

# The VICTORIA NATURALIST

PUBLISHED EVERY TWO MONTHS BY THE  
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
P.O. BOX NO. 5220  
VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 6N4  
ISSN 0049-612X  
SECOND CLASS MAIL REGISTRATION NO. 6428



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VOL. 41 NO. 3  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1984



VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Mailing Address- P.O. Box No. 5220, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N4

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Annual Dues — including "The Victoria Naturalist" - Juniors: \$2.50 - Regular: \$10.00  
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Financial Year — January 1st to December 31st

RARE BIRD ALERT - 382-5562

Phone bird sightings to 382-9652

COVER PHOTO: Bar-tailed Godwit  
Coburg Peninsula - September 1984  
Photo: Tim Zurowski

FOLLOWING FALL UP THE YUKON

by Kaye Suttill

We were on a safari to photograph the Subarctic fall along the Dempster Highway, east and north of Dawson City. But in late August of 1984, following autumn up the Yukon proved to be three seasons in one, with patches of summer lingering in procession of Fall, exploded by the worst wind- and snow-storm ever experienced there at that time of year.

A major highway in extent, stretching 460 miles from the southern Yukon to the Mackenzie Delta at the edge of the proper Arctic, the Dempster Highway looks like a 90 foot wide gravel country road, built up above the summer thawing permafrost. One section was actually constructed with urethane foam in the roadbed, hoping thereby to reduce the depth of fill required in permafrost areas. So far, so good, but not yet time enough to tell its long range roadworthiness.

Starting up the Dempster, the boreal forest was dominated by densely growing Black Spruce, with good stands of White Spruce and Cottonwood along the watercourse. Occasionally a well-drained slope would appear like an island of yellow, balsam poplar beside the road, as the one at Glacier Creek, where we had our first vista up the North Klondike valley to the front range of the Ogilvies. Here a short track led to the home of Robert Frisch, a great naturalist-photographer, who in 1982 privately printed a book, *Birds by the Dempster Highway*. How much it did enrich our journey north, and would interest birders everywhere, especially the section on Dempster winter birds.

Camping at timberline, where cottonwoods were golding the valley, we looked to the soaring mineral-painted rocks of the glaciated Ogilvies. Nearby we experienced the southern limit of the Subarctic Zone in the Yukon with its Dwarf Birch and Willow and brilliant red ground cover of Alpine Bearberry. Here, too, we were surprised to find one lone Alpine Harebell still abloom up above treeline on a slate outcrop in the spongy permafrost. One week later this area had become winterized in snow and mountain silver shapes, patched with yellow still along the valley floor. Where we had watched Dall Sheep and Caribou now only a long Golden Eagle soared in the lightly falling snow.

Driving north, with Bog Cotton or Fireweed often roadside company, depending on the permafrost melt, the mountains were farther away in the tundra of the Blackstone Uplands, where ponds and lakes dotted the landscape. Lots of willows by the roadside appropriately homed Willow Ptarmigan, still in summer plumage. The general plant tone in the over-cast was muted, with only an occasional splash of colour, but spots of Aspen stood out on the heights of the distant mountains.

We ran into rain as we continued into the Northern Ogilvies, an area of light-coloured layered dolomite-limestone, weathering into eyries of Gyrfalcons. The Ogilvies are a great place for raptors.

Up beyond Eagle Plains, north of the Arctic Circle, we camped in the unglaciated Richardson Mountains, the northernmost extension of our Rocky Mountain chain and the topographic boundary between the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The dominant plant here was the Dwarf Blueberry or Bilberry, luscious to eat and to look at, too, with fall-red leaves, jeweled of moisture, and blue-haze berries. A grizzly staying in scope sight kept feasting on them also, as well as the abundant crowberries and lingonberries. Water Pipits were everywhere. Here we most felt the reality of the subarctic fall, where high winds and continuous permafrost combine to make for stunted vegetation, all approaching their culmination of colour: Dwarf Birches, some sprawling as yellow ground cover, some a foot or so high, groundhugging Alpine Bearberry making red mosaics on the frost boils, and Krummholzed Black Spruce, stripped by the wind and regrowing at its base, as well as the usually present low willow. What most joyingly surprised me up here was seeing stands of larch, the more Easterly Tamarack, north of the Arctic Circle, and finding summer flora lingering on a slate hilltop, White Paintbrush, mauve Oxytropis podocarpa, the little dwarf we see in Assiniboine around the end of July. Other plants were still blooming, too, and lots of leaves of Mountain Avens and ghosts of Saxifrage and wooly lousewort and yellow draba.

