



The Victoria NATURALIST

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
1986

VOL. 42:8



The Malahat Drive, Freeman King Visitor Centre, and the Goldstream estuary seen from Mount Finlayson. © JIM WESTON

A Special Year for Wildlife

By WINSTON MAIR

ON June 8, 1887 the first Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Canada (and the Western Hemisphere) was established at Last Mountain Lake in Saskatchewan. Considering those times, when probably the majority of people thought of Canadian wildlife as almost limitless (and frequently a nuisance), that action by the government was imaginative indeed. But there have always been some naturalists, sportsmen and public servants working in the background to promote the conservation of our flora and fauna. The history of game laws and management in the provinces and territories reveals the work of many unsung heroes. It was not, however, until after World War II when the pressures of major economic development upon the

land occurred that wildlife conservation and environmental protection came to the forefront of general public thinking. That interest reached its peak in the 1970s; now economic concerns again tend to dominate the scene.

It is timely then to re-emphasize the importance of fish, wildlife and land to our continued well-being. The idea of a Wildlife Centennial surfaced in the Canadian Wildlife Meeting, to seize the initiative. A proposal was made to the federal Minister of the Environment that Canada declare 1987 a Centennial Year for Wildlife Conservation in Canada, thus highlighting the importance of the forethought shown in 1887. The Minister agreed with the proposed initiative, but asked for some show of support from provincial governments. Budgets are tight and dollars are simply not available on any scale. To this point a national committee has been established, chaired by Joy Findlay (a

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Honourary Life Members

Albert R. Davidson	Mrs. H.W.S. Soulsby
Miss E.K. Lemon	A. Douglas Turnbull
Mrs. L.E. Chambers	Mrs. Peggy Goodwill
E.E. Bridgen	Vic Goodwill

Officers and Directors 1986

Officers and Committees

PRESIDENT Mary Richmond, 385-0504
VICE-PRESIDENT (to Aug. '86) Roy Prior
PAST PRESIDENT Mary-Lou Florian, 387-5552
(Program)
TREASURER Arthur B. Durkee, 388-6077 (Finance)
SECRETARY Isobel Dawson, 721-7965

Directors and Committees

Doug Brown, 477-1200 (Guide Sales)
Ed Coffin, 492-0964 (Membership)
Harold Hosford, 478-5794
Winston Mair, 592-2849 (CNF, Director)
Harold Pollock, 386-4449 (Scholarships
and Bird Habitat Protection)
Mike Shepard, 658-5850 (Publications)
Bruce Whittington, 652-3525

Other Functions

FBCN: W. Mair, W. Medd, M. Shepard
Friends of the Provincial Museum
Junior Naturalists: Bianca Message, 595-4254
Librarian: A.R. Davidson, 598-3088
Birding Field Trips

RARE BIRD ALERT: 382-5562 Phone bird sightings to 382-9652

Annual Dues, including The Victoria Naturalist: Junior \$2.50, Regular \$12.00, Golden Age \$11.00, Family \$17.00, Sustaining \$30.00

The Executive wishes to acknowledge the contribution made by Bruce Whittington and Jim Weston as guest editors for this issue of The Victoria Naturalist.

Published every two months by the
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
P.O. Box 5220, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N4

Contents Copyright © 1986 as credited

ISSN 0049-612X

vice-president of the CNF), Alberta and Prince Edward Island have established provincial centennial associations or working groups, and regional participation by Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick is assured.

Here in British Columbia a small working group was formed during the last spring. Participating are representatives of the Nature Trust, the B.C. Trappers' Association, the B.C. Wildlife Federation, the Federation of B.C. Naturalists, the Wildlife Branch and the Canadian Wildlife Service. The chairman of our Conservation Committee has so far chaired the meetings, while the Wildlife Branch has provided meeting space and secretarial service. One other individual, recently retired from a senior position in the provincial Ministry of Environment, is on the working group too.

Given the problem with funding, this group is seeking low cost projects and proposals for highlighting wildlife over a full year. A goodly number of suggestions are being pursued, and several NGOs have agreed to participate with projects. The next meeting in early August crystallized most of the present ideas and saw us ready to contact government, industry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to solicit participation—financially, by actually undertaking a project, or both. However, nothing is yet cast in stone. Suggestions for projects will be very much welcomed, as well as offers to help. Any Victoria Natural History Society members interested in more information, in helping or in developing a local project should contact one of the three members of the Conservation Committee or the President of our Society.

A Job Well Done, Roy

Roy Prior's sudden move to London, Ontario, has left more than one hole in the Society; he has worked as Vice-president, and has been responsible for organizing an increasing number of birding field trips. But we will miss Roy most in his capacity as editor of *The Victoria Naturalist*. He has virtually single-handedly built the magazine into a forum for more scientific articles, while maintaining the news and information content so necessary in our organization. We may never be sure what methods Roy used to solicit this excellent material but do it he did, and the '*Naturalist*' is the better for it.

