



The VICTORIA NATURALIST

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

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RARE BIRD ALERT - 478-8534

COVER PHOTO by Bertha McHaffie Gow

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR 1982-83
By the President of the Victoria Natural History Society
at the Annual Meeting, May 24, 1983

It is my duty to report to you on behalf of the Board of Directors on the various affairs of the Society.

Membership: Ed Coffin

Membership was slightly reduced from 436 for 1981-82 to 420 for 1982-83. The memberships were: Regular 137; Family 133; Sustaining 6; Life 7; Junior 10; Honorary Life 9; Golden Age 115; and Scholarships 3.

A modest increase is indicated for next year due to the surveillance of our able membership chairman Ed Coffin, who has organized a more efficient method of membership renewal reminders. Ed Coffin has also set up a hand-delivery system for reminders, receipts, membership cards and the magazine in order to reduce postage costs.

Victoria Naturalist Distribution

The magazine distribution has been successfully managed by Norman and Peggy Johnstone with the assistance of Mrs. D. McCann, Mrs. E. North, Mrs. M. Mackenzie-Grieve, Mrs. P. Hill, Mrs. G. Hughes, Miss E. Goodman, Mrs. A. Connor, Miss B. Lothian, Mrs. Madge Gregory, Mrs. K. Wood, Mrs. K. Sherman, Mrs. R. Dickson and Mrs. J.H. Doughty-Davies.

Beginning with the Nov.-Dec. issue, a system of gummed address labels was introduced, which has proved to be efficient and labour-saving. Also, starting with the May-June 1983 issue, a membership list and address labels arranged by districts were initiated, replacing the list arranged alphabetically. Where possible, distributors are allocated an area near where they live, making hand delivery more convenient. It is hoped that more savings in postage will ensue under this system.

Programme - Harry Davidson and Alice Elston

Thanks to the generous co-operation of our many field trip leaders and speakers and programme committee, we have had a very satisfactory year. Attendance at field trips has indicated a considerable majority with primary interest in birding. This has been catered to with about a three-to-one ratio of bird trips compared to the next most popular - botany. Additionally, a series of Birders' Nights gave many people an opportunity to sharpen their bird recognition skills. Following botany, in terms of attendance, was Aquatic Biology, both marine and fresh-water, with about one-third the attendance of Botany trips. Further field trips studying Geology and Entomology were attended by a few dedicated enthusiasts. Highlights of the year should include the visit to Reifel Wildlife Refuge,

led by Ron Satterfield, and an extraordinary display of pink lilies and other wild flowers at Lake Cowichan, ably conducted by Leon Pavlick. Of the many absorbingly interesting speakers who have enriched our monthly business meetings, one who deserves special mention is Dr. Robert Nero, whose talk on the Great Grey Owl was outstanding. We are very grateful to all the people who have given generously of their time and talents.

Junior Naturalists - Margaret Wainwright

The success of the Junior Naturalist programme was due to the dedication and leadership of Margaret Wainwright and Morwyn Marshall and the many who offered assistance.

The Juniors have enjoyed another year of programmes which mix fun with learning something of the natural world around them. By and large, the weather has been good and attendance has averaged 20, including both children and parents.

They have gone on hikes to beaches and local hills, had a marvellous day of caving near the Kerry Joy home on the Millstream, a wet mushroom hunt with Dr. Funk and a "dig" for fossils at Muir Creek. Fran Benton gave an excellent programme on snakes at Swan Lake, with live specimens for the children to handle, and Rick Kool riveted their attention with his mystery skeleton, at the Museum. A very wet day did not detract from the trip to Reifel Refuge where a breathtaking view was had of thousands of Snow Geese flying in a great white cloud. Members of the Wainwright family and four boys from the Vancouver N.H.S. drove them from the ferry and helped the children identify birds.

In January, five Pearson College girls made marine puppets at Witty's Lagoon Nature House and took the Juniors for a hike. Other programmes have included a morning at Botanical Beach and a wonderful visit to Mitchell's sheep farm to see the lambs and ride on the hay wagon.

The V.N.H.S. year was ended with a day at the Cowichan Lake Forestry Station, an outing arranged for us by Enid Lemon.

Margaret Wainwright has resigned as leader of the Juniors. She will be missed by all. The Board of Directors extend a special vote of thanks to her for her creativeness, dedication and for the time which she gave so generously for the success of the program.

Audubon Committee - Anne Adamson and Mary Richmond

It is always a pleasure at the end of the year to report that the Audubon Wildlife Film Series had another successful season, and that a substantial profit can be divided between the Friends of the Museum and the Natural History Society.