The Richardson Mountains gave us a dose (not just a taste) of their high winds a month before the equinox, forcing us to evacuate our tents at 2 a.m.; later they were relocated in a gravel pit nearby where they survived (just) more wind and snow, which followed us down the Dempster back to the Ogilvies. There White-crowned Sparrows seemed oblivious of the snow and ice partly covering the Beaver Pond territory.

Fall reappeared for us down the North Klondike towards Dawson City,

giving a photographers' feast of yellow lighting aspens fronting the distant mountains. Our curtain fell on the Ogilvies as we watched them from atop Midnight Dome at Dawson, a north horizon of celestial white silver-sculptured peaks.

So although the Dempster highway was built to bring out wealth of oil and minerals up north, it brings naturalists to the treasure life forms and matrix of the northern wilderness. We live now in longing to find more next year.

### SUMMER HAPPENINGS AT FRANCIS/KING PARKS

by Janice Tomlinson

The summer started dry and warm at the park this year. Indian pipe was appearing abundantly and the Senior Naturalist Bob Erven, Junior Naturalists Geoffrey Morrison and Janice Tomlinson were busy upgrading and renewing displays in the nature house preparing for the many summer visitors.

A children's program was offered in two three-week sessions with two age groups; ages 4-7 and 8-11. Each week the naturalists presented a different area of the park, such as the swamp, rainforest, and dry grassy ridge. Both sessions were extremely successful and the children enjoyed their outdoor experience.

The cedar boardwalk which winds through the beautiful woods of Francis/King Parks provides an opportunity for handicapped people to enjoy the untouched beauty of nature. As a result, the park is often visited by groups such as the Gorge Road Hospital, Victoria General Hospital and Queen Alexandra Solarium. As well, the trail is used by families with children in strollers.



During the summer the park is a hive of activity.

A pair of pileated woodpeckers were nesting near Prospect Lake Rd. and Munns Rd., a western tanager was seen on July 7th, quail were often seen near the nature house and redtailed hawks were seen and heard in the park. Bob often found owl pellets on the high ridge trail and many are currently displayed in the nature house. Geoff, while out on a hike, stumbled across a large number of great horned owl feathers and then the owl itself. There were too many feathers for one owl and so it was determined that the dead owl had most likely invaded another's territory. Geoff worked on the owl in hopes of obtaining a reasonable skeleton. As for insect life, Janice was fortunate enough to see many wasps at close range when she stepped on a nest.

Unfortunately, due to the dry weather and fire hazard, the park trails were closed for a greater part of the summer. The naturalists continued with the children's programs, handicapped tours and, because of the closure, a naturalist had to be present for the walk with any interested families.

With the changing seasons the parks' beauty changes also and Victoria residents are fortunate to have such an interesting park in their midst. Hopefully it will continue to be enjoyed by all.

#### A KINGFISHER'S SUCCESS RATE IN CATCHING FISH

*by Tamar Griggs*

During the past two years I have watched and recorded bird life in a small cove bordering Sansum Narrows on Saltspring Island, British Columbia. I took particular note of a female Belted Kingfisher's (*Megaceryle alcyon*) ability to catch fish on five different days, and under different weather conditions, during the winter of 1983/84.

Here is a summary of her success rate:

Date	Weather	Fishing Duration	Success-ful	Unsuccess-ful	Total Attempts	Net
Dec. 15	calm, overcast	35 min.	6	0	6	6
Jan. 11	calm, overcast	130 min.	9	4	13	5
Jan. 12	ripple, o'cast	180 min.	6	1	7	5
Jan. 13	calm, clear	45 min.	8	0	8	8
Jan. 22	stormy, sunny	240 min.	1	0	1	1

During the short periods that I watched, the Kingfisher rarely made an unsuccessful attempt. However, on January 11 and 12, the bird made five unsuccessful attempts, under both calm and ripple water surface conditions. All her misses occurred from a perch height of only two feet above the water. When she fished from a higher perch, even under stormy weather conditions (Jan. 22), the Kingfisher's success rate was perfect.

In conclusion, it appears that a combination of perch height from which to dive, and surface water conditions may be necessary for successful fish capture in Belted Kingfishers.

#### THE SPANIARDS AT SOOKE

*by A.R. Davidson*

In the Naturalist for Jan.-Feb. 1981 was an article by Geoffrey Mitchell on the history of Witty's Lagoon up to its purchase by the Regional Board, which was completed in 1973.

In this brief history, Mr. Mitchell mentioned the landings of the Spanish explorers and some earthworks at the end of Taylor Road.

Some years ago, on one of our birding outings, we had investigated these extensive earthworks without having any idea when they were made, or by whom.

