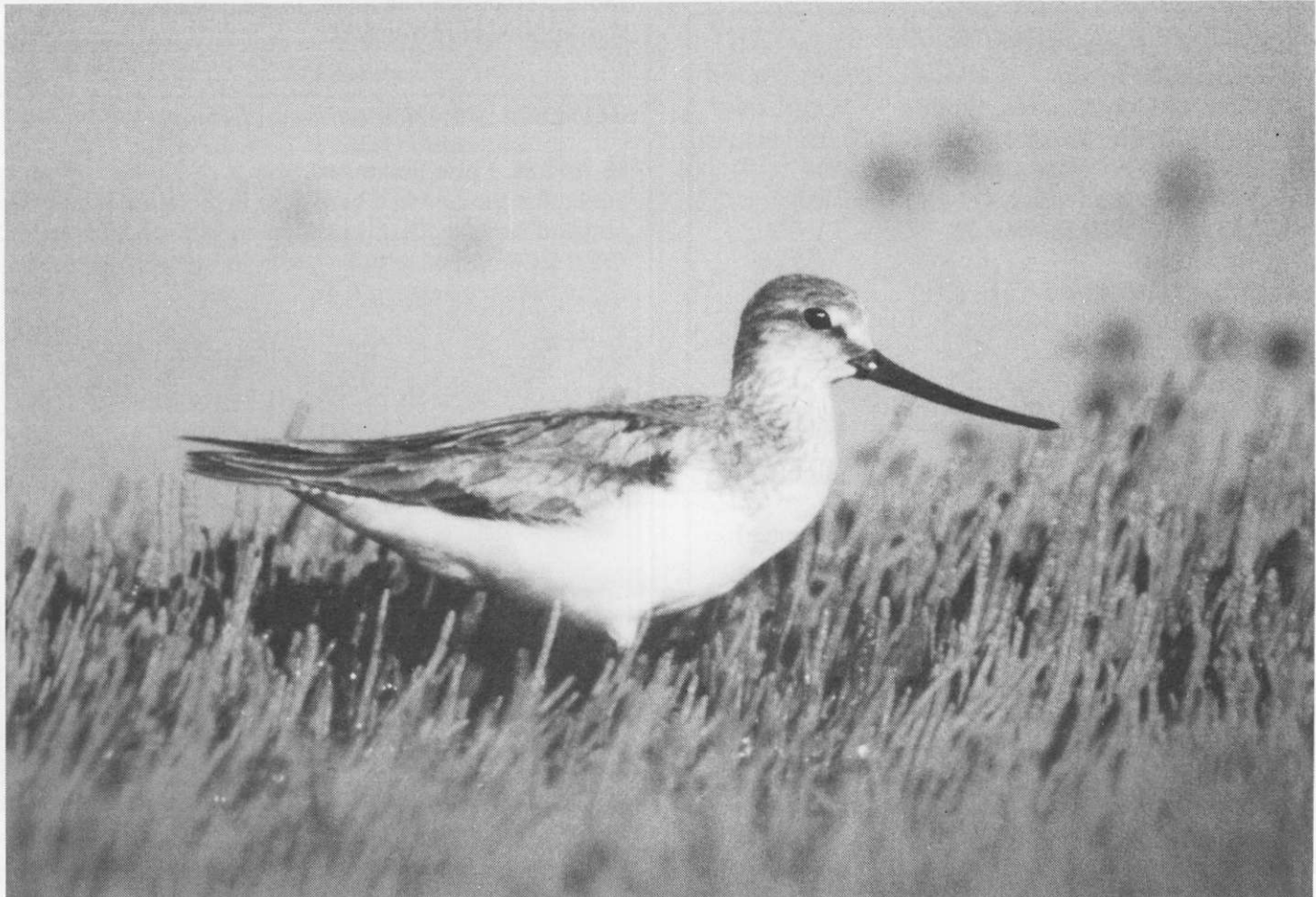


The Victoria NATURALIST

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
1987

VOL. 44.2

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Terek Sandpiper

© Tim Zurowski

A Tundra Swan at Portage Inlet

by Jeff Gaskin

On Saturday July 4, 1987, a Tundra Swan, the first summer record for southern Vancouver Island, was found on the Colquitz River behind Newbury Street, Portage Inlet, Victoria. This relative of the park-type Mute Swan which everybody is familiar with was last seen on the evening of July 5 in essentially the same area.

Tundra Swans (or Whistling Swans, which is the name formerly given to them) look similar to Mute Swans. They have a white body and long neck, but a black bill with an unusual yellow spot at its base; by contrast, Mute Swans have an orange bill with a black knob at the base of the bill and are larger and more graceful than the Tundra.

What makes the find so remarkable is that Tundra Swans inhabit the barren grounds of Canada and the Arctic coast at this time of year - unless of course this bird was an escaped caged bird. The first time I saw this bird it was preening and holding one of its feet up in the air. It had many scars and sores on the bottom of its foot, which could lead one to believe that it had been in a cage and was fighting to

continued on page 2

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Honorary Life Members

Albert R. Davidson, Miss E.K. Lemon,
A. Douglas Turnbull, Mrs. L.E. Chambers,
Mrs. Peggy Goodwill, Vic Goodwill

Officers and Directors 1987

Officers and Committees

PRESIDENT Betty Kennedy, 592-2070
VICE-PRESIDENT Doug Brown, 477-1200 (Guide Sales)
PAST PRESIDENT Mary Richmond, 385-0504
TREASURER John Hunter, 479-4903 (Finance)
SECRETARY Isobel Dawson, 721-7965

Directors and Committees

Ed Coffin, 592-0964 (Membership)
Alice Elston, 592-1400
Dave Fraser, 652-5934 (Program)
Constance Hawley, 385-2535
Wilf Medd, 658-5829
Harold Pollock, 386-4449 (Scholarships and Bird Habitat Protection)
Bruce Whittington, 652-3525 (Publications Committee)

Other Functions

FBCN: W. Mair, W. Medd
Friends of the Provincial Museum:
Librarian: A.R. Davidson, 598-3088
Birding Field Trips: A. Knowles, 477-3684
L. Davis, 477-9952
Birders Night Contact: Mike McGrenere, 381-6449
RARE BIRD ALERT: 592-3381

Managing Editor: Mark Nyhof, 595-0232
Advertising: Margaret Mackenzie-Grieve, 477-2402
Copy Editor: Jaclyn Dorsey
Distribution: Ed Coffin, Lyndis Davis

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

Published every two months by the
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
P.O. Box 5220, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N4
Contents Copyright ©1987 as credited
ISSN 0049-612X Printed in Canada

The Victoria Naturalist Laserset by
DESKTOP PUBLISHING LTD., Victoria, B.C.

On The Cover

The Terek Sandpiper is an Asian Species and is a casual visitor to the Alaskan coast and outer Aleutian Islands.

This sighting is the first confirmed record for North America south of Alaska, and therefore, the first record for Canada.

The bird was found by Vic and Peggy Goodwill on the outer shore of Goodrich Peninsula, Sooke Basin on July 21/87 and was reported until Aug 6/87.

TUNDRA SWAN...continued from page 1

be set free. I also discovered from a resident on Newbury Street that the bird had been seen in the same area for the past 6 to 8 weeks. That sounds to me as if the bird couldn't fly, and everyone knows that caged birds have their wings clipped and remain flightless.

Needless to say I phoned the sighting in to the Victoria Rare Bird Alert operated by Mrs. Alice Elston, and several other birders from Victoria have seen this swan.

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

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.

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

Opinions expressed by contributors to the Victoria Naturalist are not necessarily those of the Society.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Lavender Monckton

We regret having to report the passing of another long-time member of the society, Mrs. Lavender Monckton, who died in Vancouver in July at the age of 93.

All who knew Lavender loved her and on her 90th birthday gave her a party to celebrate the occasion at the Windsor Park Pavillion in Oak Bay. We were all there.

She was one of the original members of the Tuesday Group and attended regularly until fairly recently.

We will surely miss her as she was our friend over the last thirty years, and companion on many birding trips.

Eleanore and Albert Davidson



Lavender at her 90th birthday party.

Jessie M. Woollett

We are saddened to learn of the death, on August 14th, of Jessie M. Woollett, one of the Society's long-time members. She was an avid photographer and naturalist lecturer.