Because of the strange programme given to us by the New York Office of the National Audubon Society, we had to fill in with two programmes of our own. These two, given by C.P. Lyons (former Audubon lecturer) on England, and Brent Cooke of the Museum on underwater life, were most successful and indeed full houses were the order of the day. Add to this the last film by Fran Hall on New Zealand and we had one of our best years.

This success is due to the dedication of Anne Adamson and the large number of faithful helpers who attended the lectures, helped with advertising, gave receptions, introduced the speakers, and looked after the sale of season tickets, etc., and of course the solid support given by our faithful and responsive audience.

Scholarships - Douglas Turnbull

Winners of 1982 scholarships and bursaries were: Victoria Natural History Society Scholarship (\$400) - Annette Victoria Jean Walker; Samuel Simco Bursaries (2 at \$400 each) - Colleen A. Bryden, Sheilagh J. Phillips.

Awards with which V.N.H.S. is associated: The Freeman F. King Scholarship (\$650) - Arthur Ian Emtage; G. Clifford Carl Memorial Bursary (\$600) - David Drexhage, Denise Graham.

The winner of the Barbara Chapman Award is chosen by the Federation of B.C. Naturalists from nominations of junior naturalists made by member clubs of the F.B.C.N. The 1982 winner was Mark K. Daly of North Vancouver who chose a tripod as his prize.

Douglas Turnbull and Mary Richmond had the opportunity of meeting the recipients of the scholarships at a special tea arranged by Dr. John McInerney, Chairman of the Department of Biology at the University of Victoria on December 17, in the Clifford Carl Reading Room.

Representatives with Various Organizations for 1982-83

Federation of B.C. Naturalists - Directors: Winston Mair, Bill Barkley, and Douglas Turnbull.

Vancouver Island Regional Council of F.B.C.N. - Douglas Turnbull was elected Regional Co-ordinator for part of the year.

Swan Lake-Christmas Hill Nature Centre and Colquitz Linear Park - Giff Calvert.

Francis King Park Advisory Committee - Stanley Last, Tom Ovanin and Giff Calvert.

Board of the Friends of B.C. Provincial Museum - Greta Hutchings.

Our representatives have served us well and also have made special contributions to the other organizations.

Conservation Committee - Wilford Medd

The Conservation Committee under the able direction of Wilford Medd has been active in many areas. The committee has studied problems and passed on to our Board of Directors precise and judicious recommendations on the following: Rithet's Bog, the harvesting of old growth timber in Northern Vancouver Island, the proposed ecological reserve at Trial Island and the proposed reservation of some land around Botanical Beach. The work of the committee has resulted in persuading Saanich Municipality to rebuild the dam at Kings Pond, to improve the bridge at Quick's Bottom and to agree to put up signs at these two locations indicating that they are now Nature Sanctuaries. The construction of the bird blind at Blenkinsop Lake by various members of the Society also involved the Conservation Committee in some planning and negotiations with the municipality. Many thanks are due to the Conservation Committee for their surveillance of environmental problems on our behalf.

Conservation Project - Mike Shepard

The Conservation Project committee under the direction of Mike Shepard has made several grants:

\$2500 to B.C. Atlas for bird illustrators;

\$2000 to Francis King Park for naturalist services. It is of interest to note that Peggy Frank, the senior naturalist at Francis King Park, is preparing an illustrated seasonal nature walk pamphlet.

\$2500 to Swan Lake-Christmas Hill Nature Centre for site development and maintenance;

\$80 to bluebird boxes under leadership of Charlie Trotter.

Publications - Mike Shepard and Roy Prior

Roy Prior has taken on the arduous job of editor of the Victoria Naturalist. He has greatly improved the publication by soliciting content articles from professionals and still has kept the balance with articles on club activities.

The decision was made, after meetings with David Stirling and Jim Weston who presented information on costs and format, to have them prepare a revised edition of the "Naturalists' Guide to the Victoria Area". The present supply of the guide should last only until the printing of the revised edition.

Barbara Whitely has been successful in presenting publications for sale at the general meeting.

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner was a gala affair held at the Faculty Club of the University of Victoria and capably convened by Mary Richmond. Nancy Turner spoke on "Edible Berries". This beautifully illustrated and interesting talk, the delightful floral arrangements by Anne Adamson and the good friendship and fine food made it a successful affair.

Financial Report

From the financial report (see p.48 of this issue) it is apparent that our financial affairs are in good order.

Other Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors extends sincere thanks to all members who have willingly given of their time and energy to help make our Society function so successfully in 1982-83.