While the history of the Spanish explorers on the west coast is well documented we had no idea that they had penetrated to the east coast, so wrote to the Provincial Archivist and he sent me some excerpts from the diary of the explorer Quimper for June and July of the year 1790. From this account he found his way to the Sooke River, then sailed his ship round Church Point to Beechey Head, then entered Pedder Bay and from there to William Head and as far as Royal Roads. There is no mention in his detailed log that he ventured further.

So, there is a possibility that these ancient mounds of earth were made at the time of Quimper's expedition, which I think is very interesting.

## TERESE TODD - AN APPRECIATION

by Katherine Sherman

The sudden and untimely death last August 12 of Terese Todd was a great blow for our Society. Terese was a delightful person, interested in all aspects of nature, but it was for her knowledge of plants that we will chiefly remember her.

Back in the days when Miss Melburn led the Botany Group (1955 to 1971), Terese was one of her keenest and most receptive followers. Finally Miss Melburn selected her as her successor, schooled her, and bestowed upon her her botanical library and her microscope. It was no easy job to follow in the footsteps of Miss Melburn, who was a botanist and a teacher by profession, and blessed with an incredible memory. Terese, who had had no university education, undertook the job with trepidation - and triumphed!

Conscientious in the extreme, Terese would carefully go over the territory prior to each trip noting every plant. Then at home, the list, complete with Latin names, common names and families, would be double-checked and written out in her beautiful, neat script. I remember one trip where Terese, in her preliminary survey, had even dug little channels to drain away the water along the trail we would be traveling. Outings with Terese were always fun, and we learned a lot. On one occasion a professor of botany, who happened to be on a visit from England, joined us. "Exactly right", was his subsequent comment regarding her leadership. "Exactly right" is what she was, and we loved her. After two years Terese found she could no longer continue to be in charge of the Group, but right till the end she frequently acted as co-leader, and was always helpful in trying to identify unknown plants.

Golf was one of the joys of Terese's life, also photography. One of her big public services was the labelling each spring of the flowers in Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary. Those labels, on their solid wooden stands, were carried up Seymour Hill, placed, and in due course, carried down and repaired single-handedly by Terese.

Terese was the owner of some four hundred acres surrounding Pike Lake in the rugged Highland District. And there, facing the lake, she built her house. Not many women would have had the courage to live alone in such an isolated place, but Terese loved her wild domain and made daily excursions through the fields and woodland trails observing the wildlife and noting the first appearance of each flower. All

observations were then carefully noted in her diary.

Terese had a background deeply rooted in the history of British Columbia, going right back to her great-grandfather, Jacob Todd, who made his contribution by grubstaking the miners back in the Gold Rush days. His General Store in the restored historic town of Barkerville still stands to delight visitors. Her maternal grandfather, Robert Butchart, established the big cement works at Brentwood. Mr. and Mrs. Butchart were both keen gardeners, but it was Mrs. Butchart who had the idea of converting the old, abandoned quarry into a sunken garden. This is now the main feature of the world-renowned Butchart Gardens.

Periodically, short articles by Terese have appeared in the *Victoria Naturalist*. In April 1974, shortly after the death of Dr. Lewis Clark, author of *Wildflowers of British Columbia*, she wrote a moving tribute in his memory. The last paragraph of this is strangely appropriate in our present loss.

"Let us not grieve, for grief is a selfish indulgence. Instead, let us walk in the woods and the fields, by the shores and in the mountains. Let us kneel in the mud with our cameras to catch the beauty of a sunlit flower, or paddle softly across a moon-lit lake and we will remember him."

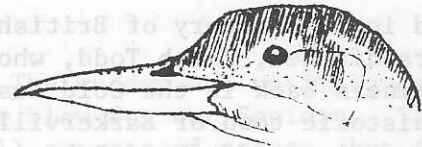
All we need to do is change the last pronoun.

## IDENTIFICATION OF YELLOW-BILLED LOON

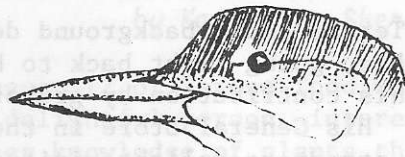
by K. Taylor

Although this topic may be overdone, there still seems to be problems in the identification of this species. I will try to mention some features and overlaps not mentioned in recent guides. Concerning guides, the recent National Geographic shows the bills of the Yellow-billed Loon correctly but the auricular patch on the juvenile is too distinct and the face colour is not buff enough. The juvenile Common Loon's bill is too thin at the tip.

