



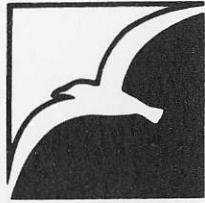
The VICTORIA NATURALIST

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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
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COVER PHOTO: by Tim Zurowski
White Pelican at Portage Inlet, 9 June, 1986

GULLS AT THE HARTLAND ROAD DUMP

by K. TAYLOR and C. HARPER

A survey of gull populations on the Hartland Road Fill, Saanich, B.C. for the year 1985, with special notes on Thayer's - Iceland Gull identification.

METHOD: Most counts were done on each Saturday of the year between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Maximum populations were reached at these times. The best days were other than Sundays, as active dumping days were best. A programme of filling over the garbage began just after the beginning of the survey to help in population control of the gulls. A “wiring” programme in late November reduced numbers of gulls, especially Thayer's, until removed a few days later.

Gulls were counted head by head. This was made easier by the basic segregation of species at rest, and only when every bird was identified (taking several hours at times) did I leave. Estimates were made only when birds totalled over 300, and these carefully.

IDENTIFICATION: I found most gulls easy to identify. As the survey progressed I felt more secure, but at the same time began to realize how variable even easily identified species are. Some hybrids were difficult or impossible to identify.

EYE-RING COLOURS: Special attention was given to eye-ring and eye colours for some species for this area, as variables occur geographically.

STATUS: The status for each species is for southern Vancouver Island, and corresponds to the checklist published in the Victoria Naturalist, January-February, 1986.

MEW GULL, Larus canus, uS, cW

STATUS: An abundant winter visitor (THE sewer gull of Victoria). Found at all sewer outfalls in large numbers, and many other environments. An uncommon non-breeding resident with immatures and sub-adults present through the summer.

LANDFILL: On the dump, however, it was very rare with sightings only on Feb. 10, an immature; Sept. 21, a juvenile; Oct. 12, a first-winter bird; Oct. 25, a juvenile.

BONAPARTE'S GULL, Larus philadelphia, cT, raW raS

LANDFILL: Two adult birds were seen flying with the circling gulls high ABOVE the dump on Oct. 25.

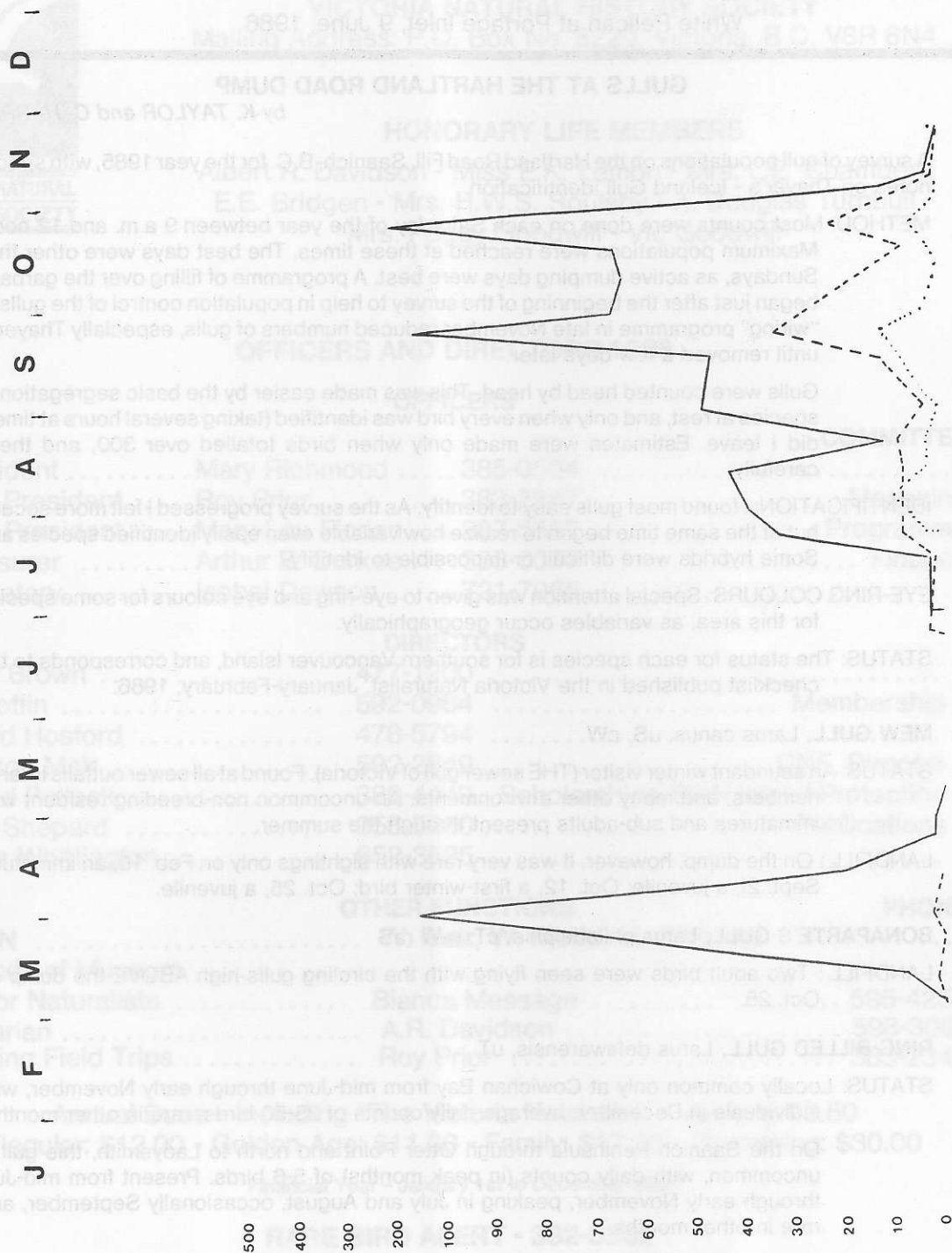
RING-BILLED GULL, Larus delawarensis, uT

STATUS: Locally common only at Cowichan Bay from mid-June through early November, with individuals in December; average daily counts of 25-50 birds, rare in other months.