She will be particularly remembered by other Victoria Natural History Society members as having given the delightful program, "Spring on Our Island", at last February's annual banquet.

Get Well!!

We have learned that Winston Mair, a long-time member of the board, was recently hospitalized. Best wishes, Winston, for a full and speedy recovery.

Report Marine Mammal Sightings & Strandings to the Cetacean Watch Society.

**24 HRS: 383-6722 in Victoria
Toll Free 1-800-334-8832 in B.C.**

THE EAST BAY SCIENCE & NATURE CO.

Microscopes - Books - Toys - Prints - Posters
Telescopes - Gifts - Binoculars - Birdbaths
Sundials - Bird Feeders
Stuffed Animals - Globes
Dinosaur T-Shirts
Cards



1889 OAK BAY AVENUE
VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 1C6
PHONE (604) 595-0033



COSTA RICA

**November 21 to
December 4, 1987**

"Rich Coast" is both the translation and an apt description of our destination on this tour. Supporting a wonderful variety of wildlife, Costa Rica holds many attractions for the naturalist. With biologist David Fraser as your leader, you'll visit regions of strikingly different character, from the dry tropical forests of Santa Rosa National Park to the moist cloud forests of Monteverde and the wet jungle canals of the Caribbean coast. You'll have the opportunity to observe an amazing array of creatures such as howler monkeys, pufferfish, sea turtles, macaws, armadillos, quetzals, sloths, lizards and butterflies, to name but a few. This fall, experience the natural history of Costa Rica for yourself.

Call Swiftsure Tours for the exciting itinerary!

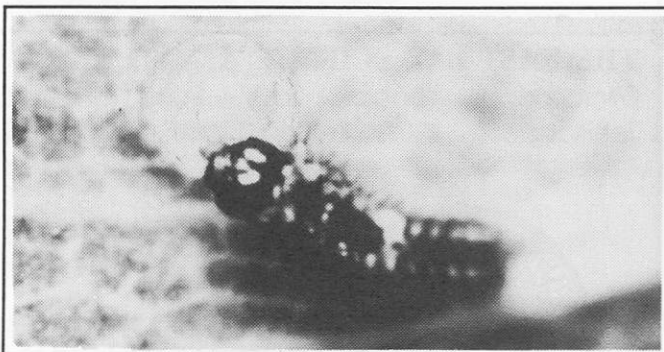


119 - 645 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1G2
(604) 388-4227

The Anise Swallowtail Butterfly's Life Cycle

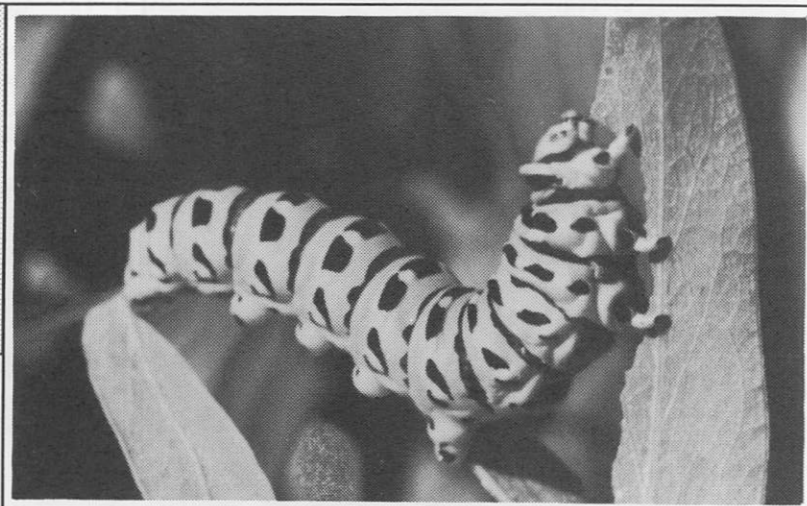
by Bertha McHaffie-Gow

It's the time of year that we watch butterflies gracefully flitting about, but how many of us are aware of the drama that produces these lovely creatures? Here is a photo story of one of the common species, the Anise Swallowtail.

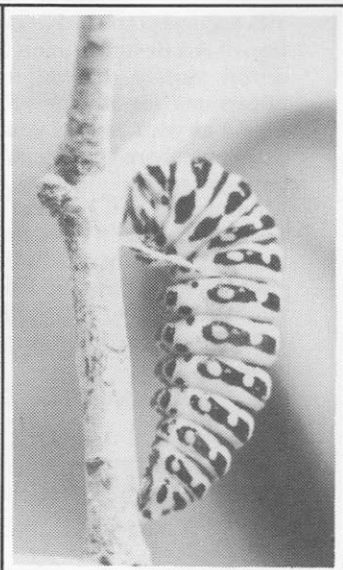


1. A tiny egg, about the size of a poppy seed, is laid on the underside of a leaf of Indian consumption plant, garden parsley or parsnip. On hatching, the larva first turns and eats the egg casing. This larva is dark brown with a white band. It resembles a bird dropping, which is a protective characteristic for the first part of its life. Feeding on the host plant, it quickly grows, shedding the outer skin several times and gradually changing in colour.

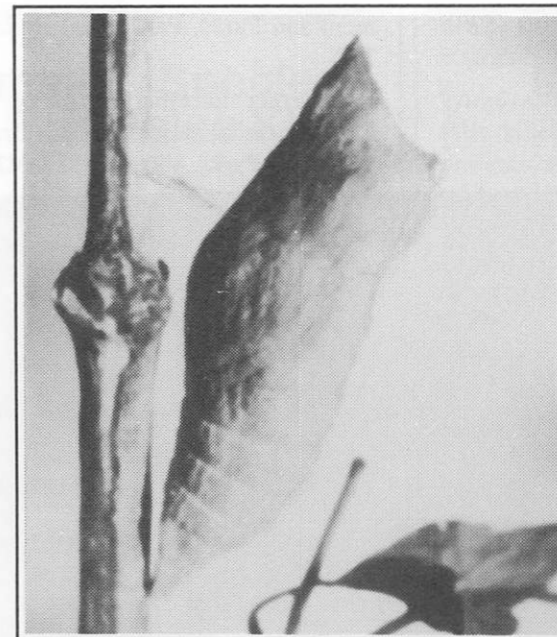
2. Now lime green with yellow and black markings, the larva (or caterpillar) is still difficult to see against green leaves. During this stage it feeds ferociously and grows to 4 - 5 cm long. Then suddenly it will leave the host plant and crawl around rapidly to find a suitable place from which to hang.



3. The larva now first cements its tail end to a twig with a mucous substance. It then goes back and forth 15 to 20 times making a loop over its front feet (much like when holding a skein of wool to be wound). The loop finished, it dips its head through it and works it down to the fourth or fifth body crease. There it will hang for 24 or 30 hours, getting rather pale in colour.

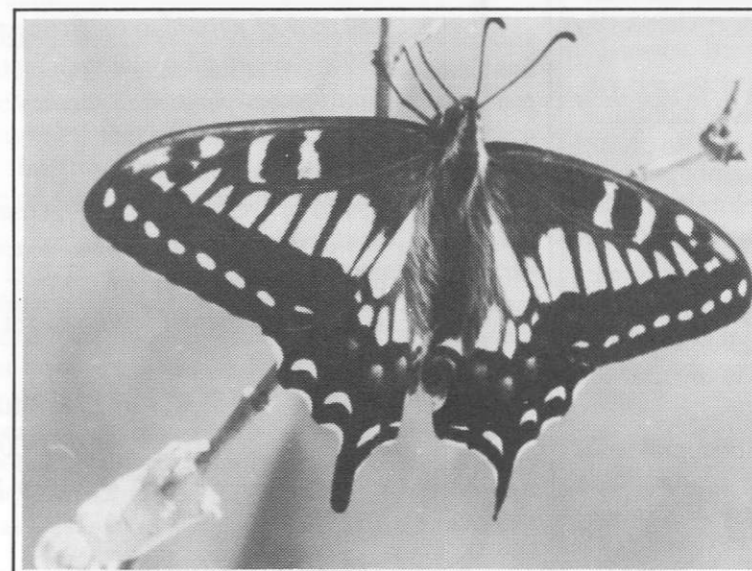


4. Suddenly the skin splits at the larva's head end, with a twisting convulsive movement. It splits open the whole way down, and is cast off in a wrinkled little lump. This takes about a minute.