My two years as president of the Society have been an incredibly rewarding experience. For this reason I am pleased to remain on the Board of Directors as Vice President.

I am impressed at the energies and dedication of the committee members and thank them all for a fine job done. I am proud to be associated with the many fine accomplishments of the Society.

I am particularly grateful to Alice Elston, who acted as recording secretary, and Lyndis Davis, our secretary, for their preparation and organization for the Board of Directors meetings, and to Vice President Mary Richmond who took over meetings during my absences.

Also many thanks go to Douglas Turnbull, our Past President and mentor, who has assisted so ably in the direction of our society.

Mary-Lou E. Florian
President, 1982-83

"ELEGANT" PURSUIT

Alf Porcher

The Elegant Tern (*Sterna Elegans*) breeds almost exclusively on Isla Raza, in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico, where there are several colonies with hundreds of nests to each. It is seldom reported north of San Francisco, and to July, 1983, was never seen in Canada. We can probably credit its recent appearance here to two factors. Its main breeding location is now a protected area and secondly, "El Nino", the warm Pacific water current that has brought sub-tropical fish populations to our shores recently, would also bring the other life-forms which use the same fish stocks.

On Monday, August 22, 1983, Keith Taylor, Ron Satterfield, Ray Williams, and I, having heard from Goodwills' "Hot Line" that Elegant Terns had been reported at either end of Crescent Beach near Vancouver on Sunday and Monday, decided to look for them, caught the 7 a.m. ferry Tuesday and spent a couple of hours, almost to 11 a.m., without success before leaving the 112th St. end of the beach nearest the ferry to try the other end, only a couple of miles away, but about twenty miles by car.

Approaching our car, we were greeted by Doug Kragh, a keen Vancouver birder, who informed us that he'd seen us from the other end of the beach in his scope and had noticed we all had tripods, so must be birders, and had come by to tell us that the birds were indeed at Blackie Spit.

Somewhat heartened by this good turn (pardon the expression), we made haste to Blackie Spit and rolled up beside the auto of "McKenzies" from Ontario, who were changing boots to leave, as, they told us, the terns had left just five minutes ago. After a little huddle, we decided to visit the beach at the end of "Main St." of the village, often covered in fine weather by sun bathers, but not this day (overcast and coolish). Only a class of grade ones was there with their teacher. We set up tripods to observe a couple of big flocks of resting birds and there they were, loafing with two flocks of common terns. We persuaded the teacher, after showing our quarry to him in the telescope, and explaining we'd come from Victoria to see them, to keep the children from running ahead of us to see what we were looking at, then removed socks and boots, rolled up trousers, and then Keith advanced a number of paces, took a slide or two, and we'd follow, then stop to look while he went ahead once more, and repeated this procedure until all were in binocular range of the birds, and Keith, with good luck, would have pictures for the record.

There were two flocks of 60-100 common terns each, and though they were basically resting, as new birds came to join the flocks, those already there kept moving about, usually with their beaks into the wind, or tucked into their bodies, resting, but when preening, the Elegant Terns would display their beautiful big crests, and slender yellowish-orange bills. Our counts varied because it was difficult to keep track of individual birds but I saw eight certainly and perhaps eleven Elegant Terns. We were bubbling with enthusiasm all afternoon at our good fortune. Visited Iona. Caught the 5 p.m. ferry home. Heard at night that similar birds were on "our" Esquimalt Lagoon the same afternoon! Next day they were gone from both places. Would we have seen them had we not gone to Vancouver? Probably NOT!



FALL BIRDING IN THE WESTERN ALEUTIANS

Ed Coffin

On September 4th, thirty-six birders arrived on Attu Island in bright sunshine. Three weeks later they left the same primitive airport in a rainy gale. Reeve Aleutian Airways are noted for their skill in flying under such conditions. The flight from Anchorage was chartered by Attour Co. (bird finders) of Lincolnwood, Illinois.

Purpose: to locate Siberian strays from the fall migration.

Normal daily routine: each of three or four parties, equipped with Questar telescopes and C.B. radios, would be assigned to a specific part of a 15-mile area surrounding Massacre Bay. If one group discovered a rarity, the radio report would trigger a mad dash to the location (on foot or by bicycle) by the other groups. Sometimes the bird waited. If it didn't, the vicinity would be thoroughly swept by all concerned, until it was rediscovered or the situation became hopeless.