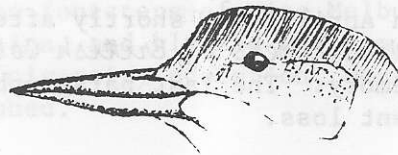
**BILL:** Yellow-billed; always straw-yellow (in our area), the juveniles having a dusky base. The bill is heavy and has a distinct upturn. The bill comes to a fine transparent yellow tip (diagnostic). Some juveniles' bills that are not fully developed may overlap in shape with some juvenile Commons (in shape only)!



Yellow-billed



Common (normal)



Common (juvenile)  
shape overlap with  
juvenile Yellow-billed

**BILL:** Common; adults dagger shaped, the upper and lower mandibles forming a more rounded tip. Juveniles may show a slight upturn having a straighter culmen and having a more pointed look to the tip, but never as exaggerated as adult Yellow-billed. The tip of a juvenile and adult Common is dark, with dark lining on ridge, gape and bottom of bill, the centre being grey (even warm yellowish-grey)!

**HEAD SHAPE:** "Double" bump on Yellow-billed; single on Common. (see illustration)

**FACE:** Yellow-billed; juvenile and winter adults share a distinct warm buff face with a darker warm brown crown and auricular patch (diagnostic). Adults leaving or coming into breeding plumage lack these features and are very similar to Commons (except for bright yellow bills). Notice high buff area above eye on nape.

**FACE:** Common; adults are cold dark grey-brown fading to grey cheeks, usually showing prominent white eyebrows. Juveniles may show some warm brown-buff on face (never as warm or as extensive as Yellow-billed [above eye] and never

showing an auricular patch).

**MANTLE:** Yellow-billed; juvenile shows distinct buff "tiger" stripes on brown background. Adult usually brown without stripes.

**MANTLE:** Common; cold grey in adult, grey-brown with "tiger" stripes of lighter grey in juvenile.

**JIZZ:** Yellow-billed Loons with their strongly upturned bills and habit of holding their bills up-tilted can be identified in silhouette for over a mile in a spotting scope! This distinct outline along with the brown mantles and warm buff face of juveniles and some adults is unmistakable.

However, some Commons have slightly upturned bills and some individuals may hold their bills slightly up-tilted. Use this feature in identifying Yellow-billed only with the above field marks until fully experienced with the species.

#### STATUS:

At least six individuals were seen in the Victoria area last winter. Favoured areas are north Saanich Inlet (regular winter area) at Mill and Towner Bays; Ten Mile Point-Gordon Head; Sooke Inlet, etc.

### FIELD TRIPS

#### Cowichan Bay

August 25th. Leader, Rob McKenzie-Grieve. About 25 people. Weather: warm and sunny. Highlights: one Peregrine Falcon carrying a bird off in its claws; one Osprey, which seemed to have been trying to build a nest in a lamp-standard at the Lumberyard; two Northern Harriers; about 150 Common Mergansers. Lunch at Quamichan Lake; after lunch to Duncan sewage ponds.

#### Cordova Spit

September 8th. Leader, Bruce Whittington. About 25 people. Highlights: an escaped pure white cockatiel which caused great confusion! 100 Heermann's Gulls, one Merlin, one Ring-billed Gull.

Pacific Forest Products Forestry Research Centre by Mary-Lou Florian

The 18 members who were along on September 15th at the Pacific Forest Products Forestry Research Centre in Saanich had an informative and enjoyable Saturday morning.

Dr. Yoursy El Kassaby, Forest Geneticist, was the tour guide. We were first treated to doughnuts and coffee and then were introduced to the purposes of the research and tree nursery facilities. It is at this Saanich centre that research on forest tree improvement is undertaken and improved tree stock is grown for reforestation.

Research on forest tree improvement starts with seeds and scions (twigs) collected from selected trees called "plus trees", in forests of both high and low elevation. The seeds are germinated and the scions are grafted on root stock to produce trees in the nursery for future seed production and genetic improvement research.

The scions, being twigs, have a tendency to grow outwards like a branch, rather than an erect tree. They are wired and supported to encourage tree-like growth but still look quite odd. Katherine Sherman, noticing these odd shapes said, "Surely these trees are not used for breeding, are they?" Dr. El Kassaby replied, "Well, if you saw a pregnant lady with a broken arm you could be sure that her child will not be born with a broken arm."

In the tree nursery a simple method of water spraying is used to control the temperature around the trees to prevent frost damage and also to slow down pollen and seed production to prevent cross-breeding with local forest trees.

Improved seedling stock for reforestation is grown in simple open greenhouses. It was a joy to see row after row of the greens of the yearling cedar, western hemlock, pine and mainly Douglas fir seedlings.

All those who went on the tour felt that it was important to become informed about research relating to reforestation, a natural resource with which we are deeply concerned.