On the Saanich Peninsula through Otter Point and north to Ladysmith, this gull is uncommon, with daily counts (in peak months) of 5-6 birds. Present from mid-July through early November, peaking in July and August, occasionally September, and rare in other months.

Unrecorded on S.V.I. in early February, and only one May record.

California Gull
Larus californicus



LANDFILL: On the dump this gull was seen only on Sept. 7, a first-winter bird; Sept. 21, 1 adult, 2 first-winter; Sept. 28, a first-winter bird; Oct. 9, an adult; Oct. 17, a first-winter bird; Oct. 25, 1 sub-adult, 1 first-winter bird, 1 adult.

CALIFORNIA GULL, *Larus californicus*, cT, raR

STATUS: A fairly common spring migrant in March and early April, with stragglers through the summer. A common fall migrant beginning in early June through mid-September, when numbers begin to dwindle, into November, when most of these gulls forsake ocean shores to visit ploughed fields. By December only rare individuals are left at the dump. Juveniles arrive in mid-July.

LANDFILL : The graph in no way represents the actual occurrence or percentage of adults to juveniles away from the dump! In spring almost all California Gulls occurred at the dump only a few along the ocean. However, during June 8-15 many second-year birds were on the ocean, none were on the dump. During the peak migration in July-August-September the ratio of juvenile and second-year birds to adults were not as wide spread as on the dump along the ocean shores.

HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus*

STATUS: An uncommon migrant and winter visitor. Immatures arrive in late July with juveniles in mid-August. Adults appear in late August staying through to mid-April. Peak arrival of all age groups is mid-September.

Based on my own records, I believe the total number of individuals on any one day in winter on the Saanich Peninsula would not exceed 35 birds. Most of these are off shore in the Juan de Fuca Straits, feeding on offal from commercial fishing boats. On windy days these birds are blown ashore and can be seen from Clover Point, etc. Other good areas are Goldstream and the dump.

LANDFILL : On the dump, numbers were erratic with peaks in March and early November. An interesting habit of Herring Gulls was their aggression, most being found right in the midst of activity of the actual dumping site.

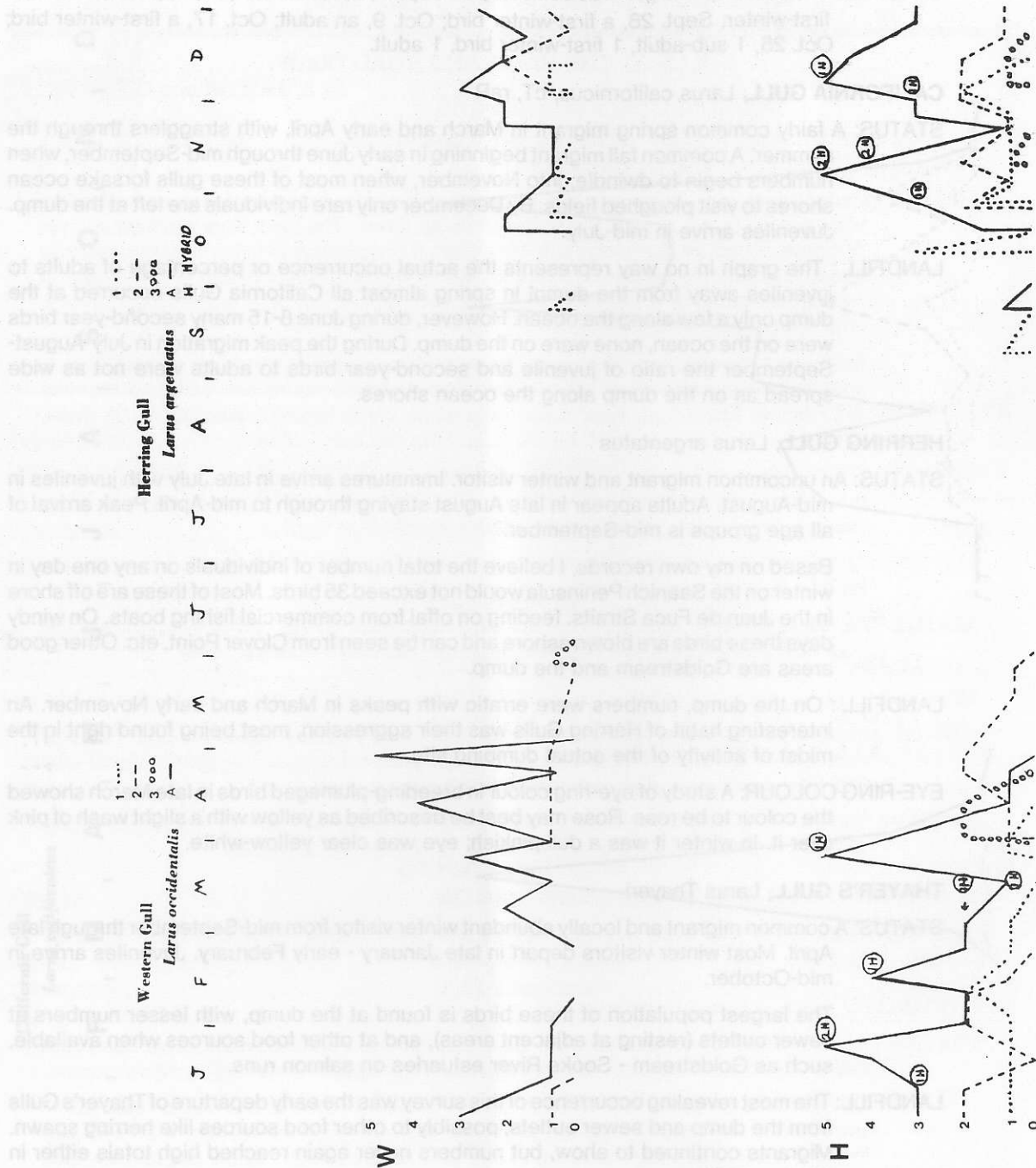
EYE-RING COLOUR: A study of eye-ring colour in breeding-plumaged birds in late March showed the colour to be rose. Rose may best be described as yellow with a slight wash of pink over it. In winter it was a dull pinkish; eye was clear yellow-white.