In this way the following were found: Emperor Goose, Garganey, Mongolian and Common Ringed Plovers, Gray-tailed Tattler, Rufous-necked, Temminck's and Little Stints, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Ruff, Slaty-backed Gull, Dusky Warbler, Black-backed Wagtail, Red-throated Pipit, and Little Bunting.

However, the ultimate madness was an all-day sequence: a hike through deep tundra growth over a mountain pass, a descent via anchored rope down a steep slope, a wade across a river, a struggle up Temnac Valley to visit the resident White-tailed Eagles, and ditto in reverse.

Other than the panic-producing rarities, the following could be found in suitable habitat fairly regularly: Yellow-billed Loon, Red-faced Cormorant, Eurasian Wigeon, Common Eider, Peregrine Falcon, Lesser Golden Plover, Rock Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Black-legged Kittiwake, Tufted and Horned Puffins, Snowy Owl, Eurasian Skylark, Snow Bunting, Brambling, Rosy Finch, and Common Redpoll. Plus some birds not uncommon in Victoria.

Surprisingly, however, very few species could be seen without a search. The only common to abundant varieties were Pelagic Cormorant, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Raven, a jumbo-sized race of Song Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur (the latter accidentally omitted from the latest Attu check list). These were more or less ignored by the veterans of previous Attu trips. (Since Attu has no residents other than the Coast Guard, these veteran birders have appropriated "Attuvian" for themselves.) Here in Victoria we can understand their contempt for the Pelagic Cormorant and Glaucous-winged Gull. But one cannot help but feel sorry for the poor Lapland Longspur, which was everywhere, trying to be friendly. One of the more sympathetic Attuvians, Harriet Davidson, of Port Huron, Michigan, summed up the situation in a poem. With her permission, and with apologies to the Common Raven, here it is:

THE LONGSPUR'S LAMENT - Harriet Davidson

"The Attuvians came in from outer space,
They came to run around this place
To search for birds not seen before,
But I'll be here forevermore,"

Squoke* the longspur, "Evermore."

*Squoke - past tense of "squeak"

"They like the birds from other lands,
With eyebrows, wingbars, stripes and bands.
My pretty collar they ignore,
But I'll be here forevermore,"

Squoke the longspur, "Evermore."

"They always look for larger things,
They pay no heed to my small wings,
But when the curlew leaves this shore
I'll be here forevermore,"

Squoke the longspur, "Evermore."

"When weather's bad they all complain;
You can't go birding in the rain,
And staying in is such a bore,
But I'll be here forevermore,"

Squoke the longspur, "Evermore."

"Madmen take the Temnac test
To view the eagle on her nest.
Why do they want to see it soar
When I'll be here forevermore,"

Squoke the longspur, "Evermore?"

"Each night the bird count is the same -
It's only 'tick' against my name;
One of a kind they're waiting for,
But I'll be here forevermore,"

Squoke the longspur, "Evermore."

"It's lonely when they're gone, but then
They will all return again,
And I will meet them at the door
'Cause I'll be here forevermore,"

Squoke the longspur, "Evermore."

"And in the fall of '83
They once again belittle me -
My name is off their list for sure,
What Attour slights must I endure,"

Squoke the longspur, "Evermore?"

BLUEBIRDS 1983

Charles Trotter

This report is supplementary to that which appeared in the Victoria Naturalist for July-August. We had flown 9 young Bluebirds by May 24. The Golf Course nest emptied soon after, bringing the total up to 14. Subsequently it was noted that young birds were being fed in the trees near the nest locations.

By June 3 the box on the Lundy place had seven new-laid eggs as reported by my daughter Brenda and her co-workers from the Museum. When I went to check the box I found the parents so worried by my presence that I did not look in. I opened the box at the end of June to find it empty except for one dead little bird left behind. Young birds were being fed in the nearby trees. Assuming that the other six had flown increased our total to 20.

On May 31, Tim Zurowski phoned to say that some people on Holland Avenue (Marigold area) had a nest of Bluebirds in their yard. I went with him and watched parent Bluebirds feeding at least two young birds in a nest box. Tim and I put up two of our boxes in the vicinity. On June 21 Tim reported that the mother Bluebird had moved across to one of our boxes and had laid 5 eggs. (Our other box was immediately appropriated by Tree Swallows.) Neither Tim nor I was able to keep tabs on the Bluebirds until July 6 when we opened the box to find the mother Bluebird dead and sitting on four dead tiny birds. What caused the tragedy is a mystery.

Our nest boxes are very popular with Swallows - we provided accommodation for 15 Violet Green and two Tree Swallows. Are we contributing to a population explosion in the Swallow world?