Roy has given us a better foundation; it will be up to the new magazine 'staff' to take it through the next phase of its development. We believe this new format will help us pursue the potential Roy recognized in this publication. Our thanks go out to Roy for a job well done, and our best wishes to him and Joanne for happiness and success in London.

For membership information and renewal please contact Ed Coffin (592-0964) or write V.N.H.S., Box 5220, Station B, Victoria, B.C.

A New Format for Fall

CURRENT members of the V.N.H.S. will be especially interested in the new format of The Victoria Naturalist. In keeping with the trend set by Roy Prior, as editor until his recent move to Ontario, the larger page size will allow the magazine to attract more attention to the services of the Society and to report on the scientific contributions of its members and associates. More photography and other illustrative material will tell a broader audience about the opportunities the Victoria region offers for everyone to appreciate and protect its natural attributes. Those of you who are already members well understand this. An important task of the Society is to make more residents aware of the companionship, leadership and natural enjoyment to be found through association with an organization such as the Victoria Natural History Society. This publication has a major role to play, with every issue, in promoting the concept of exploring, learning, and working together to ensure the Victoria region retains all of its natural wonder. If you are a member, count yourself 'in' on this pleasant effort. If you're not, join us!

The new format of The Victoria Naturalist provides significant cost savings, as it is much more economical for printers to work with a folded 11" x 17" sheet. The capability of the press is about 36% unused when an 8½" x 14" sheet is printed, by comparison, and more sheets required folding and collating as well, in the old format. We are continuing to use a large, easily read type size (larger than in most magazines) in a style that enables more information to appear on each page. This standard magazine-size format also makes it easy to store issues in binders, which has not been possible before. The new format is more attractive for selected advertisements, which can assist us in maintaining the quality of this publication.

Help Us 'Go to Press!'

The Society immediately needs people who are interested in assisting with the production of *The Victoria Naturalist*. Previous experience in preparing material for publication would be very welcome but enthusiasm is more important, and there are individuals willing to share their expertise if you'd like to learn how things get 'into print'. Here's an opportunity to put your concern for improved awareness of our natural heritage into action—by being part of the publication team! Just a few hours per month is all it takes, shared among some dedicated members like yourself, to put an issue together. Please call any of the Directors to talk over the possibilities for your involvement in this important service of the Society.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA is now available directly through the V.N.H.S. Contact Lyndis Davis (477-9952).

C.N.F. Cards and Calendars

The Canadian Nature Federation gives our Society a discount when we place an order for Christmas cards and calendars for our members. This benefits you, as you are not charged postage, and it benefits the V.N.H.S. by 'earning' us the discount. Samples of the cards may be here at the September 9 meeting, and will certainly be here by October. There will be a sign-up sheet and the cards ordered should be here by November. PLEASE consider placing your order through V.N.H.S. The CNF cards are good quality, competitively priced, and should be here in time for mailing. Come to the meeting to see them and place your order, or contact Lyndis Davis (477-9952) for more information. Deadline for orders is OCTOBER 15.

Interpretation Canada at Parksville

For the first time since its formation in 1975, Interpretation Canada is holding its National Workshop right here on Vancouver Island, at Parksville's Island Hall Hotel, October 13-18. "Across Canada, every day, hundreds of individuals are telling the stories of our land and its people. Alone, or in small groups, they do their job in museums, historic sites, schools, wildlife centres, zoos and a host of national, provincial and municipal parks. Separated by geography, bureaucracy and academic discipline, they pursue a common goal and have named themselves interpreters to establish a bond of identity. They formed Interpretation Canada to open lines of communication, to develop skills, to make organizations and the public aware of interpretation and what it is, and to help develop standards for recognizing and encouraging excellence in interpretation." (from 'Interpreters from Coast to Coast').

Robert Bateman will offer the keynote address at this conference, beginning Tuesday, October 14. Papers, workshops, a technical program, and field trips including Pacific Rim National Park, the B.C. Forest Museum, Newcastle Island Marine Park, and the B.C.P.M. will keep over 100 participants busy during the week. You are invited to register and learn about ways to share your interests in natural and human history. Write for the full program: **Ideas in Motion, Box 6308, Station C, Victoria, B.C. V8P 5M3, or call 592-4332.** Registration deadline is September 12. A very reasonable accommodation package is being offered, or you can stay at Rath Trevor Beach Park nearby.

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES are invited for display space in *The Victoria Naturalist*. Here is a special opportunity to reach hundreds of active outdoors people who are particular about the quality of their equipment, clothing, accessories, and recreational experiences. Our reasonable rates enable you to inform the membership about your commitment to providing superior products and services. Contact **Margaret Mackenzie-Grieve at 477-2402** for details, rates, and upcoming deadlines.