THAYER'S GULL, *Larus Thayeri*

STATUS: A common migrant and locally abundant winter visitor from mid-September through late April. Most winter visitors depart in late January - early February. Juveniles arrive in mid-October.

The largest population of these birds is found at the dump, with lesser numbers at sewer outlets (resting at adjacent areas), and at other food sources when available, such as Goldstream - Sooke River estuaries on salmon runs.

LANDFILL : The most revealing occurrence of this survey was the early departure of Thayer's Gulls from the dump and sewer outlets, possibly to other food sources like herring spawn. Migrants continued to show, but numbers never again reached high totals either in 1985 or 1986.



Over-estimates were made in 1984 of Thayer's Gulls because of ignorance of segregation. Thayer's Gulls were more numerous in 1984 than 1985, but never exceeded 700 birds at the dump.

EYE-RING COLOUR: In breeding birds in late March, crimson, in winter, dull pinkish. Light-eyed Thayer's (grey-green) averaged 40% of all birds, 10% of these with cadmium yellow, with or without brown spots. Two birds were seen with pure white irises.

ICELAND GULL, *Larus glaucoides kumlenii*

STATUS: Local, rare, but regular winter visitor from October through March. Status prior to 1984 unknown.

LANDFILL: Four birds were found, one on December 23, 1984 through February 10, 1985. This bird (first record for Vancouver Island) was seen only on these two dates, but because of individual characteristics was known to be the same first-winter bird. The plumage had advanced toward first-summer (see photos "AMERICAN BIRDS" for winter 1984 season.) On March 3, 1985 a second first-winter bird was found. The plumage was very similar to the December 23rd bird. An adult was found on October 12, 1985 by the authors. It had a pure lemon yellow eye and was a white-winged gull. The winter patterned primaries were still vague in flight but clearly discernable at rest. The winter head was slightly streaked not mottled. On November 30, 1985 a first-winter bird was found by K. Taylor and Hank Van Der Pol. It was much "Purer" than other first-winter birds found earlier; and exact duplicate to the illustration in the *National Geographic* field guide.

IDENTIFICATION: It has been suggested that small Glaucous Gulls could approach Iceland Gulls in size and primary projection. Iceland Gulls in NO WAY resemble Glaucous Gulls: in general appearance and bill size they most closely resemble Thayer's Gulls. Most birds seen here are PROBABLE intergrades between Iceland and Thayer's.

The scale on p.8 shows the "purity" of Iceland Gulls observed, with pure Iceland at the top and pure Thayer's at the bottom. Birds toward centre are intermediates.

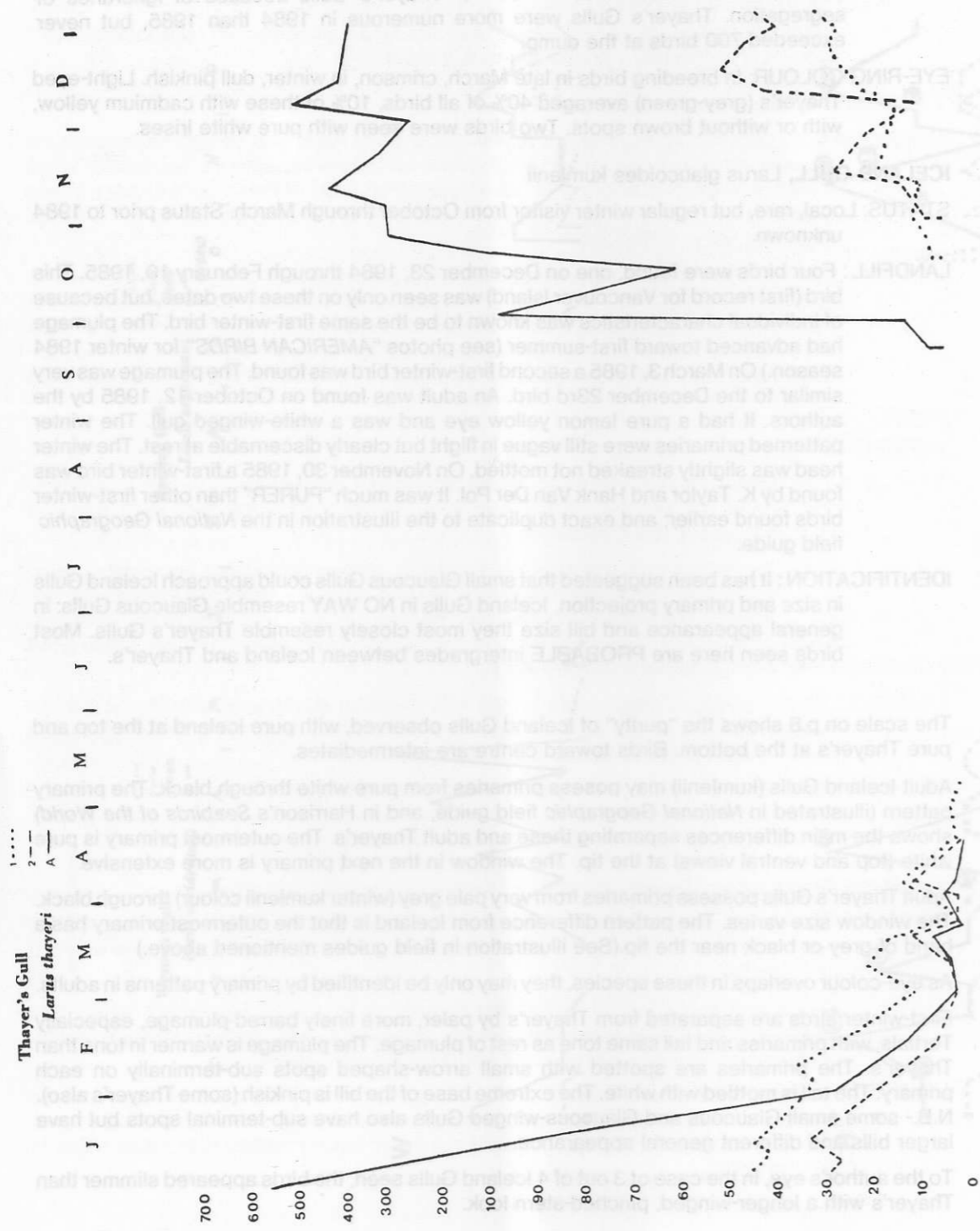
Adult Iceland Gulls (*kumlenii*) may possess primaries from pure white through black. The primary pattern (illustrated in *National Geographic* field guide, and in Harrison's *Seabirds of the World*) shows the main differences separating these and adult Thayer's. The outermost primary is pure white (top and ventral views) at the tip. The window in the next primary is more extensive.