5. The chrysalis or pupa stage is lime green, beige or brown, another protective measure because it resembles green or dead leaves. It remains in this stage 10 to 12 months, but I had one emerge after 2 years, and have read that they can remain in this stage for up to 6 years. This protects the species should something happen one year to destroy the population. It is in this chrysalis that the mystery of metamorphosis takes place.

6. Just before the butterfly emerges, the chrysalis becomes transparent and wing markings and colour can be seen. Suddenly it splits at the head end, and out walks the butterfly in seconds, wings moist and crinkled like a folded umbrella. This usually happens in the very early morning hours and darkness - again, for protection when the butterfly cannot fly. It hangs for an hour or more, pumping up the wings and drying them before flight.



7. The adult butterfly is now incredibly beautiful. The yellow dusting on the velvety black is like gold dust, and the colourful blue, orange and black "eye" at the base of the wings is brilliant (which makes one realize that the elements soon cause colour shift when once the butterfly is in flight).

The adult is now ready to mate and to repeat this drama of the life of the Anise Swallowtail Butterfly.

Photos by Bertha McHaffie-Gow

B.C. To Select Provincial Bird

British Columbia will soon have its own official bird and residents of the province are being invited to help in the selection.

A three-month province-wide campaign to select a provincial bird has been launched by Environment and Parks Minister Bruce Strachan and Ed Vernon, vice-president of the Centennial Wildlife Society of B.C.

Selection of a provincial bird for British Columbia will symbolize B.C.'s commitment to wildlife appreciation and conservation. The provincial bird should therefore meet most of the following criteria.

It should:

- be generally common throughout B.C.;
- nest in the province or, better still, be a resident bird year round;
- be attractive and recognizable
- be either a western species, be unique to B.C., or have an abundance of its world population in B.C.; and
- have conservation or cultural significance.

Seven candidate birds have been shortlisted on the basis of these criteria. The birds are: the Varied Thrush, the Trumpeter Swan, the Stellar's Jay, the Rufous Hummingbird, the Peregrine Falcon, the Harlequin Duck, and the American Dipper.

The public is being invited to participate by voting for any one of the seven or for their particular favorite. Ballots and other campaign details will soon be available at any B.C. Parks Visitor Information Centre, Government Agent's Office, or Ministry of Environment and Parks office. An Information Kit is also being made available to every elementary school classroom in the province.

B.C. residents will have until October 31, 1987, to cast their ballots or write in their choices.

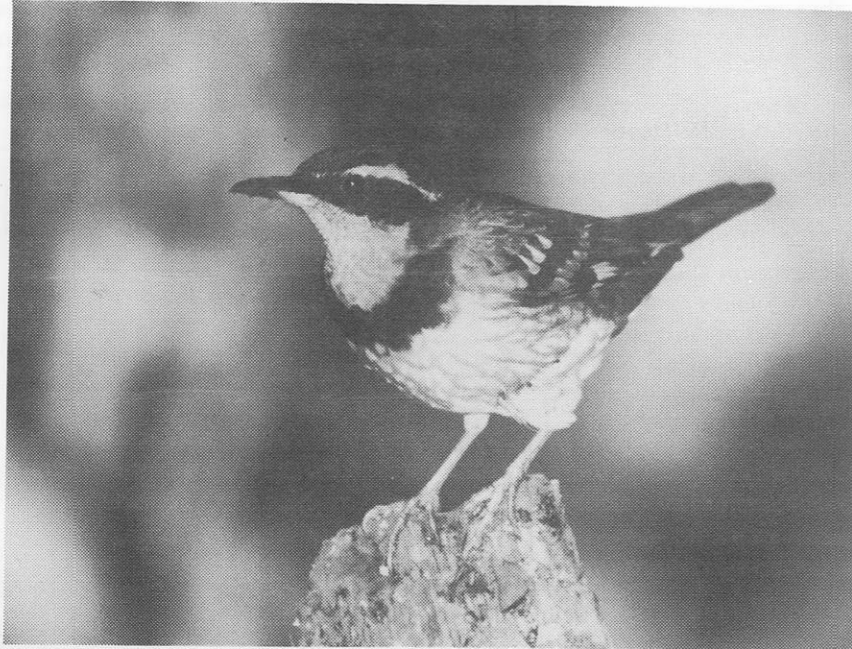
"This is not merely a popularity contest but an opportunity for each of us to examine the role that birds and other wildlife play in the environment and to consider seriously what they mean to us," Strachan said.

"Not only will the provincial bird join the dogwood flower as an emblem of the spirit of British Columbia, but it will also serve as a living symbol of our commitment to the next 100 years of wildlife conservation."

British Columbians can vote for any of the seven provincial bird candidates, or their own candidate, by sending their choice to "Vote for your B.C. Bird", Ministry of Environ-

ment and Parks, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X5.

For further information, please contact: Ron Kawalilak, Director, Information Services Branch, Ministry of Environment and Parks, Victoria, 387-9422.



Varied Thrush

© Mark Nyhof


Yellow Point Lodge



A place apart...

- ~ 180 acres of natural, oceanfront parkland.
- ~ Relaxed country hospitality.
- ~ Fine home cooking.
- ~ Beach sauna and hot tub.
- ~ Salt water swimming pool.
- ~ 5 miles of walking and jogging trails.
- ~ Tennis courts, volleyball, badminton, canoes, row boats, ping-pong.
- ~ 1 mile of waterfront with secluded coves and beaches.

R.R. #3, Ladysmith, B.C.
V0R 2E0
604 • 245 • 7422



A New Mammalian Species For Canada, The False Killer Whale

(Pseudorca crassidens)

by Robin William Baird

On May 3, 1987, a new mammalian species was added to the Canadian list, when a false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) stranded on Denman Island in the Strait of Georgia. This individual was probably a member of a school of sixteen false killer whales sighted the next day in Puget Sound, Washington.

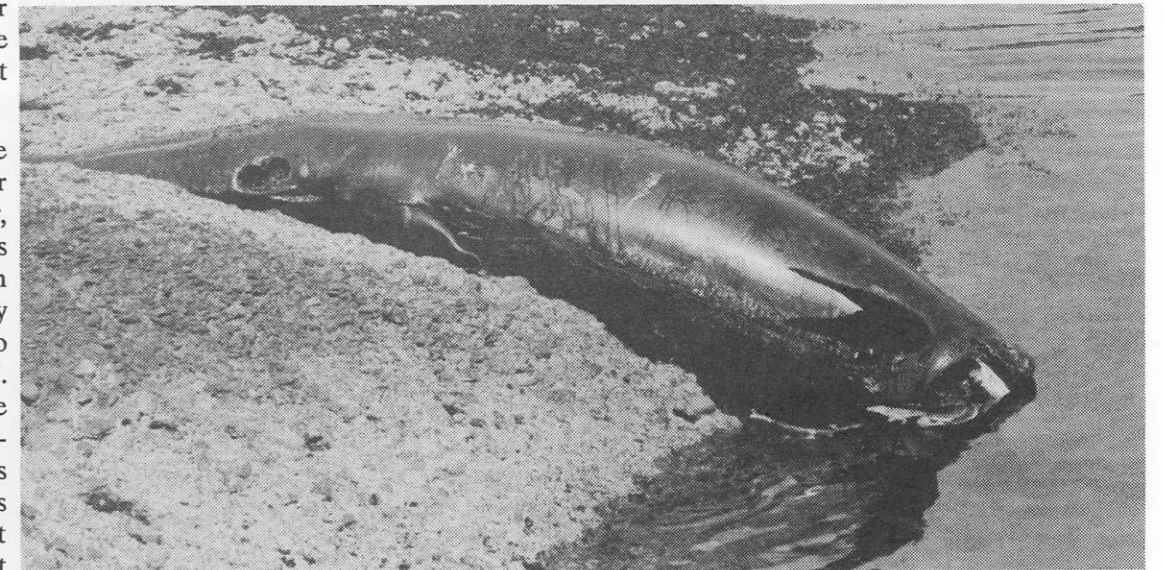
The false killer whale is actually a member of the dolphin family, and was given its name "false" back in the days when they used the word to mean "resemble". However, the false killer whale only superficially resembles our local killer whales (*Orcinus orca*). It grows to about 18 feet long, and is almost all black in colour. The dorsal fin is small and curved back, and the pectoral flippers are pointed, with a distinct bend at the elbow. The head is small and rounded and sports a set of 32 to 44 conical pointed teeth.