Skylark Numbers Down in 1986 Spring Survey

By ALAN MacLEOD

FEWER skylarks in fewer locations were encountered during a poor spring in the 1986 Saanich Peninsula Eurasian Skylark survey. A total of just 31 singing birds were counted in the March 1 to May 31 period. The overall total of individuals singing and not singing was 55.

In the three years of this annual spring survey, the high counts of singers and total individuals were 45 in 1984 and 75 in 1985. Furthermore, the skylarks were found at only 10 sites in the 1986 survey compared to as many as 18 in 1984.

However, these results are not necessarily bad news for skylark enthusiasts. The spring of 1986 tended to be wet and cool, a poorer spring than in any of the previous three years. According to the airport weather office, the year's precipitation through May 31 was 518.5 mm compared to the normal 393 mm. The sun shone 586.6 hours compared to a normal 730 hours.

These conditions may have adversely affected the census by discouraging birds from singing and observers from censusing. (Much of the rain seemed to fall on weekends, when most of the census work is done.) For these reasons, the observers feel it is premature to conclude that skylark populations have suffered since 1985. Still, thirteen sites which had skylarks in one or more previous years did not reveal any to observers in 1986. Among the more important of these are Puckle Road, Cumberland Farm on Stelly's Cross Road, and the Agriculture Canada research station on East Saanich Road.

Conditions at the important McHugh Road and Martindale Road sites were not ideal for skylark nesting in 1986. The population at McHugh may have suffered when, for the first time in four years, the grass field west of the road was ploughed. This occurred April 5 when nesting activity should have been coming to a peak. At Martindale the grass fields south of the reservoir were still very wet April 23. In a normal year these fields would be quite

dry then, and it is plausible that these conditions might have discouraged breeding and nesting activity.

Alan MacLeod or Bruce Whittington, or both, visited 22 skylark sites in this survey, from one to five times each.

Table 1: 1986 Skylark Survey Results

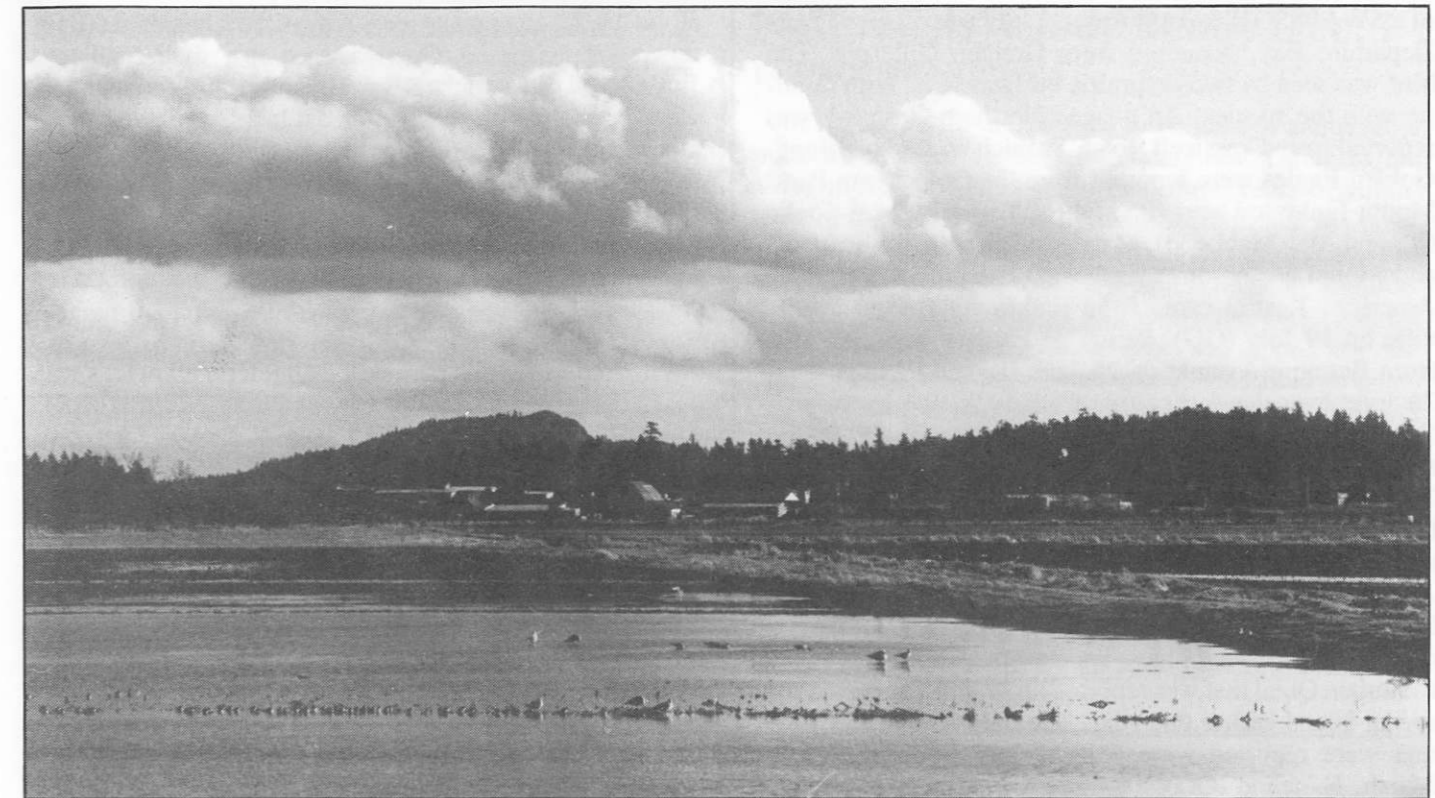
	High Count	
	Singers	All
1. Dooley Road, N. side	1	1
2. Martindale Road, S. side	3	6
3. Lochside Drive allowance, east s., S. of Isl. View Rd	1	1
4. McHugh Road: fields W. & S.	3*	6
5. Veyaness Road: W. side at Cunnane	2	3
6. Mt. Newton Cross Rd, at BC Forest Service nursery	1	4
7. Central Saanich Rd/Fentress Rd allowance/9200-block Wallace Dr.	7	14
8. Victoria Intl. Airport	8	10
9. Wallace Dr, S. side from foot of Columbia to Maber's Farm	2	4
10. Hovey Rd, dead end E. of East Saanich Rd.	3	6
TOTALS	31	55