Race Rocks

September 22nd. Leader, Fritz Karger. Only a few people met for this trip, perhaps because the rain was so threatening and the

idea of an open boat on such a day was no temptation. In fact, there was a certain amount of drizzle, but not enough to spoil a very pleasant trip. We rented outboard motor boats and set off towards Race Rocks, where we landed and were invited to tea with the Assistant lighthouse keeper and his wife, who gave us the most exquisite muffins. On the island we saw 4 Horned Larks, 2 Wandering Tattlers, Black Oystercatchers, 1 Ruddy Turnstone, and large numbers of Surfbirds and Black Turnstones. On the rocks we saw many California and Northern Sea Lions (the lighthouse keeper's wife told us that the only time they stop their everlasting din is when Killer Whales are nearby). Lots of seabirds were seen, and 100 Turkey Vultures funnelling over the land; 3 River Otters and a deer on shore.

Esquimalt Lagoon

A birding field trip had been set for Sunday, September 30th, leader and destination to be announced. The idea was to go wherever we felt like going on the day: and as it happened, on the previous day, two Bar-tailed Godwits had been observed at Coburg Peninsula. So, ten people, with Roy Prior leading, made their way to Esquimalt Lagoon. At the northern end we drew a blank, but then we met several birders who directed us to the south end and there, near the gravel pit, were the rarities (see cover photo, this issue). This was only the sixth record of this species for B.C. Afterwards we admired the large numbers of grebes and loons offshore, had lunch at Fort Rodd Hill, and argued about the gulls on the islands at the north end of the Lagoon. A successful mystery trip!

M.V. Coho - Victoria/Port Angeles

by Ed Coffin

Saturday, October 6th. Only 5 embarked in the rainy Victoria weather. The rain soon stopped, and calm water aided visibility, but there was a disappointing lack of pelagic species. Keith Taylor spotted both Red-Necked and Red Phalaropes. There were hundreds of Common Murres; plenty of Heermann's, Thayer's, and Bonaparte's Gulls; a lot of Common Terns and Western Grebes in Victoria Harbour; some Surf Scoters and Horned Grebes and one Common Loon on the Port Angeles side; a few Rhinoceros Auklets en route. A walk along the railroad track east of the Port Angeles ferry terminal produced the highlights of the outing: Black-capped Chickadees and a Tropical Kingbird.

NOTICES

DUES ARE DUE!

Membership fees for the calendar year Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1985

should be paid as soon as possible. Fees are as follows:  
 Regular \$10.00; Golden Age (65 and over) \$9.00; Family \$14.00;  
 Sustaining \$30.00; Junior \$2.50. (Note that there has been a  
 decision against any increase in dues.)

To ensure continuation of your "Victoria Naturalist" and "B.C.  
 Naturalist" subscriptions, payments must be made by April 1st, 1985,  
 to: Membership, Victoria Natural History Society  
 P.O. Box No. 5220  
 Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N4

#### Request for Assistance

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific and Yukon Region has  
 marked 150 female and 30 male Barrow's Goldeneye with Nasal disks  
 and 100 females with Nasal saddles to study the breeding and winter  
 ecology of the species. All birds were marked as breeding adults  
 near Riske Creek, in central British Columbia, in 1982 and 1983.  
 Six shapes of disks were used (square, triangle, ellipse, circle, Y,  
 cross) and 4 colours (red, yellow, white, blue). Those markers are  
 fitted through the nostril of the bill and can be easily spotted with  
 a telescope. If you see a marked bird, please report sex, date, loca-  
 tion, and if possible, the colour and shape of each Nasal disk to  
 Jean-Pierre Savard, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 340, Delta,  
 B.C. V4K 3Y3. Phone: (604) 946-8546.

So far from over 200 marked birds we have only had 2 sightings  
 on the wintering areas. These two sightings suggested the following:  
 1) That pair reunited on the wintering grounds, 2) That they spend  
 all winter in the same general area, 3) That they migrate in pairs  
 to the breeding area. The marked pair we located near Vancouver  
 covered the 320 km to his breeding area in 1 night.

Further sightings of marked goldeneyes should enable us to con-  
 firm the above observations and to learn more about the relationships  
 between wintering areas and breeding areas. I should add that these  
 markers are obvious through a telescope but not very obvious through  
 binoculars. Therefore it is necessary to look carefully at the bill  
 of each bird to see if it is marked.

#### Christmas Cards

Christmas cards and calendars are available from Nature Canada  
 Book shops. Support a worthy cause with good quality greeting cards.  
 Catalogues available at the general meetings.

#### Alberni Valley Museum, Port Alberni

"Flora of the Somass Delta". This exhibition introduces you to the  
 fascinating plant life of the delta of the Somass River, which is con-  
 sidered a botanically unique area because of the very large number of  
 plant species and the unusually high number of rare plants found there.