One resemblance to the killer whale may be in its feeding habits, for although its main diet is composed of squid and fish, it is occasionally known to prey on dolphins, and once even on a baby humpback whale (Hoyt 1984). The stomach contents of the stranded individual indicated that it had been feeding on salmon and squid prior to death.

The stranded individual was dead when found, and a local resident set forth to remove the teeth for a necklace by cutting off the front of the skull and the lower jaws. The animal was then rolled back into the water but fortunately washed up again just down the island. A local fisheries officer tied the whale to shore to prevent its disappearance, and on May 8 a team from the Cetacean Watch Society came to recover the skeleton and positively identify the whale. An autopsy performed by Ken Langelier, DVM, of the Island Veterinary Hospital in Nanaimo, did not reveal a positive cause of

death, although it did appear that the animal was alive when it stranded.

There are many possible reasons for the stranding. The false killer whale is normally an open-ocean species, and navigation in shallow, unfamiliar waters may have caused it to strand in confusion. Parasites in the inner ear causing disorientation are also a common cause of strandings in whales. Or perhaps the animal was sick and, too weak to swim further, beached itself to prevent itself from sinking and drowning. Heavy metal toxicity tests undertaken revealed high levels of mercury and selenium in the liver, but with no information to compare it to, the impact of these levels remains unknown. The animal appeared to be quite old, from its size (15'2") and the wear of the teeth, which would help account for high levels of heavy metals.



False Killer Whale

© Robin Baird

The Denman Island individual and the rest of the school in Puget Sound were far from their normal range. The false killer whale is generally a tropical and subtropical species, although there was one previous record from Washington State, and another from Prince William Sound, Alaska. However, the stranded individual on Denman Island was not the last false killer whale for these waters. A single live individual was sighted and photographed in Johnstone Strait, off northern Vancouver Island, on June 22, 1987, by Telegraph Cove resident Jim Borrowman. The Puget Sound pod was last seen on July 2, but on July 29th a lone immature individual was stranded in Ucluelet. It was returned to the water by local residents and stayed in the area until Aug. 10, then disappeared. The whale seemed to be in poor health and may not have survived. With three records in Canadian waters this year more sightings may still be possible.

*Editors note: If there is a sighting, hopefully it will be living!

Literature Cited:

Hoyt, Erich. 1984. The Whale Watcher's Handbook. Madison Press. 218 pp.

Growing Native

Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) in the Garden

by David F. Fraser

Salal is probably one of the most useful and underutilized native shrubs for coastal British Columbian gardens. It is Evergreen, with attractive growth habit and prolific bearer of edible berries. It is a useful addition to the birdwatcher, landscaper or jelly-maker alike. Salal is tolerant of a wide variety of environmental conditions from dry soil and full sun to dark shady area. Its character is different in each of these sites and what may be a low reddish bronze leaved plant on a dry rock outcrop along the east side of Vancouver Island can grow to be head high, lush and dark green in moister areas on the west coast.

Despite this adaptability and its widespread distribution along coastal B.C. this species can be surprisingly slow at establishing itself in the garden. Sandy soils, or those rich in organic matter are usually the most agreeable to this species, being one of the few natives that is commercially available to do this. Propagation is possible by seeds, stolons or semi-hardwood cuttings taken in late summer or early fall (Spurr 1978). Commercially they are propagated almost entirely by root cuttings (Dimock et al 1974).

The species is being more widely used for landscaping. In Oregon State, highway edges and meridians planted in this species look so natural I'm sure most people don't even realize that the species was put there after the highway was constructed.

Literature Cited:

- Dimock, Edward J., William F. Johnstone and William I. Stein. 1974. *Gaultheria L. - wintergreen*. in Shopenmyer C.S. *Seeds of Woody Plants in the United States*. USDA Agriculture Handbook No. 450. Washington D.C. p. 422-426.
- Spurr, Joy. 1978. *Wild Shrubs: Finding and Growing Your Own*. Pacific Search Press. Seattle, Washington. p. 96.

Cadboro Bay SHOP EASY

100% locally owned & operated

3829 Cadboro Bay
Victoria, B.C., V8N 4G1 Telephone: 477 - 6513

CNF Cards and Calendars

The Canadian Nature Federation Book Store sells Christmas cards and calendars each year. The cards are good quality, by Canadian artists and have a seasonal nature scene. They come in packets of 20 cards and envelopes for under \$10.00. The calendars and engagement diaries have photos by well-known photographers and are the same ones that are in stores, but cost a little less from CNF.

VNHS is given a discount when we purchase cards and calendars (last year we made about \$130.00) and you 'save' the postage on individual orders.

Samples of the card designs will be here by the October general meeting and there will be a sign-up sheet there too. Even if you cannot get to the meeting, do purchase CNF cards from VNHS (encourage your friends to do so too).

The deadline for ordering is October 15. The cards will be here by the November meeting - in plenty of time for your Christmas mailing.

Contact Lyndis Davis at 477-9952 to place your order - before Oct. 15.

Buffet Style Sunday Brunch

Enquire about our Banquet Facilities

Daily Lunch
Specials

Weekly Dinner
Specials



Dining from 11 am - 11 pm

3838 Cadboro Bay Road

reservations 477-7219

Parking space
available at rear
of building

all major credit
cards accepted

FALL LECTURE SERIES

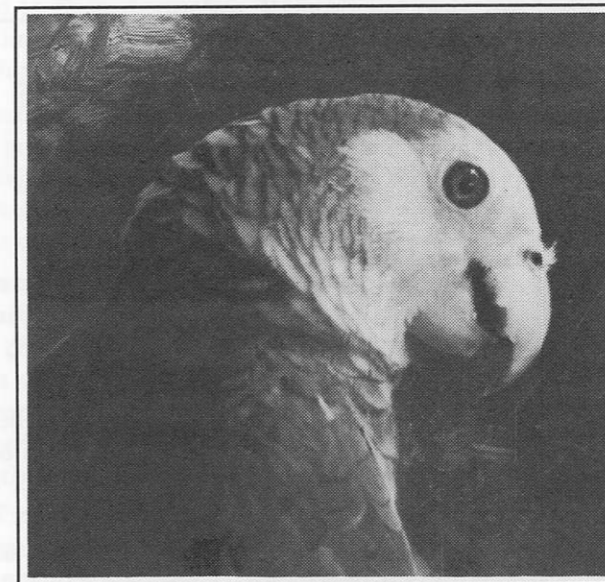
Sponsored by the Victoria Natural History Society

Newcombe Auditorium
British Columbia Provincial Museum

Come join the Victoria Natural History Society on the second Tuesday of each month this fall and winter for a series of free lectures of interest to naturalists and outdoors people. Lectures begin at 8:00 P.M.

8 SEPTEMBER: Seals and Sealions - Pests or Scapegoats - with Dave Nowell. Are there too many seals and sealions? Come and listen to Dave Nowell talk about his research on this topic - and learn about some of the fascinating biology of these species in the process.

Dave Nowell is a British-born Ph.D. candidate in the geography department at the University of Victoria.



13 OCTOBER: Naive Naturalists in the Neotropics - two biologists look at the Natural History of Costa Rica. Local biologists David Fraser and Leah Ramsay talk about a recent trip to this tropical country that has set aside nearly one tenth of its land mass as National Parks. They will talk about some of the ecosystems and organisms easily encountered by the naturalist and touch on some of the recent research outlining the life histories of some of Central America's plants and animals.

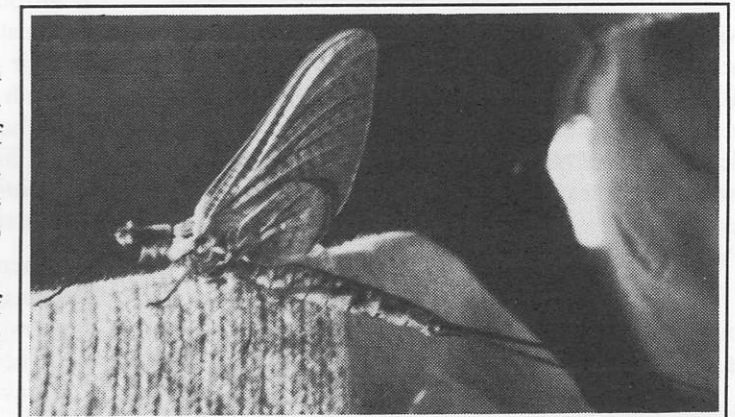
David Fraser has a Masters degree in biology with a strong interest in birds and botany, Leah Ramsay has a B.Sc. in Marine Biology and works as an Entomologist.