* High count of 3 singers reported to Peggy Goodwill, March 16 by Tracee Geernaert and April 13 by Brian Gates

Table 2: 1983-1986 Comparisons

Year	Sites	Singers	All Individuals
1983	12	42	45
1984	18	45	63
1985	16	42	75
1986	10	31	55

Alan MacLeod, 4-251 Ontario St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1N1



Fields near Martindale Road were flooded during much of the spring.

© JIM WESTON

Vancouver Island Nesting Season Bird Report Summary June 1 to July 31, 1986

By DAVID F. FRASER

This is a brief summary of the 1986 Nesting Season Bird Report for Vancouver Island. The report has been compiled by several people: A. Loons through Ducks (Jerry and Gladys Anderson), B. Vultures through Cranes (Bruce Whittington), C. Plovers through Puffins (David F. Fraser and Leah Ramsay), D. Doves through Thrushes (Mike and Barb McGrenere), E. Catbird through Weaver Finches (Lyndis Davis). The original report is filed at the Provincial Museum, 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 end of each month. Sighting cards can either be brought to Victoria Natural History Society General Meetings, Birders Nights or dropped off or mailed to Swiftsure Tours Office, 119 - 645 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1G2. All cards are forwarded to the B.C. Provincial Museum and used in their records.

LOONS through PELICANS

Small numbers of Red-throated, Pacific and Common Loons were reported and one report of a YELLOW-BILLED LOON was received from Bob Hays on 17 July, two miles south of Long Beach. The only summer reports of Pied-billed Grebes we received were from Buttertubs

Marsh in Nanaimo (Graham Gillespie). A pelagic birding trip to LaPerouse Bank on 2 July with Mike Shepard and the International Ornithological Congress produced 5 Black-footed Albatross, 100 Northern Fulmar, 1 Pink-footed Shearwater, 400 Sooty Shearwaters, and 150 Fork-tailed Storm Petrels. Rob Hays reported 1 Flesh-footed Shearwater on 15 July, 40 miles southwest of Ucluelet. Many people saw the WHITE PELICAN, first reported on 6 & 7 June at the Chemainus River Estuary by Stan Baker and Molly Lyons, later reported from Christie Point in Portage Inlet from 9 through 18 June by many observers. It was rumoured that the bird may have been a released individual, however, there is no reason to suspect that an escapee was involved.

HERONS through WATERFOWL

Late reports of Brant included single birds on 5 and 18 June at Clover Point (Ron Satterfield). Wood Ducks were reported from Munn's Road Ponds, and Blenkinsop Lake, Saanich and from the Duncan Sewage Ponds. A single American Black Duck was reported from Esquimalt Lagoon between 19 June and 15 July (RS and ME/VG). Breeding Northern Shovellers were again reported from Saanich, with a female and 3 young reported from the McIntyre Reservoir (Jeremy Tatum). A single report of a Greater Scaup was received from Quamichan Lake on 19 June (ME/VG).