Adult Thayer's Gulls possess primaries from very pale grey (winter *kumlenii* colour) through black. The window size varies. The pattern difference from Iceland is that the outermost primary has a band of grey or black near the tip. (See illustration in field guides mentioned above.)

As eye-colour overlaps in these species, they may only be identified by primary patterns in adults.

First-winter birds are separated from Thayer's by paler, more finely barred plumage, especially Tertiaries, with primaries and tail same tone as rest of plumage. The plumage is warmer in tone than Thayer's. The primaries are spotted with small arrow-shaped spots sub-terminally on each primary. The tail is mottled with white. The extreme base of the bill is pinkish (some Thayer's also). N.B.- some small Glaucous and Glaucous-winged Gulls also have sub-terminal spots but have larger bills and different general appearance.

To the author's eye, in the case of 3 out of 4 Iceland Gulls seen, the birds appeared slimmer than Thayer's with a longer-winged, pinched-stern look.



WESTERN GULL, *Larus occidentalis*

STATUS: An uncommon visitor, usually from mid-September through mid-April. Adults are occasionally seen in all months. Juveniles have been seen as early as mid-August. This gull is more common offshore in the Juan de Fuca Straits and westward, especially at Jordan River where many juveniles may be seen.

LANDFILL: On the dump they were erratic with peaks in March-April and November-December.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL, *Larus glaucescens*

STATUS: An abundant resident.

LANDFILL: Actual counts were not taken. Numbers decreased from 2,000-5,000 to only 400 birds in June - July, when most birds seemed to be arriving from the chain islets. Juveniles first appeared on August 10.

One albinistic adult bird was seen.

GLAUCOUS GULL, *Larus hyperboreus*

STATUS: A fairly rare winter visitor, usually from November through February, Occasionally from Sept. - April.

LANDFILL: The dump is possibly the most reliable place to see this species, the second place being the Goldstream River. Birds were seen on the following dates: 1 January, 1 first-winter bird; 6 January, 3 first-winter birds; 20 January, 1 second-winter bird; 10 February, 2 first-winter birds; 9 November, 1 second-winter bird; 20 November, 1 first-winter bird; 23 November, 1 first-winter bird; 30 November, 1 first-winter bird; 14 December, 1 first-winter bird. Most of the November birds were different individuals.

HYBRIDS

GLAUCOUS-WINGED X WESTERN

Very common; a wide range of plumages in all age groups. There was an increase of these birds that most closely resembled Westerns in mid-April, and again in mid-October, and a complete lack of them during June-July-August.

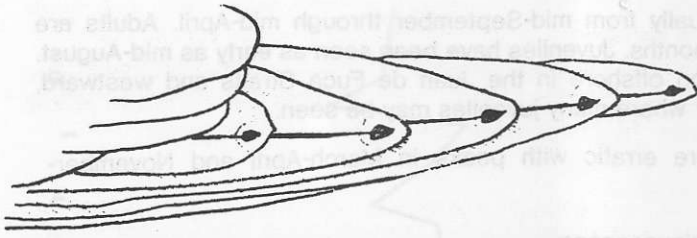
The "PURITY" of any Glaucous-wing or Western seen in this area is Questionable!

GLAUCOUS-WINGED X HERRING

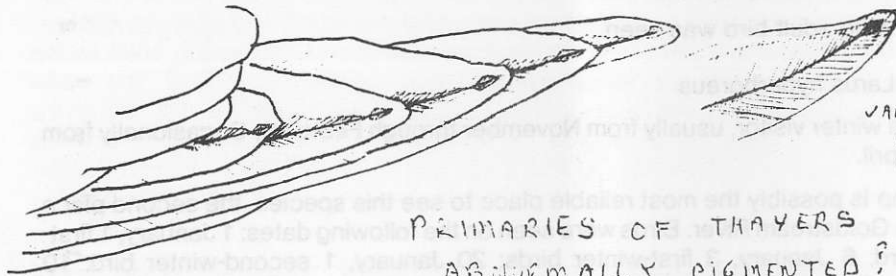
All adult herring gulls were flushed, to check the underside of the primaries. If they were grey, they were considered hybrids - birds with intermediate characteristics, warm brown mottled heads, black primaries with small windows, pale eyes and milky mantles were considered hybrids of these species. Birds closer to characteristic Glaucous-winged, and immatures, were impossible to separate from Glaucous-winged X Westerns.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED X GLAUCOUS

Juvenile birds were suspected, but one positive adult was identified. It was identical to a Glaucous in general characteristics, size and mantle and eye-colour. The eye-ring was reddish. The primaries were pale grey (mantle colour) but had windows of unusual size and shape. When flushed, the wings were wide and pure white underneath. The head was nearly pure white.