13 NOVEMBER: The Salmon Drift-net Fishery - a Canadian fisheries Biologist Looks On. Come and join Eric Groot as he relates his first-hand experiences on a Japanese Mother ship as one of the first three Canadian scientific observers to look at this controversial fishery. Eric will discuss some of the problems associated with this method of catching salmon including incidental catches of seabirds, porpoises and nontarget fishes, as well as discussing the rare opportunity this type of fishing provides the biologist interested in pelagic organisms.

Eric Groot has a Masters Degree in Biology and works at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo.

8 DECEMBER: Cold and the Canadian Insect. Join Dr. Richard Ring, one of Canada's experts in cold hardiness as he takes a look at the problems that many of Canada's insects face during our winter months. Dr. Ring's research, both in the laboratory and the Canadian Arctic have provided some real insights into how they cope with cold.

Dr. Richard Ring is a professor at the University of Victoria and works on cold hardiness in insects, winter moth, mill foil and variety of other topics.



Book Review

by Bruce Whittington

The Grizzly Bear by Thomas McNamee

Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1984, 308 pp.

Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance

by Stephen Herrero

Nick Lyons Books, New York, 1985, 287 pp.

Neither of these books is "hot off the press", but they came to my attention at the same time recently, and I felt they were both worthy of review.

Both books deal with bears exclusively, but there are some differences. *The Grizzly Bear* is what we might call a popular look at grizzlies, with only comparative reference to other bears. McNamee describes the natural history of the bears and digresses regularly to discuss management problems and other issues. The book focusses on grizzlies in Yellowstone Park, but expands where appropriate to cover other areas.

Bear Attacks, by comparison, concentrates on the problems which occur with man's association with bears. Herrero discusses all species of bears, but provides only enough biological and behavioural information to elucidate or substantiate his examination of bear attacks. The book has the feel of a "how-to" manual, looking at problems and then possible solutions.

Herrero is a professional biologist who teaches in Calgary, and his book is identifiable as having been written by someone with extensive experience with the subject. He covers the material methodically, looking at bear attacks, why they happen, how they can be avoided, and what techniques have proven successful in reducing injury as a result of attacks. He is clinically (and apologetically) graphic in his descriptions of attacks in order to more effectively explain avoidance techniques. The sections on bear behaviour are written essentially to aid readers in understanding how to avoid encounters, but the information is fascinating in its own right.

McNamee, on the other hand, uses a quite different approach. He takes the reader through the grizzly's year, from April to October (the bear sleeps the rest of the time). Unrestricted by a research mandate, he at times relies heavily on descriptions of bear activities and routines which he has put together based on what is known. The result (and, I believe, his intent) is that we see the world through the bear's eyes. And we come away with some understanding of how bears operate.

Throughout the book, McNamee sets his imaginary bears aside and discusses other issues, and here he calls on extensive written material and his direct experience with

biologists in the field to provide factual information on problems of man-bear associations. He deals with bear attacks, too, but primarily as evidence of the problems. His aim is to increase understanding of the grizzly, to justify its conservation, and to point up the urgent need for change in grizzly management techniques.

The Grizzly Bear is at times a little ponderous, but for the most part it is eloquently written, and, in a word, absorbing. It is the sort of book which you will want to hang on to, though you can't say for sure quite why. *Bear Attacks* will be appreciated for its extensive fund of practical information; it is likely to be off the bookshelf more than on. It is not what I would call "a good read", but I don't think that was intended, indeed any other approach would have risked minimizing the subject of the book. In keeping with the different styles of the books, *Bear Attacks* is well illustrated with photographs, sketches, charts and maps, while *The Grizzly Bear* relies on only a few attractive charcoal sketches.

Some Sovereign Remedies and Infusions

by Pauline Hemming

"Excellent herbs had our fathers of old, Excellent herbs to ease their pain, Alexanders and marigold, Eyebright, Orris and Elecampane." -Rudyard Kipling

The use of salves and unguents and the eating of herbs and barks for the healing of the human body goes back to before recorded history. As the centuries passed, our forebears made experiments from various walks of life. The ancient kingdoms of the East, China, Assyria and Egypt, having achieved a very high degree of civilization, made extensive use of medicines and cosmetics, but it was to the writings of the doctors of Greece and Rome that the British herbalists--Gerarde, Culpeper, Parkinson and many more--went for the foundation of their knowledge of medicine and the use of herbs.

The Roman occupation of Britain brought many plants from southern Europe, and in later times other plants were introduced by monks who travelled to and from the Continent and undoubtedly returned with replenishments for their gardens from the great abbeys of France and Italy. Each abbey or monastery had its herb-garden in the charge of the Hortulanus. The Infirmarian, who was responsible for the hospital, sometimes had his own special garden, where plants grown only for their healing properties were cultivated.

When the monasteries were dissolved, the duties of Good Samaritan fell largely on the housewife, and included the growing, drying and correct preparation of a huge number of herbs and plants for medicinal use. The Lady of the House (or the Manor or Parsonage) was frequently in her

"still-room" distilling oils from herbs grown in her garden or imported from abroad, making ointments and infusions, and distributing the resulting salves, unguents and medicines to her household and her poorer neighbours. Recipes for these many preparations were handed down from generation to generation, and the family recipe book was a precious possession whose secrets were sometimes jealously guarded from the eyes of inquisitive friends.

I have been fortunate enough to unearth some of these treasured heirlooms. I have selected a few of these recipes and remedies which may be of particular pertinence to naturalists of Victoria.

To Cure Corns: Take equal parts of a roasted onion and soft soap. Beat well together and apply to the corn on linen, as a poultice.

Snail Cough Mixture: Use 20 snails from crevices in walls, and half a pound of moist brown sugar. Leave snails in a bowl to clean themselves. Remove and place live snails in muslin bag with the sugar. Leave to drip overnight. Bottle the liquid and use a tablespoonful as required.

Cowslip Tea for Giddiness and Nervous Excitement: Infuse one pound of freshly-gathered flowers in a pint and a half of boiling water. Add sugar to taste. If simmered down to a thick syrup and taken at bedtime, this infusion is said to induce sleep.

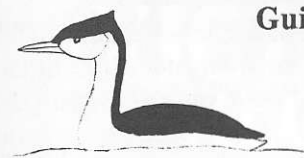
Primrose Ointment: Pick primroses from a sunny bank when they are in full bloom. Pull them out of their stems and chop finely. Take an equal quantity of unsalted butter, once washed from the churn. Melt the butter in a small saucepan. Add the chopped primroses and simmer slowly till reduced to half the quantity. Strain through muslin, pot and tie down. The residue in the muslin is useful to cure bad cuts.

Rheumatism: Use one ounce of bladderwrack (seaweed) to one pint of boiling water. Take a wineglass as required. The jelly-like substance in the seaweed can be used to make rheumatic pills.

Rickets: Cut bladders from bladderwrack (seaweed). Place in jug and fill with equal parts of gin and water. Rub on as an embrocation.

GEORGIA STRAIT BED & BREAKFAST

for naturalists, on the waterfront,
good area, marine to alpine.
Guided tours optional.



The Brooks'
RR1 Black Creek
VOR 1C0
ph. 337-8180

I would like to issue a warning about these recipes used in bygone days by the housewife in her historical and traditional role as guardian of the family's health. Every care has been taken in checking these recipes, but no support is given for the claims made or implied in them. Before offering any of these remedies for sale, advice should be obtained from the Department of Health and Social Security, lest any offence be committed under the Medicines Act.

In closing, I cite two historical receipts which may be of special interest to Tuesday Birders:

A Cosmetick Wonderful to Make a Pleasing, Ruddy Complexion: Take madder, myrrh, saffron, frankincense, of each alike, bruise and steep all in white wine, with which anoint the face going to bed, and in the morning wash it off, and the skin will have a gallant, pleasing blush.

To Remedy Baldness: This is a hard thing to cure, yet the following things are very good. Rub the head or bald places every morning very hard with a coarse cloth till it be red, anointing immediately after with bears-grease; when fifteen days are past, rub every morning and evening with a braised onion till the bald places be red, then anoint with honey well mixed with mustard seed, applying over all a plaster of labdanum mixed with mice dung and powder of bees; do this for thirty days.