RAPTORS through CRANES

Two reports of single Northern Harriers were received from Alan MacLeod: an adult male at the east end of Hovey Road, Central Saanich on 28 June and an adult female from Rocky Point, Metchosin on 26 July. A report

WILDLIFE ART GALLERY

featuring the works of

Robert Bateman

Fenwick Lansdowne

Ron Parker

John Seerey-Lester



CUSTOM AND DO-IT-YOURSELF PICTURE FRAMING/ART GALLERY

1640 CEDAR HILL CROSS ROAD
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8P 2P6

(604) 477-5621

of a SWAINSON'S HAWK on 31 July was received from Departure Bay, Nanaimo from Graham Gillespie. The bird was seen by two ex-prairie birdwatchers, both familiar with the species. An unaged Northern Goshawk was reported from Cresswell Road, Saanich by Barbara Begg. Golden Eagles were reported from the Goldstream Park/Mount Finlayson area (RS, DFF), Tugwell Lake, Sooke (RS and Alan MacLeod), Mandarte Island (Mike Shepard) and Mount Matheson, Metchosin. The only report of an American Kestrel came from Rath Trevor Beach, Parksville on 19 July (GG). Peregrine Falcons were reported from Belmont Avenue on 24 June (Darryl Parkin), 2 on 26 June over the Agriculture Canada Station in Saanich (Nancy Williams) and 1 adult, Sidney Island (RS). More than 75 CHUCKAR were released near the base of Mount Tuam on Saltspring Island this summer (E. and M. Marchbank fide DFF). A bird that had at least some of the field marks of a Mountain Quail was seen by H. Hosford and Alan MacLeod on 15 June at Mile 11 Butler Main, Sooke, but was not seen well enough by either observer for a confirmed I.D. There have been no further reports of the Mountain Quail that was reported on Mount Tuam on Saltspring Island earlier this year. The only American Coots that were reported were 6 on 4 July from Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo (GG).

SHOREBIRDS through TERNS

Earliest report of Black-bellied Plover was of two birds at Whiffin Spit on 12 July (Joe Silvey). The earliest report of a Semipalmated Plover was on 15 July with 1 bird at Witty's Lagoon, Metchosin (VG). One, possibly two,

albinistic Killdeer were seen in the Cowichan area during this reporting period. One was seen at a small pond near Jim's Road at Cowichan Bay Road, on 16 June; the bird was very pale with a single breast band, yellowish legs, a dark area on the top of the tail feathers, white eyebrow stripe, and was originally misreported as a Mountain Plover (DFF, Leah Ramsay). The same bird or possibly a different bird (a second breast-band was present on this individual) was reported from the same location on 24 June (J & RS).

First report for this period of a Greater Yellowlegs was on 18 June, of one bird at Clover Point, Victoria (RS). The first report received of a Lesser Yellowlegs was one on 13 July from Clover Point, Victoria (RS). A total of 5 reports of Wandering Tattler were received during this reporting period, with the earliest being 2 at Gonzales Point, Victoria, on 21 July and one there on 23 July (RS). Single Whimbrels were seen on 1 June at Clover Point, Victoria (RS), Ross Bay on 5 June (J & RS), Sidney Spit on Sidney Island on 6 June (J & RS), Clover Point, Victoria on 20 June (J & RS), Rocky Point, Metchosin on 5 July (ALM). On 21 July, two Ruddy Turnstones on Griffin Island off Oak Bay were the first southbound migrants (Mike Shepard). Earliest report of Black Turnstone was of 2 birds on 15 July at Holland Point, Victoria (RS). First report of Surfbird for this reporting period was on 14 July with two birds in summer plumage

Goldstream Provincial Park needs your help!

Share your interest in natural history — volunteer for the salmon run program October 15 through November 30.

We need people for the Visitor Centre — to answer questions, run slide shows, and talk to people. We need people who can take small groups out by the stream and explain the phenomenon that's happening.

We need people with ideas . . . we need YOU! If you're interested in helping out, call Bill Spriggs at 478-9414 or Cathy Mackin at 387-4363.



We've Got a
Natural Reason
to Celebrate.

at Clover Point, Victoria (RS). Sanderlings were first reported for this period on 16 July with one in breeding plumage at Ogden Point, Victoria (RS), and one at French Beach in the Renfrew Land District in fading breeding plumage (ME/VG). Six reports were received of Semipalmated Sandpipers during this reporting period, all from the Witty's Lagoon area, Metchosin. There was a single report of one Baird's Sandpiper at the Victoria Golf Course on 17 July (RS). Pectoral Sandpipers were represented by 1 report received of 3 birds at the Victoria Golf Course on 17 July (RS).