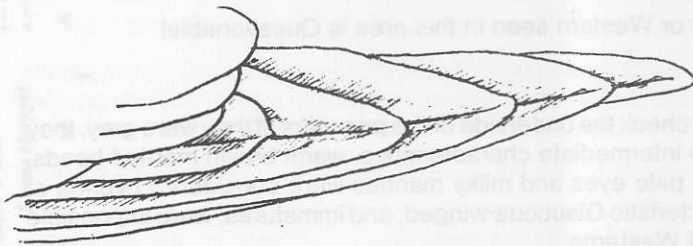


PRIMARIES OF FIRST-WINTER ICELAND GULL
USUALLY COFFEE, DARK COFFEE, AND WHITE
SAME TONE OR PALER THAN REST OF BIRD



PRIMARIES OF THAYERS
ABNORMALLY PIGMENTED?
OR
HYBRID?
OR
VARIATION OF WEAR?

THESE BIRDS USUALLY SHOWED
SOME "BARRING" ON TAIL.
SAME TONE OR DARKER THAN REST OF BIRD.



PRIMARIES OF FIRST-WINTER THAYERS GULL
(WELL WORN)

(SOLID) USUALLY, VERY DARK SETIA OR PALE WARM SETIA
EDGES OF WEAR PALER - DARKER THAN REST OF BIRD

VARIATION
DARK - WITH
SLIGHTLY DARKER "SPOT"
PALE EDGE

THAYER'S X ICELAND (Kumliens)

With the wide range of plumages, I can only agree that these species are con-specific. At least eight juvenile birds showed intermediate features. Birds showed primaries and tail with same tone as rest of plumage but lacked mottling on tail and sub-terminal spots (or some primaries lacked spots in varying degrees). Some birds had dark primaries but showed mottled tail or reversed.

Could so-called "PALE" Thayer's be intermediates?

One adult bird (seen on Nov. 4 & 9) was considered an intermediate. The primary pattern, "A WHITE-WINGED GULL", had very large white windows and very pale grey areas that could only be described as showing a combination of patterns of both species.

* See illustration.

VICTORIA'S KILLER WHALE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM - PART ONE

by Robin W. Baird
INTERNATIONAL CETACEAN WATCH SOCIETY,
a non-profit public education
and research organization.

Victoria now has an hour and a half warning of killer whales approaching from the southwest. On May 18 the International Cetacean Watch Society successfully installed an underwater acoustical monitoring system at Race Rocks, with the help of Society members, biologists from the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, students and staff from Pearson College, and the Race Rocks lightkeepers. After an unsuccessful attempt two weeks earlier due to current conditions and too little cable, this event went off with only a few minor problems. The hydrophone (an underwater microphone) is attached to a metal stand in thirty-five feet of water with 1,500 feet of cable connecting it directly to the lightkeeper's houses. Both families, Joan and Charles Redhead, and Elain and Warren Kennedy, will be monitoring the hydrophone continuously.

The range should vary up to four miles for any vocalizing cetaceans within the proper frequency range. This should greatly aid in monitoring the movements of killer whales around Southern Vancouver Island, as well as the detection of Pacific white-sided dolphins or Risso's dolphins. Recordings of killer whales can be used to distinguish between J, K and L pods or transient whales, and even between subgroups within pods. As well, the hydrophone will assist in detection of whales for Society-sponsored whale watching trips this summer.

Just one week after installation the system was put to test when a group of seven orcas swam past heading north-east towards Victoria. A recording was made and the whales were identified as part of L-pod. As well, seven Cetacean Watch members were able to see the whales an hour later as they moved past Trial Island off Oak Bay. The next day, Sunday, May 25, they were recorded and seen again as they headed east through Juan de Fuca Strait, this time photographed by Society members observing from the Race Rocks Lighthouse.

Part One of this project has been the installation of the hydrophone at Race Rocks, for a cost of over \$1,000 dollars. Parts two, three and four will depend on money. Ideally a network of hydrophones all around the southern tip of the Island will result in detailed tracking of cetacean movements and accurate travel times. Other possible locations include Sheringham Point, Trial Island and Ten Mile Point.

SUMMARY

Spring Bird Report, Southern Vancouver Island March 1, 1986 to May 31, 1986

by David F. Fraser

Spring migration was generally regarded as slow by most birders talked to, with few unusual shorebirds, and generally low numbers. However, several interesting species turned up, including a new species for Vancouver Island. The spring period was unusually cold and wet, which may have caused the poor showing.

This is a brief summary of the 1986 Spring Bird Report for Southern Vancouver Island. The report has been compiled by several people:

- A. Loons to Ducks (Roy Prior),
- B. Vultures to Cranes (Bruce Whittington),
- C. Plovers to Puffins (David F. Fraser and Lea Ramsay),
- D. Doves to Thrushes (Jerry and Gladys Anderson),
- E. Catbird to Weaver Finches (David F. Fraser, Lea Ramsay and Eric Lofroth).

The original report is filed at the Provincial Museum and the V.N.H.S. Library, and a copy is sent to the regional editor of *American Birds*.

The data for the report is extracted from sighting cards submitted from Vancouver Island birders. The report is only as complete as the information received and birders are urged to submit sighting cards by the end of each month. Sighting cards can either be brought to Victoria Natural History Society General Meetings, Birders' Nights, or dropped off/mailed to Swiftsure Tours Office, 119-645 Fort St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1G2. All cards are forwarded to the B.C. Provincial Museum and used in their records.