You are cordially invited to a Public Showing of Works of Art donated by Canadian Artists in aid of The Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 5th. The Works will be offered for Auction on Sunday, September 6th at 11 a.m. followed by a Carnival Ball in the evening from 6:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Music by Sabor Latino, and The Harbour City Jazz Band.

Dance tickets available at Taiga, Fort Street, and North Park Gallery, Victoria.

Clio Matheson
1175 Wain Road
Sidney, B.C.
656-1301

The Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) on Vancouver Island

by Keith Taylor

The Rusty Blackbird is a recent rare migrant and winter visitor to southern Vancouver Island, with most sightings in the Martindale Flats area of Central Saanich and fields from Quick's Bottom through Hastings Flats in Saanich. There are ten observations from the Duncan area. It is accidental to Cortez Island, Tofino, Long Beach, Clayoquot Sound, Ocean Grove, and Comox. The reason for the lack of early records from southern Vancouver Island and from further north on the south-east coastal lowlands may be that there was a deficiency of experienced birders in these times and areas.

The first published records of this species for southern Vancouver Island are of two at Taylor Beach Road in Metchosin on October 4, 1970. There are, however, rumours of earlier sightings. The first records for Vancouver Island come from Comox, with one on December 6, 1930, and one on November 30, 1932.

The Rusty Blackbird arrives in mid-October, rarely early October, and is found associating with Brewer's Blackbirds or mixed flocks of Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, usually in agricultural fields. Most records come from the month of October, with diminishing numbers until late December. Very few birds winter, with the last sightings of wintering birds (or spring migrants) seen in early March - with one late observation on March 20, 1974, at Duncan. There is a record of two individuals at Ocean Grove on May 23, 1958 (observer? reliable?) and of one male on May 21-22, 1987, at Long Beach (R. and J. Satterfield). These birds were in breeding plumage.

The Rusty Blackbird has been seen every year since 1970 on southern Vancouver Island except 1971 and 1982. The maximum number of individuals has been three, with single individuals the norm.



QUALITY PHOTOFINISHING

Bill Staton
President

NEW
KODACHROME 200
NOW IN STOCK

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

Vasque
The Arrowhead! Designed Specifically for walking.
Available at
Pacific Trekking *Your adventure begins here.*
384-2052
300 MAYFAIR SHOPPING CENTRE
Across from Consumers Distributing

Errata

Vol. 43.5: (1) P. 13. Vancouver Island Fall Migration. Plovers thru Puffins - "an adult Whimbrel" should read "Willet".

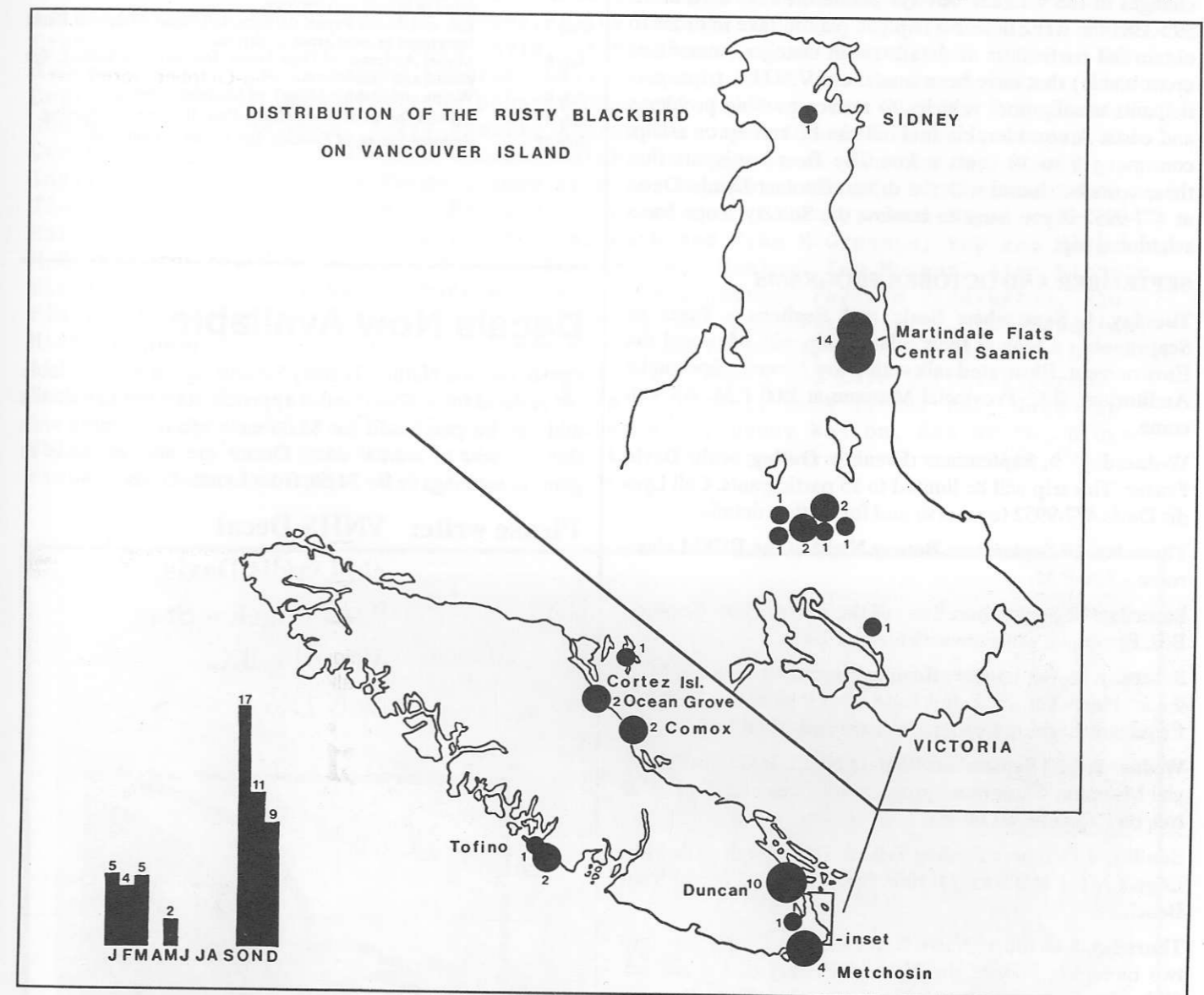
(2) P. 9. 1986 Birding year. White-breasted Nuthatches - "from November 16, 1986 through into 1986" should read "the other in the Mt. Tolmie area from November 16, 1986, through into 1987".

Vol. 44.0: (1) P. 8. Red Phalarope - should read "fall migrant, and rare winter visitor from early August to early February, most often recorded from early October to early December".

(2) P. 9. Tufted Puffin - "departs in early September".

Confusion in identifying fall Rusty Blackbirds comes only with the fall variant of Brewer's Blackbird (see pages 422-23, Birds of North America, National Geographic Society). The fall male Rusty most closely resembles these individuals, but notice the brighter rusty colouration and rusty edging on the tertials. Breeding birds are more difficult and

require caution, female Rusty's having yellow eyes and male Brewer's having dark. Male Rusty's have a faint greenish gloss and in fresh plumage (May) retain very narrow rusty edges to scapulars and wing feathers, which soon disappear with wear. The male Brewer's Blackbird has a purplish gloss on head and neck with a greenish gloss on body and wings.



Edited, with Contributions, by
Jim Weston & David Stirling
sponsored by
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

THE
NATURALIST'S
GUIDE TO THE
VICTORIA
REGION

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. The first printing will be limited, so reserve your copies now at the V.N.H.S. members' price - \$10.50. Add \$1.25 per copy for shipping, or pick up your copies at the General Meeting in The Newcombe. Send orders to: Naturalists' Guide, Victoria Natural History Society, P.O. Box 5220, Stn. B, Victoria, B.C., V8R 6N4

Upcoming Programs

Please meet at the location indicated for each trip. For field trips BRING A LUNCH and be equipped for changes in the weather. Always phone the rare bird alert: 592-3381 the week before a trip you plan to take in order to obtain full particulars or details about changes (sometimes unavoidable) that have been made. On V.N.H.S. trips, participants usually pool vehicles to reduce parking problems and costs. A considerable fuel bill can be run up on a trip, consuming 5 to 10 cents a km. The Board suggests that these costs be shared with the driver. Contact Lyndis Davis at 477-9952 if you want to borrow the Society scope for a scheduled trip.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 8 September: Seals and Sealions - Pests or Scapegoats - a look at their relationship with Man and the Environment. Illustrated talk with Dave Nowell. Newcombe Auditorium, B.C. Provincial Museum at 8:00 P.M. All welcome.