Fifty Red-necked Phalaropes were seen, mostly in small flocks of up to 15 to a group from about 3 to 5 km/2 to 3 mi off the coast from Long Beach (Rob Hays). Red Phalaropes had two reports, 5 birds seen 59 km/37 mi S.W. of Long Beach and 12 birds 48 km/30 mi southwest of Long Beach, some in partial breeding plumage, 17 July (RH). There was one Pomarino Jaeger reported, a single bird on 17 July at 69 km/43 mi southwest of Ucluelet (RH).

An adult LITTLE GULL was seen on 23 July off Clover Point, Victoria (VG and KT). There was one report of Herring Gulls: 3 immature birds at Clover Point, Victoria on 28 July (RS). On 17 July a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE was 9.6 km/6 mi S.W. of Long Beach and 2 Sabine's Gulls were 45 km/28 mi S.W. of Long Beach and 11 ARCTIC TERNS seen in ones and twos from 40 to 56 km/25 to 35 mi southwest of Long Beach (RH). A single Tufted Puffin was reported at Clover Point, Victoria on 21 June (KT and Charles Harper). Reports of a single bird at this location or at Gonzales Point, Oak Bay were made on 26 June and 1, 2, 15, and 21 July (RS). Two birds were seen on 25 July at Clover Point, Victoria (RS).

DOVES through THRUSHES

There were four reports of Mourning Doves received, three from Saanich and one from North Cowichan. No Common Barn Owls were reported. Northern Pygmy Owls were reported from Sproat Lake (Bruce Whittington) and one or two birds were heard several times in July from the Goldstream Park Campground (DFF). Barred Owls were reported from UVic and West Saanich Road, and one SAW-WHET OWL was seen at Mount Work Regional Park on 26 July for an unusual summer record of this species. Purple Martins were reported from Cowichan Bay, where some have taken to using nesting boxes provided for them (B. Gates), Munn's Road, Victoria Harbour, and a single sighting at the Victoria Golf Course, Oak Bay. Pear's Road in Metchosin produced the only Western Bluebird reports received. A Townsend's Solitaire was seen on 22 July at Mile 11, Butler Main, Sooke (Alan MacLeod, RS).

CATBIRDS through WEAVERFINCHES

There were no reports of Vesper Sparrows received—has anyone checked the Cobble Hill location this summer? One Western Meadowlark was seen at Jordan River on 24 June (Hank van der Pol).

Naturalists' Guide Ready Dec. 1

by MIKE SHEPARD

In this issue we are pleased to be able to announce a publication date for the new Naturalists' Guide to the Victoria Region. After more than three years of volunteered effort, Jim Weston, David Stirling, and the other contributors have assembled a first-class reference our Society can be proud to regard as its 'flagship' publication. Beginning naturalists will enjoy the non-technical writing, and advanced naturalists will appreciate the thorough indexing of selected species and field stops.

The book has also been designed by Jim Weston, and his photographs alone form a unique portrait of our area. The printing and binding, being done by Morriss, features softbound, sewn signatures for durability in the field. Large type, margin space for notes, and a field stop map will make it an indispensable companion for everyone interested in natural history, from Sooke to Sidney.

Be sure to reserve yours now, and remember the Guide will be an excellent gift for all ages. Ordering details are shown elsewhere in this issue.

JORDAN MEADOWS FIELD TRIP

By KATHERINE SHERMAN

Jordan Meadows is a very special area. Steven Mitchell had taken us botanising there on July 14, 1973, and again on July 15, 1979. As far as I know, no one else has felt inspired to take a group there until last June 28, when Gerry Allen of the U.Vic. Botany Department volunteered. It is not a place to go to without a leader. Lying some 15 miles west of Shawnigan Lake, it is reached by criss-crossing gravel logging roads, in places very rough and so little travelled that toward the end our vehicles had to push their way through alders meeting overhead. But it is worth the effort for the glorious feeling of wilderness you have on arrival. It is a huge open bog area, fringed with trees of a quality that, so far, has not made them attractive to loggers.

Comparing this with previous trips, it seemed as though the sundew bog at the start of the trail had grown smaller, and that the meadows themselves were drier and more overgrown with hardhack. The chief difference, however, was due to the late season and the fact that we were about 17 days earlier this time. Previously we had been eaten alive by myriads of flies and mosquitoes. This year the day was chilly and there were none. But our gratitude in that respect was offset by the lack of flowers. Although we found the Douglas Gentian and the White Bog Orchid (*Habenaria dilatata*), neither was in profusion. We failed to find the Swamp Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), the Blue Swamp Gentian (*Gentiana sceptrum*), and others. But we found the Northern Starflower and Grape-fern (*Botrychium boreale*) not previously noted.