LOONS TO PELICANS

A census of Eared Grebes on Saanich Inlet produced 11 birds on the 11 and 12 March and 10 on 25 March (Bob Hay). A rare Laysan Albatross was photographed by Phil Lambert about 40 miles southwest of Cape Beale; photos have been submitted to *American Birds*, and the BCPM. One Fork-tailed Storm Petrel was seen on Juan de Fuca Strait, 2 miles south of Beechey Head (East Sooke Park) on 12 April (Robin Baird, Bill Herbert). A Brown Pelican was seen at Brotchie Ledge on 1 March (M.E. and V. Goodwill), and again on 3 March (m. obs.), one was seen off Royal Roads on 4, 6, 7 March, probably the same bird (m. obs.).

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

One American Bittern was reported on 5 May at Quick's Bottom, Saanich by Jerry and Gladys Anderson. A Green-backed Heron was seen on 10 May at Cowichan Bay (Keith Taylor et al.). The Great Blue Heron Rookery at Beacon Hill Park has at least 7 active nests as of 28 March (Alan MacLeod), the Sidney Island Rookery has over 200 nests on it (Joe Halstenson) and is currently under study by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Trumpeter Swans were last seen on 12 April with 75 to 100 birds on Quick's Bottom (B. Gates). Greater White-fronted Geese put in a spectacular appearance for some birders, with this usually fly-right-on-by species being grounded by fog on the April 19-20 weekend with several hundred being reported by several observers. The species was also recorded on 30 April with 60 over Anderson Hill (Ron Satterfield) and 7 were seen on 12

May at Sooke River Estuary (Bob Hay). One Snow Goose was seen on 5 March (Alan Dunlop) at the UVIC playing fields, and again on 6 March (Keith Taylor, David F. Fraser, m. obs.). Brant were first reported on 4 March and last reported on 16 May. Reports of American Black duck were received from Goodacre Lake and Quick's Bottom. First Cinnamon Teal arrived on 30 March at Quick's Bottom (Jerry and Gladys Anderson) and the first Blue-winged Teal was 1 male on 3 May also at Quicks Bottom (Alan MacLeod, Bruce Whittington and Ron Satterfield). There was one report of Redhead, a female at the Duncan Sewage Ponds on 30 March (Alan MacLeod, Bruce Whittington).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

Activity has been noted at 5 Osprey nests; observers are requested to file sighting cards on any nesting activity noted. Six reports of Northern Harrier were turned in, with the last one on 11 May at Puckle Rd. Saanich (Ian Gibson). Two Northern Goshawks were reported, 1 on 13 March harassing pigeons in downtown Victoria (B. Gates) and another over Chalet Rd., Deep Cove (Lawrence Turney). Six Golden Eagle reports were turned in, one from Saanich, the rest from the Metchosin/Colwood/Sooke area. A Mountain Quail was reported by Steve Johnson on 26 May from Mt. Tuam on Salt Spring Island, for the first sighting from the Gulf Islands. The last sighting of this species in British Columbia was in April of 1983. Sandhill Cranes were represented by only two reports for the spring period, 5 on 1 April, flying over Fairfield Rd., Victoria (M.E. and V. Goodwill). Twenty (+) were seen over Bamfield on 14 April (m. obs.).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

Five Lesser Golden-Plover were seen on 3 May, Rathrevor Beach, Parksville (Jerry & Gladys Anderson). The first report of Semipalmated Plover was 1 on 24 April, Clover Point, Victoria, (Ron Satterfield) and last report was of 12 on 22 May at Wiffen Spit, Sooke (Joe Silvey). Solitary Sandpiper reports were low, with only 6 reports received during this reporting period. Wandering Tattler reports numbered 16, with the first report of 2 on 9 May at McMicking Pt. (Keith Taylor). Spotted Sandpiper was first reported as 1 on 3 May, Courtland Flats, Saanich (Keith Taylor and Charles Harper). Wimbrels made their first appearance with 2 on 23 April, in the field south of Martindale Rd., Saanich (Alan L. MacLeod). There was a high count of 9 on 3 May at Clover Pt. (Alf Porcher). First report of Ruddy Turnstones was of 7 on 6 May, Sooke River Estuary in full summer plumage (M.E. & V. Goodwill). A Red Knot was seen on 2 May (W. & H. Hesse), and again on 3 May at Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood (Mike Bentley). One Pectoral Sandpiper on 9 & 10 May at Swan Lake was the first report for the year (Jeremy Tatum). Last report for Rock Sandpiper was 1 on 29 April at Holland Pt., Victoria (Ron Satterfield). Wilson's Phalaropes were represented by 1 on 10 May, Interurban, Courtland Flats, Saanich (Mike Bentley and Mike Force). Red-necked Phalaropé sightings, consisted of 20+ on 13 April off Cape Beale near Bamfield (David F. Fraser), 13+ on 19 May, Clover Pt., Victoria (Keith Taylor); and 250 on 25 May, Royal Roads, Colwood (Mike Bentley and Mike Force).

HEERMAN'S GULL

1 on 8 March, on the dock at Rocky Point, Sooke. Probably a second winter bird (BW and ALM). First Victoria record for March.

Two reports of Glaucous Gull received; 1 first winter bird on 1 March, Hartland Ave. Sanitary Landfill, Highland Land District (Keith Taylor); and 1 on 10 March, Martindale Road, Central Saanich (Joy & Ron Satterfield). Caspian Terns were seen with 1 on 1 May, flying northeast over Gonzales Pt., Victoria (Ron Satterfield) and 1 on 7 May over the tidal flats at the Sooke River Estuary (Bob Hay).