Samples of all 205 of the plants, supplemented by photographs of  
 many of them, portray the beauty of the plants and of the delta. All  
 the specimens and the information on display are the work of Bill van  
 Dieren. He claims that an exhibit such as this is unique in the museum  
 world in Canada; it is expected to draw national interest; it continues  
 until January 13, 1985.

#### National Geographic Field Guides

Copies of "National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North  
 America" are available at a cost of \$17.00. Phone Roy Prior, 383-2347  
 or Lyndis Davis, 721-1077.

#### Botany Night

We are fortunate again to have the leadership of Leon Pavlick,  
 Botanist at the Provincial Museum, for Botany Night. The time will be  
 7:30 p.m. every second Thursday of the month. The meeting place is  
 Swan Lake Nature House.

Each meeting will include a short programme by Leon Parlick,  
 followed by some of your favorite or problem slides. Special topics  
 and guest speakers will be announced at the programmes.

#### Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association

The Association will hold their General Meeting at 8 p.m. on  
 November 15th at the Newcombe Auditorium. Our guest will be Dr.  
 C.G. Hampson, whose topic will be "Kaleidoscope of Nature".

#### 1984 BIRD OBSERVATIONS

##### AUGUST

<u>No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Area Seen</u>	<u>Observer</u>
3	Dunlin	6	Sidney Spit	Tim Zurowski
3	Black-throated Gray Warbler	8	Fulton Road	Jeff Gaskin
*1	Pectoral Sandpiper	11	McIntyre Reservoir	Keith Taylor



No.	Species	Date	Area Seen	Observer
1	Common Barn-Owl	13	Lochside Trail	Brent Diakow
*1	Common Black-headed Gull	17	Esquimalt Lagoon	M. & V. Goodwill
*1	Stilt Sandpiper	18	McIntyre Reservoir	J. & R. Satterfield
1	Solitary Sandpiper	18	" "	" "
**1	Cinnamon Teal	18	" "	" "
*1	Franklin's Gull	19	Esquimalt Lagoon	" "
1	Green-backed Heron	20	Blenkinsop Lake	Lyndis Davis
*1	Upland Sandpiper	25	Cordova Spit	Keith Taylor
1	Eared Grebe	28	Bowker Avenue	Tuesday Group
*1	Parasitic Jaeger	31	Clover Point	Keith Taylor

### SEPTEMBER

*1	Bank Swallow	1	Clover Point	Keith Taylor
1	Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	Hwy #14 & Boyd's Rd.	M. & V. Goodwill
10	Greater White-fronted Goose	8	Mt. Newton Cross Rd.	Keith Taylor
1	Marbled Godwit	9	Clover Point	Charles Harper
*1	Nashville Warbler	10	Witty Beach	Ray Williams
250	Black Swift	12	over Fairfield area	M. & V. Goodwill
*2	Sandhill Crane	13	River Jordan	M. & V. Goodwill
980	Vaux Swifts	13	" "	" "
*1	Sabine's Gull	13	Clover Point	J. & R. Satterfield
*2	Lesser Golden-Plover	13	Coburg Peninsula	M. & V. Goodwill
**1	Northwestern Crow (albino)	14	Glen Meadows Golf Course	Barbara Begg
*1	Pomerine Jaeger	14	Clover Point	Ron Satterfield
*1	Red Phalarope	15	"Coho" south of Victoria	Bob Hay
2	Lapland Longspur	15	Head of Cowichan Bay	Ray Williams
*1	Little Gull	17	Clover Point	Keith Taylor
1	Black-legged Kittiwake	20	" "	J. & R. Satterfield
1	Lewis' Woodpecker	20	Farhill Road	Bettie Phipps
2	Snow Goose	22	Whiffin Spit	Ray Williams
1	White-throated Sparrow	22	Goldstream Estuary	Mike Shepard
*1	Red Knot	24	Bowker Avenue	Tim Zurowski
*1	"Red-naped" Sapsucker	26	Gr. Vic. Water Shed	Alice Cassidy
1	Short-eared Owl	26	Anderson Hill	Jack Todd
*1	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	26	"Poynter's Puddle"	Bruce Whittington
*1	Rough-legged Hawk	29	Oak Bay Marina	Harold Hosford
1	Yellow-billed Loon	29	Royal Roads	Ray Williams
*2	Bar-tailed Godwit	29	Coburg Peninsula	J. & R. Satterfield

No.	Species	Date	Area Seen	Observer
**1	Barred Owl	29	1741 Feltham Road	Mrs. John Dewey
*	- The first report of the year.			
**	- <u>Cinnamon Teal</u> The male in eclipse plumage can be positively identified by its orange-red eyes.			
**	- The albino <u>Northwestern Crow</u> was a true albino. It had the typical pink eyes, pink bill and pink legs.			
**	- <u>Barred Owls</u> are known to eat fish. The bird mentioned above is the second found this year in the vicinity of a goldfish pond.			