The sundew bog perhaps provided the most interest, with at least nine members of the Family *Ericaceae*, including the False Azalia (*Menziesia ferruginea*) and Labrador Tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*) which was bloom-

Confused?

Did you see an Eastern or Western Bluebird? Common or Great Camas? Oregon or Anise Swallowtail?



If you'd like to know, we can provide the books you need. Our mail-order catalogue lists over 700 natural history books, from basic guides to those hard-to-find titles. If you'd like to receive our catalogue, send \$1.00 to:

the field-naturalist

Special order book service for naturalists

P.O. Box 161, Brentwood Bay, British Columbia V0S 1A0
Telephone: 652-3525

THE NATURALIST'S GUIDE TO THE VICTORIA REGION

Edited, with Contributions, by
Jim Weston & David Stirling

Sponsored by
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

- GEOLOGY
- INTERTIDAL LIFE
- BOTANY
- BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS
- MAMMALS
- BIRDS

Introduction by
Yorke Edwards

Contributors:
Philip Lambert
Leon E. Pavlick
David Nagorsen
Jeremy Tatum

Available December 1st—Reserve
Yours Now!

Designed to assist both residents and visitors in exploring our area, this 6" x 9", 200-page guide includes field stop descriptions, over 160 black and white photographs emphasizing habitats, and 28 full-colour photographs on the deluxe, double soft cover. Colour geological and field stop maps are included, as well as an extended chapter introducing the complex geology of this region. Each chapter has its own index, with both common and Latin names where relevant. Additional reading lists are also provided.

The first printing will be limited, so reserve your copies now at the V.N.H.S. members' special price of \$9.95. After December 31, 1986, the members' price will be \$10.50. The regular price is \$11.95. Add \$1.25 per copy for shipping, or pick up your copies at the December 9 General Meeting in The Newcombe. Other distribution details will be printed in the next Victoria Naturalist. Please ensure you qualify for the members' price by enclosing a separate payment for dues if yours have not been paid for 1986.

Send orders, with money order or cheque payable to VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, to:

Naturalists' Guide
Victoria Natural History Society
P.O. Box 5220, Stn. B
Victoria, B.C.
V8R 6N4

ing profusely. In this also, a Western Red Cedar was growing side-by-side with Yellow Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*), likewise the Mountain Hemlock and the Western Hemlock, so we were given a thorough briefing on the more obvious differences.

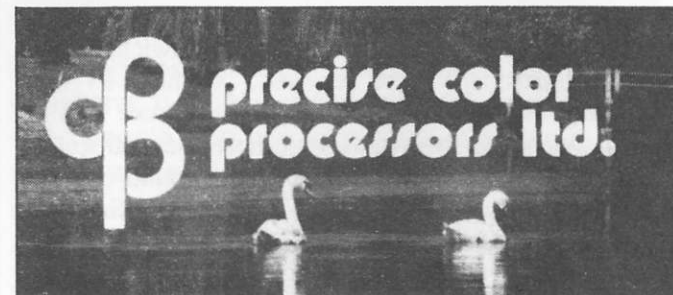
Jordan Meadows is an area I would like to see made an Ecological Reserve. Although at present remote and very wet, who knows, some twenty years hence some developer will eye this large, flat, treeless area, drain it and produce an instant city!

Our grateful thanks to Gerry Allen.

Birding at Witty's in July

by JEFF GASKIN

A beautiful sunny day greeted all 20 of us at Witty's Lagoon on Saturday, July 19. The walk, organized and led by Bruce Whittington, began at 8 am. To start things off, a Chipping Sparrow was heard from the parking lot. On our trek down to the lagoon a noisy group of chickadees, nuthatches, and Brown Creepers was seen and heard. At Sitting Lady Falls an adult and immature Osprey at their nest were watched closely. The adult bird



QUALITY PHOTOFINISHING

Bill Staton
President

747 Discovery Street
Victoria, B.C. V8T 1H1
(604) 385-5512

was seen occasionally leaving to hover over the lagoon, and was then observed feeding its catch to the young bird in the nest. Once we made our way to the lagoon, shore-birds were everywhere: Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers, Killdeer, Western and Least Sandpipers with a couple of Semi-Palm's in between, and Greater Yellow-legs and five Semi-palmated Plovers rounded out our list. At the beach an adult Caspian Tern made its presence known amongst a number of Glaucous-winged, Mew, California, Heermann's, and Bonaparte's Gulls.

On our way back to the parking lot, a small group of us were surprised to see a young Cowbird bothering an adult Song Sparrow, presumably for food. No doubt the Song Sparrow was parasitized by the Cowbird.

Lunch was enjoyed at Tower Point and to our excitement a Solitary Vireo was first heard and then seen, as well as Townsend's and Yellow-rumped Warblers. In all,

a total of 36 species were counted; a pleasant day's outing enjoyed by us all.