The most interestingly constructed nests are those built by our 4 House Wrens. The nest is tucked away under a mass of twigs so that the bird must enter our box, cross over a roof of twigs, drop down to nest level at the back of the box and then duck under the roof of twigs to get on the nest. One would need a dentist's mirror to count the eggs.

This, then, is our story on Bluebirds for 1983. Our success has indeed been modest so far, but hopefully some of our twenty will return in 1984 to increase our Bluebird population.

HAVE YOU A TERCEL?

If your car is a Toyota Tercel, you own a Male Peregrine Falcon in automotive form, for such is the meaning of Tercel. The Oxford Dictionary says Tercel is the "dim. of tertius, third (hawk's third egg being held to produce small male)". Webster's Collegiate Dictionary states "Falconry. The male of any various falcons especially of the peregrine falcon."

I first noted the word Tercel in Victor Canning's book The Painted Tent which very sensitively word-alives the Peregrine Falcon in Britain through part of its fiction narrative. Even more specifically Peregrine-oriented is Ewan-Clarkson's In The Shadow of the Falcon, vividly and evocatively written, while Robert Murphy's dramatic The Peregrine Falcon is the life story of a Western Hemisphere Peregrine. In it Murphy says the male is called the tercel because it is a third smaller than the female.

There are of course many portraits of the Peregrine Falcon. My own special favourite is in J.F. Lansdowne's Birds of the Northern Forest, plate 11. John A. Livingston's accompanying text deserves four stars, too.

In view of man's persecution of the Peregrine, by shooting and pesticides in its food-chain, what does the future hold for this species? Captivity hatching of its eggs? Is there any answer to its survival? Can we do anything to help the Peregrine's continuance to give us special moments through our binoculars and scopes?

In any event, you who have a Tercel for your car, know a very special breed of bird, the Peregrine.

BOOK REVIEW

by Yorke Edwards

Tim Fitzharris: The Island: a Natural History of Vancouver Island
Oxford University Press 1983, 134 pp., \$24.95, hard cover

Don't miss this book. Here is a collection of photographs about the Vancouver Island that naturalists know best and happily devote parts of their lives to, a collection by a photographer who knows not only what pictures to take, but how to make them better than those I have seen before. The result is a new level of excellence in nature photography, a monumental accomplishment in these times when good nature photography is almost a commonplace. This photographer doesn't just point his camera at nature, he takes it into nature so successfully that you feel like an insider time and time again as you project mentally into the scene on the page before you.

There is no running text. Instead, each photograph has its own brief paragraph, and this works well, for the picture remains dominant rather than being only an illustration for another form of communication.

There are many expensive picture books on the market these days, most of them superficial and tourist oriented. This one is not superficial. The pictures are dramatic and given their proper attention tell a memorable story about a special place. It is a place that naturalists in Victoria think they know well, but after this book has had a chance to influence them they will look at it much harder with eyes that see much more.

You don't believe me? I'll make a bet. The first or second photograph in this book that you see, as you let it fall open at random, will make you wonder if that picture before you really is the best of its kind that you have ever seen, or I owe you a cup of coffee.

A SUMMER TRIP

by Eleanore Davidson

The Tuesday Group picked August 16, 1983 for a trip over to Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Two weeks before, the Rare Bird Alert reported a Ruff had been seen, and two weeks after two Elegant Terns were spotted! Well, who's to know what might turn up on any particular day? We took that chance. But nevertheless and notwithstanding Reifel is one of the best birding areas we have on the Lower Mainland and is a must for all interested in birding to visit once a year. I might add that their brochure tells us that its 850 acres of marshland supports Canada's largest wintering population of waterfowl, and it's less than an hour's drive from the City of Vancouver.

Anyway, it was a beautiful day - a bit hazy going over on the six o'clock ferry but pleasantly warm the rest of the day. Common Murres and Western Grebe were seen on the way over in Active Pass but were not present on our return trip - not even a Bald Eagle was seen that day.

At Iona - one Pectoral Sandpiper. At Reifel - no Wood Ducks to be seen - most likely moulting; but we did have an excellent opportunity to compare Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs which were feeding and playing around on the muddy beach of the creek where we had our lunch on the picnic tables. The most numerous birds there were Cedar Waxwings, and there was very little else. At Crescent Beach we had a perfect view through Alf's scope of Ring-billed Gulls and a good chance to compare them with nearby Mew Gulls.

Maybe not much to write home about but we had good company, beautiful weather and a very able leader in Alf Porcher who has bird knowledge at his finger tips and made every stop an interesting one. We all came back happy and satisfied with a good day's outing.