Wednesday, 9 September: Evening Owling with David Fraser. This trip will be limited to 15 participants. Call Lyndis Davis 477-9952 to reserve and for further details.

Thursday, 10 September: Botany Night at the BCPM classroom - 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, 12 September: Tour of the Native Plant Garden - B.C. Provincial Museum with Cathy Cowan.

Saturday, 19 September: Birding-Esquimalt Lagoon. Meet 9 a.m. Helmcken Park and Ride or at 9:30 at the bridge at Esquimalt Lagoon. Leaders Barbara and Allen Irwin.

Wednesday, 23 September: Birders Night. 7:30 p.m. Provincial Museum, Classroom, program by Zhez and Tom Weston, on Papua/New Guinea.

Sunday, 4 October: Birding Island View Beach with Mike Edgell. Meet at 9 a.m. Mayfair Lanes, or 9:30 Island View Beach.

Thursday, 8 October: Naive Naturalists in the Neotropics - two biologists look at the Natural History of Costa Rica. Slide show and talk by David Fraser and Leah Ramsay. General Meeting will follow. Newcombe Auditorium, B.C. Provincial Museum at 8:00 p.m. All welcome.

Saturday, 24 October: Birding on M.V. COHO - Leader, Keith Taylor. Ferry leaves at 9:30 and returns at 2 p.m. arriving in Victoria at about 3:30. Cost about \$15.00 Canadian. If wet the trip will be rescheduled for October 25th. Check Rare Bird Alert. (There may not be time to include the cancellation if it is done at the last minute.)

Wednesday, 28 October: Birders Night 7:30 Provincial Museum class room.

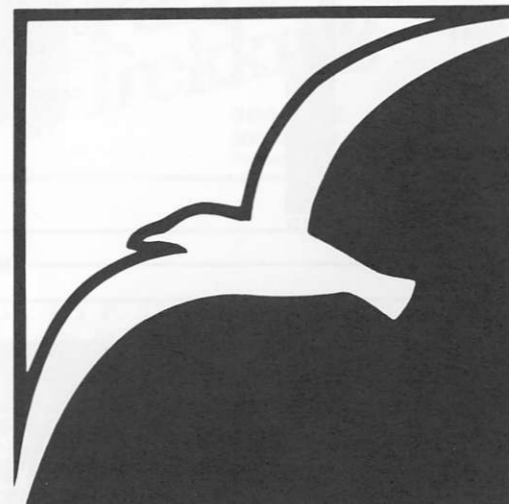
Welcome to New Members!

- June 30 Joel Ussery, of William Head Road; works as a naturalist for CRD Parks Department, at Witty's Lagoon Nature House.
- July 2 Jacqueline Bradbury, of Fern Street. Welcome back! Interested in botany and geology.
- July 7 Eric and Susan Payne, of Plymouth Road. Welcome Back! Interested in most areas of nature.
- July 8 Muriel Andrews, of Deal Street. Interested in birding, dye plants, and wildflowers.
- July 9 Wayne and Debbie Maloff, of McBriar Avenue.
- July 17 Brenda Dixon, of Gorge Road East. Interested in birding.
- July 21 Rebecca Finley, of Duncan. Interested in field trips.

Decals Now Available

The Victoria Natural History Society logo is now available in decal form. The decal is approximately the size shown and can be purchased for \$1.00 each when enclosed with the payment of annual dues. Decals are also available at general meetings or for \$1.50, from Lyndis Davis.

Please write: VNHS Decal
c/o Lyndis Davis
2319 Edgelow St.,
Victoria, B.C.
V8N 1R6