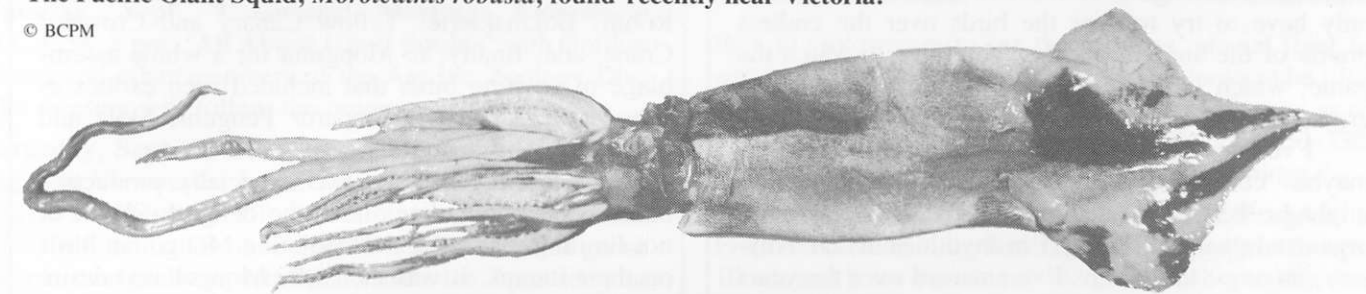


A view toward Witty's Lagoon.

© JIM WESTON

The Pacific Giant Squid, *Moroteuthis robusta*, found recently near Victoria.

© BCPM



The Pacific Giant Squid

By GORDON GREEN
Aquatic Zoology Division, B.C.P.M.

ON July first, 1986, a Pacific Giant Squid (*Moroteuthis robusta*), was discovered washed up on the beach at Telegraph Bay, Victoria. Normally an inhabitant of deep, offshore waters, giant squid are rarely seen in British Columbia, and this is apparently the first reported stranding of this species in the province.

The squid measured 3.3 metres (11 ft) in length including the tentacles. This is an average size for this species with the largest recorded specimen being almost 7 metres (22 ft) long, making the giant squid the largest invertebrate on the west coast of Canada. Despite this large size, *Moroteuthis* probably never attains the size of its Atlantic relative *Architeuthis*, which can grow to 18 or 19 metres (55 to 60 feet).

As with all squids, the giant squid has eight arms and two long tentacles. These ten appendages originate from the head of the squid and are arranged in a circle around the mouth. The two tentacles are much longer than the arms and are slightly expanded near the ends to form a structure known as a 'club', which is well-equipped with suckers and chitonous hooks. These tentacles can shoot out rapidly to capture prey, which is grasped and held between the clubs. The prey is then quickly drawn toward the mouth and eaten while

being held with the eight shorter arms. Each of these has 60-90 suckers and is well-adapted to holding prey. The mouth contains powerful chitonous jaws, called a beak, because of the similarity in appearance to a parrot's beak. These jaws are used to kill prey and tear it into pieces to be swallowed. The body or 'mantle' is cylindrical and has a pair of large tail fins at the posterior end.

Squid swim by a kind of jet propulsion, expelling water out of their body cavity through a funnel located just behind the head. The force of the water rushing out through the funnel propels the squid in the opposite direction. This funnel is very flexible and can be pointed in any direction, allowing the squid to move forward, backward, up, down or sideways. The tail fins are used as stabilizers and probably do not contribute much to the actual propulsion of the animal.

Squid are capable of very rapid swimming in this manner and can swim faster than any other invertebrate. Using this technique another species of B.C. squid known as the flying squid can actually propel itself out of the water and glide for some distance.

Although considered by some to be fairly common along the west coast of North America, the biology, habits and distribution of the Pacific Giant Squid remain largely a mystery. The fact that the Telegraph Bay specimen is one of only a few records of giant squid in B.C. makes it a particularly valuable find. Hopefully, in the future, more will be found in our waters, contributing information to our scant knowledge of this elusive giant.



The Victoria NATURALIST

P.O. Box 5220, Stn. B
Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N4

Second Class Mail Reg. 6428

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

The Victoria Naturalist is a quarterly journal of natural history and conservation. It is published by the Victoria Naturalists' Club, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and protection of the natural world in the Victoria area. The journal covers a wide range of topics, including local flora and fauna, environmental issues, and conservation efforts. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the natural world and is available to members of the club and to the general public. The journal is published in both print and digital formats, and is available online through the club's website. The Victoria Naturalists' Club is a vibrant community of enthusiasts who share a passion for the natural world and are committed to making a difference through their conservation efforts. The journal is a key part of the club's mission to educate and inspire the public about the importance of the natural world and the need to protect it for future generations.

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.