FIELD TRIP

by Anne Knowles

Cowichan Bay, August 27, 1983

Twenty-four people gathered at the Robert Service Memorial on a warm day with no wind. We studied the road-side marshy areas in the fields and at the head of Cowichan Bay.

Lunch was eaten at Charlie Trotter's summer place at Shawnigan Lake.

The forty species seen included Red Crossbills and two Green-backed Herons.

NOTICESFrancis Park Committee

The Francis Park Committee will be having an Open House at Francis Park Saturday, November 5 from 2 - 4 p.m. There will be refreshments and a guided nature walk. The committee would like to extend a special invitation to the members of the Victoria Natural History Society to come and meet the Naturalists and explore the completed Elsie King Trail if they haven't already.

Thetis Lake Park

The Thetis Lake Park Nature Sanctuary Association will be holding their first general meeting at 8 p.m. on November 17, 1983 at Newcombe Auditorium. Dennis and Kaye Suttill will show slides "Yukon Flora Odyssey".

Swan Lake - Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Programme for Pre-Schoolers

This pre-school nature programme is called the Birds and Butterflies Programme and is going on this fall at Swan Lake - Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. Each programme consists of four sessions - Mondays and Fridays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. for two weeks. Activities include nature walks, holding animals, crafts, games, stories, and snacks. There is limited enrollment so please pre-register by calling 479-0211 (Swan Lake) or 382-8960 (Programme Naturalist - Cathy Carr). Fee \$15.00 per programme.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Area Seen</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>AUGUST</u>				
1	Red-eyed Vireo	3	Head of Cowichan Bay	Keith Taylor
1	Purple Martin	3	Head of Cowichan Bay	Keith Taylor
6	Sooty Shearwater	3	Becher Bay	Alf Porcher
1	Red Knot	3	Bowker Avenue	Keith Taylor
1	Common Barn-Owl	3	3338 Wickheim Road	Phyllis Becker
2	Arctic Tern	8	Foot of Bowker Ave.	Michael Shepard
1	Gray Jay	13	Babington Hill	Mark Nyhof
1	Say's Phoebe	13	1450 Courtland Ave.	Shirley Sandham
1	Baird's Sandpiper	15	Victoria Golf Course	Ron Satterfield
1	Pygmy Nuthatch	17	5088 Del Monte Ave.	Michael Shepard
1	Common Black-headed Gull	20	Esquimalt Lagoon	Keith Taylor
7	Elegant Terns	22	Esquimalt Lagoon	"Wings Tour"
24	Brown Pelicans	23	Port Renfrew	Mrs. F.H. Wight
1	Sabine's Gull	24	Gonzales Point	Ron Satterfield
1	Black-legged Kittiwake	24	Gonzales Point	Ron Satterfield
1	Marbled Godwit	30	Willows Beach	Sue Cumming

SEPTEMBER

1	Solitary Sandpiper	2	Cedar Hill Golf Crse.	J.B. Tatum
1	Northern Pygmy-Owl	4	Spectacle Lake	L.G. Roberts & Rosa Wood
1	Long-tailed Jaeger	5	Clover Point	Keith Taylor
1	Hammond's Flycatcher	8	Saseenos	Keith Taylor
1	Ruff	9	Head of Cowichan Bay	Michael Shepard
4	Sooty Shearwater	11	Clover Point	Keith Taylor & Charles Harper
9	Sandhill Crane	11	Dooley/Martindale	Bruce Whittington & Alan MacLeod
1	Western Bluebird	11	Martindale Flats	Bruce Whittington & Alan MacLeod
1	Glaucous Gull	13	Clover Point	Michael Shepard
1	Bobolink	17	Martindale Flats	Alan MacLeod
2	Tennessee Warbler	17	Blenkinsop Lake	Ron Satterfield
1	Short-eared Owl	19	Island View Beach	Ron Satterfield
1	Three-toed Woodpecker	19	Harrison Yacht Pond Woods	R. Mackenzie-Grieve
2	Townsend's Solitaire	19	Mount Maxwell	L.G. Roberts
1	American Black Duck	19	Harrison Yacht Pond	L.G. Roberts
2	Tufted Puffin	20	Island View Beach	R. & F. Stoba
1	Franklin's Gull	21	Harrison Yacht Pond	M. & V. Goodwill
1	Little Gull	22	Ogden Point	Keith Taylor
2	Elegant Tern	25	Cadboro Bay	Dave Stirling
1	White-throated Sparrow	25	517 Witty Beach Rd.	M. & V. Goodwill
250	Turkey Vultures	27	Rocky Point	M. & V. Goodwill
1	Upland Sandpiper	27	Coburg Peninsula	B. & M. Meiklejohn
1	Northern Goshawk	30	Becher Bay Overlook	J. & R. Satterfield

PROGRAMME - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER, 1983

Please meet at the location specified for each trip - if no location given field trips will meet at Mayfair Lanes, corner of Oak and Roderick - at the specified time. No cars can be left at Mayfair Lanes. Always take a lunch and dress according to the weather. If you have any problems please contact Alice Elston (592-1400) or Harry Davidson (479-1286).