### PROGRAMME - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 1984

Please meet at the location specified for each trip - if no location given, field trips will meet at Mayfair Lanes, corner of Oak and Rod-erick at the specified time. No cars can be left at Mayfair Lanes. Always take a lunch and dress according to the weather. Always phone the Rare Bird Alert (382-5562) the week before a trip that you anticipate taking in order to obtain full particulars or details of the changes that may have been made. Changes cannot always be avoided.

On V.N.H.S. field trips, participants usually pool vehicles to cut down on parking problems and to reduce costs. A considerable fuel bill can be run up on a trip - vehicles usually consume 5-10¢/km. The Board suggests that participants share the fuel costs with the driver.

#### SAT. NOV. 3

Fall meeting of F.B.C.N. Directors, Foyer of Provincial Museum, 10:15 a.m. Observers welcome.

#### SUN. NOV. 4

F.B.C.N. and V.N.H.S. joint field trip. "Westcoast Rain Forest", a marvellous opportunity to see the change in forest types due to change in rainfall - from Sooke, the open Douglas Fir Forest to the climax forest of Western Hemlock and Amabilis Fir near Sombrero River.

Leader: Dr. Chris Brayshaw  
Emeritus - Curator of Botany  
B.C. Provincial Museum

Meet Mayfair Lanes at 9 a.m. (return by 3 p.m.).  
Bring lunch and appropriate clothes.

THURS. NOV. 8

Botany Night. First meeting of the year. Bring a few of your own slides of fall wild flowers.

Leader: Leon Pavlick

Assistant Curator of Botany

B.C. Provincial Museum

Meet at Swan Lake Nature House at 7:30 p.m.

SUN. NOV. 11

Combined Birding and Botany Field Trip to Saanich Peninsula. No leader trip. Itinerary to be announced on Rare Bird Alert November 8-10. Everyone is welcome - come and help out with plant and bird identification. Bring a lunch and appropriate clothes. Meet at Mayfair Lanes at 9 a.m.

TUES. NOV. 13

General Meeting at 8 p.m. in Newcombe Auditorium.

Speaker: Dr. Richard A. Ring

Entomologist

University of Victoria

Title: "Intertidal Insects"

Come and bring a friend.

SAT. NOV. 17

Race Rocks boat trip to observe birds and marine life.

Leader: Fritz Karger

Phone 478-5443 to let Fritz know if you are coming.

Meet at Pedder Bay Marina at 12 noon, weather permitting. There is a charge for boat rentals.

FRI. NOV. 23

Wildlife Film at Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

and

Willis H. Moore "Micronesia and Christmas Island".

SAT. NOV. 24FRI. NOV. 23

Local Marine Fishes. Night netting field trip to Bazan Bay.

Leader: Dr. Alex Peden

Chief Curator of Aquatic Zoology

B.C. Provincial Museum

The purpose of this trip is twofold. First, for the seniors to net and observe local marine fish; and secondly, to collect live fish for the Saturday Junior programme. Meet at Mayfair Lanes at 9:30 p.m. or at Bazan Bay, just south of Anacortes ferry dock in Sidney at 10 p.m. Spend one hour netting fish. Bring gumboots, appropriate warm clothes and a flash light.

SAT. NOV. 24

Birding, Sooke Basin.

Leader: Barbara Irwin

Meet at Mayfair Lanes at 9 a.m.

WED. NOV. 28

Birders' Night, Cafeteria, Arbutus Junior Secondary School, Edgelow St. at 7:30 p.m.

SAT. DEC. 1

Birding Trip, Reifel Refuge

Leader: Hank van der Pol

Meet at Mayfair Lanes at 8 a.m. or at Swartz Bay Ferry at 8:45 a.m. Further details on Rare Bird Alert Nov. 26-30.

SAT. DEC. 8

Birding Field Trip - Gull Identification.

Leader: Mike Shepard

Director, V.N.H.S.

Many species of gulls will be feeding on salmon in Goldstream River - a great opportunity to sharpen up your identification skills. Meet at Mayfair Lanes at 9 a.m.

TUES. DEC. 11

General Meeting at 8 p.m. in the Newcombe Auditorium.

Speaker: Mr. Bill Merilees

Parks & Outdoor Recreation Division

Visitor Services

Subject: A Look at Marine Parks in the Gulf of Georgia and Their Natural History.

Come and bring a friend.

