor
1	Little Gull	19	Clover Point	Ron Satterfield
1	White-faced Ibis	20	Cordova Spit	Keith Taylor & Charles Harper
1	Peregrine Falcon	23	Cordova Spit	Tim Zurowski
1	Red Knot	26	E. Chatham Island	M. Shepard & Bob Hay
1	Franklin's Gull	31	Clover Point	Ron Satterfield

PREVIOUS RECORDS OF RARITIES:

Bobolink - The above record is the first spring report. Commencing in 1967, there are six fall records, all from Saanich and Central Saanich.

Magnolia Warbler - 1 on 23/24 August 1965 at Mitlenatch Island; 1 on 8 July 1966 at Mitlenatch Island; and 2 on 1 May 1982 at Campbell River.

Little Gull - The above record is the eighth report for southern Vancouver Island.

White-Faced Ibis - 1 in the 1800's, Saltspring Island; 1 on 24 May 1982, Quick's Bottom and McMicking Point.

PROGRAMME - SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1983

Unless otherwise specified, all field trips meet at Mayfair Lanes, at the corner of Oak and Roderick, at 9:00 a.m. No cars can now be left at Mayfair Lanes so if you wish to combine cars, please do so before arriving at this point. Always take a lunch and dress according to the weather. If you have any problems, please phone Alice Elston (592-1400).

During the last week before a trip, please phone the Rare Bird Alert (478-8534) for full particulars concerning the trip. The programs must be planned and printed so far ahead that we cannot avoid changes.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Birding - Francis Park. Leader: Ed Coffin.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

General Meeting. Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
Speaker: Cy Hampson - "A Kaleidoscope of Nature".

Cy Hampson is a professional photographer who has worked for many years with the Department of Education in Alberta. He presented us with a most enjoyable film a few years ago.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Birding - Qualicum and Nanaimo Area.
Leader: Alice Elston.

Meet at Mayfair Lanes 7:30 a.m. or at parking lot south of Sand Pebbles Motel, Qualicum Beach.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Birders' Night, in the Board Room of Cedar Hill School, 7:30 p.m. An opportunity to exchange news and views on birding locally, and also to discuss future projects. Park in lot at back of school and enter by the north door. Coffee and refreshments served, price 25¢.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

Audubon Film: Ken Creed's "Wild and Wonderful Alaska" - Newcombe Auditorium of B.C. Provincial Museum, 8:00 p.m. Free parking at government employees' lot, Superior St.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Birding - Ferry trip through the Gulf Islands.
Leader: Harry Davidson. Meet at Swartz Bay Ferry at time announced on Rare Bird Alert.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

General Meeting, Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00 p.m. Very important business meeting - please try to attend. Films: "Forest in Crisis" and "World in a Marsh".

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Birding - Island View Beach. Leader: Alan MacLeod.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Birding - Goldstream Park & Spectacle Lake.
Leader: Harold Hosford.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

Birders' Night, Band Room, Cedar Hill School, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Mushroom Outing - John Dennis.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Botany. Study of the different types of forest-ation along the Port Renfrew Road.
Leader: Chris Brayshaw.

JUNIOR PROGRAMME: Please note that a programme will be sent out shortly to all Juniors. For enquiries, call Nancy Addison, 477-4947.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

by Katherine Sherman