Always phone the Rare Bird Alert (478-8534) the week before a trip that you anticipate taking in order to obtain full particulars or details of any changes that may have been made. Changes cannot be avoided.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Observe waterfowl, shorebirds, and many other birds at Esquimalt Lagoon with Rob MacKenzie-Grieve. Please meet Rob at the bridge to Coburg Peninsula at 9:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

General meeting at Newcombe Auditorium at 8 p.m. Hear Jake Maselink, Director of Visitor's Services for British Columbia Parks, tell us about specific uses that naturalists can make of our parks.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Join Mike Edgell on a nature ramble at Whiffin Spit and East Sooke Park. Study birds, trees, rocks, and whatever else might interest naturalists. Meet Mike at Mayfair Lanes at 8:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Study late autumn botany with Leon Pavelick at Island View Beach. Meet Leon at the parking lot at the beach end of Island View Road. Time: 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Go with Roy Prior to see the birds at Cowichan Bay and the surrounding environs. Meet Roy at Mayfair Lanes at 8:30 a.m. If you wish to meet him elsewhere, please contact him at 383-2347.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Birders' Night - Cedar Hill Junior Secondary School at 7:30 p.m. A good turnout of birders' is requested as we will discuss the Christmas Bird Count.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Take a trip to Reifel with Anne Knowles to study raptors and the winter migrants. Leave on the 7:00 a.m. ferry from Swartz Bay and return in the early evening. Meet on the ferry but please try to combine cars prior to this time if you possibly can. Phone Anne at 477-3684 for any advice that you may wish.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Look for Glaucous Gulls at Goldstream Estuary. Please meet at 9:30 a.m. at parking lot close to bridge on Finlayson Arm Road. Leader to be announced.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Christmas Bird Count - Pre-Count Day.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

General Meeting - Newcombe Auditorium at 8 p.m. Tim Zurowski will show pictures of birds and mammals that he has taken in British Columbia. Commentary will be by Alice Elston.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Christmas Bird Count. Full details will be announced at Birders' Night.

JUNIOR NATURALIST PROGRAMME

Now that the Junior Naturalist season for the fall is underway and we have had our first meeting and done a workshop on bird feeders, it is time to start thinking about some ideas for project work. Copies of the schedule for weekend outings have been mailed out to last year's Juniors. Turnout for the first meeting was very good, but there is still room for more Juniors. (The age level is up to 18 years.) Please pass the word along.

For those who haven't seen it, the programme is:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

1 p.m. "Caving and pond study" Kerry Joy has volunteered again this year to lead this popular expedition. Meet at corner of Trans Canada and Millstream Road at 12:45 p.m. Bring hats, flashlights and lunch which we will eat while getting organized.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

1 p.m. "Bird Identification" Bill Munro will help to identify local birds, mainly waterfowl, using study skins and field guides. This will be followed by field observations of water birds. Meet at Witty's Lagoon. Bring binoculars.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

1 p.m. "Salmon Spawning" Meet at Freeman King House (Goldstream Nature House) for an afternoon observing the salmon run in Goldstream.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

1:30 p.m. "Orienteering" Janet Renfrew will conduct this hike. Bring a compass and meet at Francis Park Nature House.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00 - 12:00 Noon. NOTE THE CHANGE. The Observatory trip has been postponed to Spring for better viewing. Instead we will meet at the Provincial Museum inside the front entrance just before 10:00 and Rick Kool will be giving a programme.

The next item to get underway will be some project work to get all Juniors involved more on an individual basis. Some of the ideas are leaf collections, identifying birds at your new bird feeders or perhaps recording the ducks that visit us in winter around the Victoria area. You can probably think of better ideas that you would like to do.

PS: to any Seniors reading this programme: the Juniors would love to have your help in getting the projects under way.

Any queries please call Ray and Nancy Addison at 477-4947.