The Kittlitz's Murrelet, first reported in November of 1985 was seen through to 12 April at the Ogden Pt. Breakwater, Victoria (Ron Satterfield). The first report to note a change from basic to alternate plumage was on 1 April "with the dark areas of the plumage now looking more brownish, particularly on the wings, but the white areas still pure white" (M.E. & V. G.).

A pair of Tufted Puffins were on territory, Mandarte Island off Sidney around the 15th April (Bill Shaw, various Parks Branch personnel).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Five reports of Mourning Doves were received. The only report of a Common Barn Owl was one near the Victoria International Airport (Lawrence Turney). There was a Snowy Owl reported from Campbell River (Don Turnbull). Northern Pygmy-Owls were reported from Durrance Lake (3 reports), Cobble Hill, Shawnigan Lake, and Goldstream Park. A Short-eared Owl was seen on 3 April, Martindale Flats (Joy and Ron Satterfield). And two reports of Saw-whet Owls on 2 March, from different locations in the Saanich Peninsula, may have indicated some spring passage then (Jerry and Gladys Anderson, Bruce Whittington). Two early Common Nighthawks were reported. A Lewis' Woodpecker was reported from Duncan on the 18th March (Ruth and Bruce Gordon). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported from Hampshire Rd. and Cubban St., 1 on 18 April (Barb and Mike McGrenere) and 1 on 10 May, Butler Main Line, Sooke (Jeff Gaskin, Keith Taylor, Charles Harper and Hank Van Der Pol). The White-breasted Nuthatch first reported on the Sooke CBC was last reported on 15 March (P. Miller). Alan MacLeod reports Eurasian Skylark numbers as being down with reports totalling an estimated 55 birds (31 singing). A total of 11 reports of Western Bluebirds were received from 3 different locations.

NOTICES

PRE-PUBLICATION SALES OFFER

"The Naturalist's Guide to the Victoria Region"

Our new naturalist's guide is now in press! This comprehensive 192 page book gives an overview of the flora, fauna and geology of the Victoria area, from under the sea to the mountain tops. It also gives details on places to go in search of wildlife and other natural features. The guide has been totally revised, and is illustrated with photographs, drawings and maps.

We expect the guide to be off the press by mid-summer. The cover price will be at least \$11.95. Members of the Victoria Natural History Society are invited to take advantage of a pre-publication offer of \$9.95 per copy. Send a cheque or money order to D. Brown, "Victoria Natural History Society", P.O. Box 5220, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N4.

Reserve your copy now - this offer expires August 18, 1986!

BOTANY NIGHT

We are pleased to announce the Botany Nights will start again on November 13th, led by Leon Pavlick. The time and location will be announced in the *Victoria Naturalist*.

FRIENDS OF THE ECOLOGICAL RESERVES FIELD TRIP

The Friends of the Ecological Reserves are having a field trip to Saturna Island Sunday, July 13, to have a look at Ecological Reserve 15 and the proposed extension. You are welcome to attend. Hiking down and up the slopes of the reserve can be optional. There will also be time to walk around the park at Winter Point. Botanist, Harvey Janzen, a resident of the island, will be the leader. Any questions phone Wilf Medd 658-5829.

Leave Swartz Bay 8:40 a.m. for 11:30 a.m. arrival.

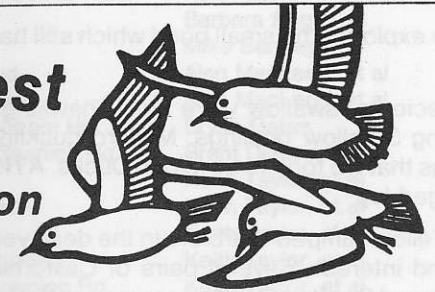
Leave the island 3:55 p.m. for 6:15 p.m. arrival.

As we go to press, a new ferry schedule is being prepared. Check it. Note also that vehicle parking space may not be available at the ferry terminal.

The Ecological Reserve represents the "climax" stage of two plant associations: One represents the mesic ecosystem (with Douglas-fir and Salal), one represents the subhygric one (with Western Hemlock and mainly moss layer, without Salal). Both plant associations are in this dry subzone on slopes exposed to the north.

Between the Forest and the Sea

The Ecology and Adaptation of West Coast Birds



A 3-day field session with Dave Fraser

With Bamfield Marine Station as your base and Dave Fraser as your guide, take a closer look at the behaviors and habitats of birds typical of B.C.'s forests, shores and open waters.

The fee includes: transportation to and from the Station, including the water passage on the M/V "Lady Rose" from Port Alberni; 3 nights accommodation at the Marine Station, meals, an open ocean trip to

La Perouse Bank on the M/V "Alta", lectures, labs and other educational activities.

Dates: Saturday, September 27 to Tuesday, September 30

Fee: \$248

For more information, please call Kate Seaborne at 721-8454.

University Extension and
Community Relations
University of Victoria



BIRDING, MUNN'S ROAD

Anne Knowles

Saturday May 24th dawned cloudy with a forecast of rain, but the day, although not sunny, was dry and windless.

10 Keen birders met and started birding at the Frances Park Nature House. The House wren's nest was watched and we saw one of the adult birds. Red-breasted Nuthatches were everywhere, also Rufous-sided Towhees and their confusing young; worse than confusing fall warblers!

Walking along the road we saw and heard a Townsend's Warbler, singing his buzzy song high in an evergreen. A Western Tanager was singing his hoarse Robin-like song and Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were busy in the tops of the firs. Winter Wrens were near the damp forest floor and a Pileated Woodpecker was heard calling.

Exploring the open area at the park boundary under the many Hydro lines we found a Rufous Hummingbird, Yellow Warblers everywhere, the drab Orange-crowned Warblers, bright Goldfinches and a few White-crowned Sparrows, and unobtrusively moving about were Brown-headed Cowbirds.