THURS. DEC. 13

Botany Night at Swan Lake Nature House at 7:30 p.m.

Bring some slides of fall and winter trees.

Leader: Leon Pavlick

Assistant Curator of Botany

B.C. Provincial Museum

SAT. DEC. 15

Christmas Count - Victoria

SUN. DEC. 16

Christmas Count - Sooke

Contact Mike Shepard at 658-5850 if you wish to participate.

SAT. DEC. 29

A family holiday walk on Beacon Hill waterfront. Everyone's a leader. "Botany, Birds and Seaweeds" organized by Mary-Lou Florian. A good opportunity to wish each other a Happy New Year. Bring the children and a friend. Meet at Mile 0 parking lot at 9 a.m. A field guide will be supplied.

A NOTE TO SENIOR NATURALISTS  
ABOUT THE JUNIORS

by Alex E. Peden

During the very early 1950's when I was between 10 to 15 years old, I remember strong links between junior and senior members of the Victoria Natural History Society and I remember how the interest and experience of seniors can strongly determine the path that a youth might follow. Dr. Clifford Carl was my main stimulus with his Saturday morning movies at the Museum; keen junior naturalists would meet in a back room of the museum basement under the guidance of museum technician Betty Newton. Although this museum link provided noticeable stimulation I also remember being urged on by the occasional senior member to participate in adult events. John Owen Clay, whose memory is still perpetuated by a plaque in the Museum classroom, made a special point of befriending lonely juniors such as myself if adult-talk eluded our comprehension. During teenage years I well remember Professor Jeff Cunningham (marine biology leader) providing naturalists with classroom space to study marine life and Professor C.W. Lowe (Botany leader) who let me have my first microscopic look at cytoplasm in a living cell.

I am not sure that it will be as easy to compete with computers and television with today's youths, and the excellent records of past junior leaders, particularly Clifford Carl and Freeman King, are hard to duplicate. The Junior Naturalists are in a minor state of crisis. In addition to the other announcements in our programme, I have decided to try a classroom approach where Juniors can easily meet. The emphasis will be on "Things to Do" rather than entertainment. There have been suggestions of distinguishing between "family outings" and "project-oriented" junior programmes, and perhaps members can discuss this. I hope the key words for the junior will be "interest" and "enjoyment" leading to "learning". In the long term, I hope to arrange for "certificates of accomplishment" in the name of the Victoria Naturalists, or to provide other incentives, whether it is for identifying birds or recognizing "environmentalist awareness" such as cleaning litter out of a bird sanctuary. All these aspects can draw in expertise of the Seniors, whether it is skills of scientific knowledge, or educators who can recommend levels of accomplishment at different age levels, etc.

I do not believe we will be in high gear until next spring. This fall is intended to acquaint me with juniors (and vice versa) and to learn our possibilities and potential from fellow naturalists.

JUNIOR PROGRAMME

This year, the Junior Naturalists will meet at one central location (a classroom at the B.C. Provincial Museum). We will organize projects on how to know and study fish, birds, plants and other living things. Our first meeting in September was poorly attended, and I now want your ideas on interesting things to do. Parents do not need to accompany junior naturalists in the classroom, but a responsible adult must accompany them on all outings away from the classroom (see note to Senior Naturalists below). In the unusual circumstance that too many juniors attend the first meeting, I would appreciate a prior phone call at the Museum - 387-6515 (record your interest on our answering machine if I am unable to answer). If a cut-off on numbers is required, it will be on the basis of who signs up first.

The age groups attending previous Junior Naturalist outings have been young. I hope we can attract some older youths and provide activity appropriate for different age levels.

SAT. NOV. 3

9:00 a.m. B.C. Provincial Museum Education Classroom.  
Fall leaves and seeds. Now that Fall has come, try to collect some of the fallen leaves, seeds, or pine cones, and we will try to see what they are. This is one of the first formal meetings and I would like to hear your ideas on junior programmes.

SAT. NOV. 10

9:00 a.m. B.C. Provincial Museum Education Classroom.  
Life through a microscope. Bring your own small bugs, pond life, flower, or whatever as long as it is small and we will see what it looks like through the microscope.

SAT. NOV. 24

9:00 a.m. B.C. Provincial Museum Education Classroom.  
Learn about fish. On Friday night, senior naturalists will be netting shore fishes. Some of these will be kept alive for the junior naturalists to study. We will also talk about keeping aquariums.

SAT. DEC. 8

9:00 a.m. B.C. Provincial Museum Education Classroom.  
A day about birds. We will talk about birds, bird feeders, where to find birds, how many kinds there are. If there is time, we will walk through Beacon Hill Park and learn about the ducks and birds there.