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AT 30 APRIL, 1983

TOTAL 1982		TOTAL 1983	GENERAL	NEHRING	AUDUBON	CONSER- VATION PROJECT	SCHOLAR- SHIP
ASSETS							
\$18,278	Cash in bank and on deposit	\$17,386	\$ 2,212	\$ 303	\$ 7,669	\$ 6,239	\$ 963
	Investments at cost (market value 1983: \$70,629; 1982: \$52,899)						
81,582		82,582	291	68,355	-	-	13,936
<u>\$99,860</u>		<u>\$99,968</u>	<u>\$ 2,503</u>	<u>\$68,658</u>	<u>\$ 7,669</u>	<u>\$ 6,239</u>	<u>\$14,899</u>
LIABILITIES							
\$ 2,167	Accounts payable	\$ 1,958	\$ 130	\$ -	\$ 1,828	\$ -	\$ -
411	Memberships paid in advance	1,932	1,932	-	-	-	-
RESERVE							
4,000	Audubon contract	4,000	-	-	4,000	-	-
93,282	FUND BALANCES	92,078	441	68,658	1,841	6,239	14,899
<u>\$99,860</u>		<u>\$99,968</u>	<u>\$ 2,503</u>	<u>\$68,658</u>	<u>\$ 7,669</u>	<u>\$ 6,239</u>	<u>\$14,899</u>

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS

I have examined the balance sheet of the Victoria Natural History Society as at April 30, 1983 and the statements of income and expenditure for the year ended on that date. My examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of accounting records and other supporting evidence as I considered necessary in the circumstances, except that in the case of revenue it was not practicable to extend my examination beyond accounting for receipts as reported by the Society.

In my opinion, except for the effect of any adjustments that might have been required had I been able to carry out a verification of revenue (see preceding paragraph), the accompanying statements present fairly the results of the Victoria Natural History Society for the year ended 30 April, 1983.

Victoria
May 20, 1983.

G.H. O'Neil
Chartered Accountant.

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL, 1983

1981-82	GENERAL ACCOUNT	1982-83	1981-82	NEHRING ACCOUNT	1982-83
Income					
\$ 4,778	Membership dues and donations	\$ 5,157	\$ 6,790	Interest	\$ 6,576
225	Publications	198	100	Donations	-
2,207	Interest	1,510			
-	Other	16	6,890		6,576
<u>7,210</u>		<u>6,881</u>			
Expenditure					
3,615	Naturalist - production and mailing	3,954	1,700	Maintenance - Francis Park	2,000
624	Cost of meetings	498	160	Juniors' work	125
242	Postage and stationery	486	246	Bird alert system	275
1,129	Affiliation fees	1,129	-	Other	40
100	Accountancy and audit	100			
855	Miscellaneous	1,039	2,106		2,440
<u>6,565</u>		<u>7,206</u>			
645	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	(325)	4,784	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	4,136
122	Funds on hand at beginning of year	766	70,738	Funds on hand at beginning of year	68,522
			(6,000)	Transfer to Conservation Project	(4,000)
			(1,000)	Transfer to Scholarship account	-
\$ 767	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	\$ 441	\$68,522	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	\$68,658

1981-82	AUDUBON ACCOUNT	1982-83	1981-82	CONSERVATION PROJECT	1982-83
Income					
\$10,193	Ticket sales and admissions	\$12,010	\$ 8,436	Funds on hand at beginning of year	\$ 8,654
Expenditure					
3,452	National Audubon Society	4,240	2,000	Donations	400
1,863	Advertising	2,491	6,000	Add transfer from Nehring account	4,000
-	Lecture fees	1,000	2,000	Add transfer from Audubon account	-
2,012	Co-sponsorship expenses	1,476	18,436		13,054
741	Cost of meetings	1,169	9,782	Deduct development expenses	6,815
113	Other	158	\$ 8,654	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	\$ 6,239
<u>8,181</u>		<u>10,534</u>			
2,012	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	1,476	SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT		
953	Funds on hand at beginning of year	365	\$ 1,210	Income	\$ 1,210
(600)	Increase in reserve for Audubon contracts	-		Expenditure	
(2,000)	Transfer to Conservation Project	-	1,100	Scholarships	1,285
\$ 365	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	\$ 1,841	110	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	(75)
			13,864	Funds on hand at beginning of year	14,974
			1,000	Add transfer from Nehring account	-
			\$14,974	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	\$14,899

Notes:

- 1) Interest is recorded on a cash-received basis.
- 2) It is the policy of the Society that:
 - i) The General account shall be self-sustaining.
 - ii) The Nehring and Scholarship accounts shall be retained as endowment funds.
 - iii) The surplus from the Audubon account shall be used for conservation or educational purposes.