On the west side of Munn's Road near the swampy area were Common Yellowthroat, Willow & Western Flycatchers, and in the dryer area, Swainson's Thrushes were singing their beautiful ascending rolling song, Solitary Vireos were singing and a Warbling Vireo was singing his rapid warble with a questioning ending. A Hutton's Vireo was also singing his distinctive "zoo-eep" song.

Later we explored the small pond which still has many birds in spite of B.C. Hydro's construction efforts.

Four species of swallow were busy "hawking" for mosquitoes. A pair of Canada Geese were protecting 3 yellow goslings. Mallard ducklings of various ages were busy, as were smaller ducklings that we took to be Wood Ducks. A Hooded Merganser was also seen resting on a half-submerged log.

Young Yellow-rumped Warblers in the dead vegetation above the water gave us an extra flurry of study and interest. Several pairs of California Quail were seen on the mossy rocks. A well-camouflaged Spotted Sandpiper was spotted, a shore bird that is seen practically everywhere in B.C. I believe, wherever there is a bit of water.

A total of 53 species were seen and all pronounced it a most enjoyable day.

TALENT NIGHT

Lyndis Davis

The General meeting on May 13, 1986 was a most successful Talent Night. A good turn-out of members were treated to a wide variety of talents - paintings, etchings, photo-prints, batique, appliqué, embroidery, needlepoint, clay modelling and origami. Six people showed selections of 12 slides which were of a very high standard and varied subject matter. Coffee and cookies were served and enabled everyone to socialize. Thank you, everyone who displayed their talents.

I would like to say a special 'thank you' to Anne Adamson and Dave Fraser and his Crew who saw a need to help and pitched in. Also to the Museum Staff who provided and set up the display panels, tables and coffee urns and projected the slides.

BIRD OBSERVATIONS, APRIL, 1986

No.	Species	Date	Area Seen	Observer
1	Osprey	1	Witty's Lagoon	M. & V. Goodwill
3	Solitary Vireo	5	Mt. Work Trail	Alan MacLeod
2	Lapland Longspur	5	Puckle Road	Alan MacLeod
1	Northern Harrier	5	Martindale Flats	Mike Edgell
2	'Eurasian' Green-winged Teal	13	King's Pond	Bryan Gates
1	Mourning Dove	13	McIntyre Road	Roy Prior
1	Red-naped Sapsucker	18	Hampshire R. & Cubbon Dr.	Mike & Barb McGrenere
1	Sora	20	Quick's Bottom	Keith Taylor
1	Vesper Sparrow	22	Cobble Meadow	M. & V. Goodwill
2	Black-throated Gray Warbler	26	Munn's Road	Keith Taylor
1	MacGillivray's Warbler	27	Goodland Farm	Barb & Mike McGrenere

BIRD OBSERVATIONS MAY, 1968

No.	Species	Date	Area Seen	Observer
1	Yellow Warbler	1	Blenkinsop Lake	Doug Brown
3	Caspian Tern	2	Enterprise Channel	Mike Edgell
1	Wilson's Warbler	2	Thetis Lake Park	Pat Atkinson
1	Northern Oriole	2	Thetis Lake Park	Pat Atkinson
1	Solitary Sandpiper	3	Interurban/Courtland Flats	Keith Taylor
1	Olive-sided Flycatcher	3	Haldon Road	Barbara Begg
1	Purple Martin	3	Munn's Road	Mike Bentley
1	Northern Pygmy-Owl	3	Durrance Road	Alan MacLeod, et al
1	Western Tanager	3	Markham Street	Alan MacLeod, et al
1	Blue Grouse	4	#1 Hwy. at Cobble Hill	Bryan Gates
1	Black-headed Grosbeak	10	11290 West Saanich Rd.	Brent Diakow
1	Swainson's Thrush	10	Cordova Spit	Keith Taylor, et al
2	Hammond's Flycatcher	10	Malahat District	Keith Taylor, et al
3	Pectoral Sandpiper	10	Swan Lake	Keith Taylor, et al
5	Vaux Swifts	10	Esquimalt Lagoon	Keith Taylor, et al
2	Ruffed Grouse	10	Butler Main Logging Rd.	Keith Taylor, et al
1	Red-breasted Sapsucker	10	Butler Main Logging Rd.	Keith Taylor, et al
1	Virginia Rail	10	King's Pond	Alan Macleod & Ron Satterfield
1	Wilson's Phalarope	10	Duncan Sewage Pond	Alan MacLeod & Ron Satterfield
1	Western Wood Pewee	18	9350 Cresswell Road	Barbara Begg
18	Red-necked Phalarope	18	Race Rocks	Robin Baird
1	Barred Owl	20	11290 West Saanich Rd.	Brent Diakow
1	Brewer's Sparrow	25	Jennings Lane	Mike McGrenere
1	Blackpoll Warbler	26	Mount Tuam, Salt Spring I.	B. Gates & H. Van Der Pol
3	White-winged Crossbill	27	2864 Colquitz Ave.	Geof. & Judy Godfrey
2	Western Kingbird	28	Anderson Hill	Jack Todd
1	Red-eyed Vireo	31	Lochside Park	Keith Taylor

PROGRAMME - JULY/AUG. 1986

Please meet at the location specified for each trip. 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 suggest that participants share the fuel costs with the driver. Contact Lyndis Davis at 477-9952 if you want to have the club scope for use on birding trips.

Saturday, July 19 Birding at Witty's Lagoon, leader, Bruce Whittington. Meet at Helmcken Park and Ride at 7:30 a.m. or Witty's Lagoon at 8 a.m.

Sunday, August 17 - Birding field trip to Central Saanich and Cordova Spit, leader, Brian Gates. Meet at Mayfair Lanes at 8:30 a.m.

The projected trip to Hurricane Ridge has been cancelled, since few people were interested.