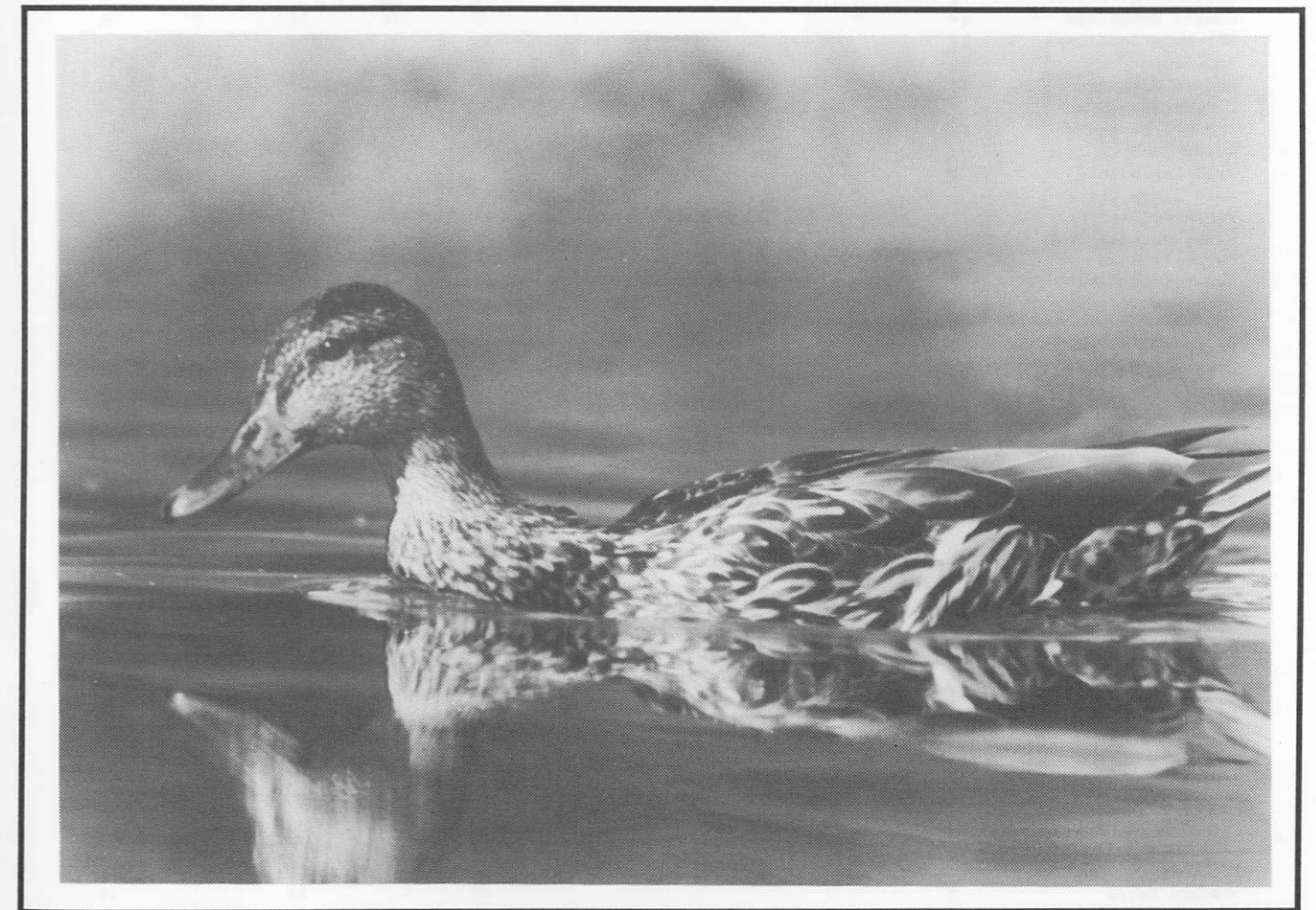


VICTORIA NATURAL
HISTORY SOCIETY

1986 VICTORIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Victoria C.B.C. Participants

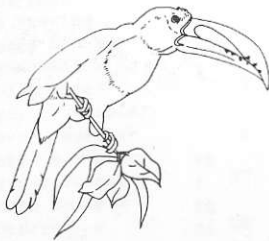
Anne Adamson, G. and J. Anderson, Robin Baird, Barbara Begg, Mike Bentley, Peter Bricknell, Doug Brown, Colleen Bryden, Alice Cassidy, Dianne and John Cooper, Joan Crabbe, Eleanor Davidson, Lyndis Davis, Brent Diakow, Phyl Downey, Art Durkee, Don Eastman, Mike Edgell, Andrew Fedoruk, David Fraser, Jeff Gaskin, Bryan Gates, Karen Geernaert, Tracee Geernaert, Ian Gibson, Margaret Gillard, Bev Glover, Peggy and Vic Goodwill, Vera Guernsey, Sally Hamill, Andrew Harcombe, Charles Harper, Gordon and Gwennie Hooper, Tracey Hooper, Harold Hosford, Bob Houston, John Hunter, Rowly Inglis, Marg Jeal, Fritz Karger, Anne Knowles, Marilyn Lambert, Anne Laws, Carol and Tim Leadem, Eric Lotroth, Alan MacLeod, Enid and Gord Mallory, June Mayall, Peter Marsman, Peter McAllister, Dorothy McCann, Barb and Mike McGrenere, Rob and Margaret McKenzie-Grieve, Mike McNall, Maurice Meunier, Vic Mesley, Ken Morgan, Alan Nichols, Elizabeth North, Mark Nyhof, Maggie Paquet, David Pearce, Phyllis Piddington, Flo Pikula, Melissa Polson, Alf Porcher, Mary Richmond, Ron Satterfield, Stan Shaddick, Michael Shepard (co-compiler, 764 Piedmont Drive, Victoria, B.C. Canada V8Y 1L8), Joe Silvey, Pam Stacey, John Steele, David Stirling, Dennis and Kaye Suttill, Jeremy Tatum, Howard Telosky, Brenda Trotter, Margaret Turner, Hank Vander Pol, Jack Van Strien, Margaret Wainwright, Marie and Reuben Ware, Danny Weston, Ken White, Bruce Whittington, Eldred Williams, Freda Woodworth & Cynthia Zoyetz (co-compiler, 764 Piedmont Drive, Victoria, B.C. Canada V8Y 1L8).



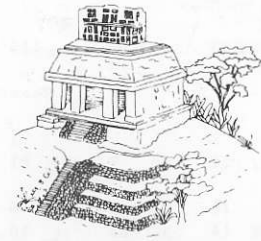
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10
Red-throated Loon						6	7	24		
Pacific Loon	5					3	2	1		7
Common Loon	2				1	7	6	18		6
Pied-billed Grebe			2		9			1	14	24
Horned Grebe	7				1	14	45	140	1	44
Red-necked Grebe	5				1	8		67	1	35
Eared Grebe										
Western Grebe						24	402	59	2	4
D-crest Cormorant	7				51	12		41	51	52
Brandt's Cormorant	3					2		14		19
Pelagic Cormorant	2					26	14	26	1	29
Great Blue Heron	2					5	6	11	7	18
Trumpeter Swan	16		10							
Mute Swan					1		18		6	2
G. White-fr. Goose										
Canada Goose	47						191	11	192	4
Green-winged Teal	1			116	15	5		26	35	1
"Eur" Gr-wing Teal										
Am. Black Duck										1
Mallard	484	10		269	37	114	264	21	457	191
Northern Pintail				339		10		1	6	
Northern Shoveler	13			16	7					
Gadwall				3	1					
Eurasian Wigeon								2		1
American Wigeon	201			27	15	438	125	19	345	283
Canvasback							34		11	
Ring-necked Duck	28			11	39		4			
Greater Scaup					1				16	
Lesser Scaup							70		603	
scaup sp.										
Harlequin Duck						4	5	18		27
Oldsquaw						4	6	26		8
Surf Scoter					1	33	150	28		27
White-wing. Scoter	1					20	33			1
Common Goldeneye	17	2			1	8	39	50	7	56
Barrow's Goldeneye	14							2		
Bufflehead	36			5	28	145	213	145	302	93
Hooded Merganser	11			22	13	14	6	20	29	64
Common Merganser	9			10	62		7	15	5	2
Red-br. Merganser	26					43	71	58	2	45
Ruddy Duck					1				6	
Bald Eagle (ad)	1			2			3		1	
Bald Eagle (imm)		1								
Northern Harrier	1									
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2					1		1		
Cooper's Hawk	1	1		1	2	2				1
Red-tailed Hawk	7				2	3				
American Kestrel						1			1	
Merlin	1									
Peregrine Falcon										
Ring-n. Pheasant	6			2			1		1	
California Quail	6	9		6				6		15
Virginia Rail								1		
American Coot				1	17		61		88	
Black-b. Plover										44
Killdeer							2		21	
Am. Black Oysterc.								2		8
Greater Yellowlegs										2
Spotted Sandpiper										
Black Turnstone							2	12	3	37
Surfbird										6
Sanderling								20	9	23
Dunlin										56
Common Snipe	1					1	1	2		
Bonaparte's Gull										
Mew Gull	20				3	98	184	1100	144	156
California Gull										
Herring Gull	1									2
Thayer's Gull	400				1			35		3
Western Gull	6									1
W x G-w Gull										
Glaucous-w. Gull	4480	7		90	85	390	123	300	309	328
Glaucous Gull	1									
gull sp.										
Common Murre	9					12		45		16
Pigeon Guillemot	3					5		6		2

	Area 11	Area 12	Area 13	Area 14	Area 15	Area 16	Area 17	Area 18	Area 19	Area 20	Area 21	TOTAL
	2	1		2				1		1	2	46
				7	2			1		14	1	43
	7	7	4	7	4			5	2	20	1	97
					2	12		4	1			69
	76	58	34	60	21			69		156	46	772
	24	40	5	16	7			6		149	13	377
					4			1				5
	3	4										498
	39	8	5	38		5		34	38	1	13	395
		5		16								107
	37	79	8	40	46			5		5	108	426
	2	13	2	1	1	4	4		3	3	14	96
							3					64
							2					31
							1					1
			3			53	113	110	120	33		877
			2			4	42		6	90		343
						1						1
												1
	869	26	203	76	3	75	477	209	232	1347		5364
	1						9		9	264		639
			7			5	1		32	2		83
									46			50
	2	1				1	1			5		13
	407	307	131	42		415	226	99	99	1453	31	4663
								6				51
			2			7	1	47	77	58		274
			5		15			20	20		2	79
	1	6	2	2		1		2	5	18		710
		18										18
	50	31	3	36	10			8		8	80	280
	5	25		74	17			15		91	54	325
	43	46	2	48	10			26		66	66	546
	6		8	18	3			7		7	7	104
	17	74	40	74	5			8	2	17	38	455
												16
	70	198	42	57	43	4		48	10	109	274	1822
		10	179	11	2	3	9	45	20	8	16	482
						1	1	45	9			166
	38	20	8	21	8			7	2	43	6	398
						32						39
			2	1	2					1		13
				1	1			2			2	7
											1	2
				1	1							7
	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	2		3		23
				1				3	4	3	1	27
												2
	1			2	1			1			2	9
		1										4
											2	1
											6	22
												139
												9
												921
												80
												31
												35
												6
												1
												81
												6
												53
												123
												18
												1
												1
												16
												9
												1
												16794
												1
												416
												90
												48

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



NATURE TOURS IN THE TROPICS!



SOUTHERN MEXICO

Mexico is a land of rich character and diverse beauty, a wonderful country to explore & discover. Visit the classic Mayan site of Palenque where beautiful temples stand at the base of lush tropical mountains. Wildlife includes the brilliantly colored Keel-billed Toucan & the outspoken howler monkey. In the southern highlands, experience the thriving market town of San Cristobal de Las Casas, explore beautiful Lagos de Montebello National Park, and visit Amatenango de Valle, a village renowned for its pottery work. Incredible scenery at Agua Azul waterfalls and the Sumidero Canyon will capture any photographer's imagination. On the Pacific coast of Oaxaca, complete your visit with a stay at the remote beach resort of Puerto Escondido. Travel off the beaten track and experience Mexico's warmth and beauty on this memorable vacation.

OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 12, 1987

WESTERN MEXICO

With birding as our focus, this tour is a delight for the novice and the expert alike. Visiting a great variety of habitats, you'll observe many beautiful birds ranging from the elegant Roseate Spoonbill to the tiny Fork-tailed Emerald. Along meandering mangrove streams, see Boat-billed Herons, Potoos & Rufous-necked Wood-Rails. Off shore watch the antics of boobies, frigatebirds and pelicans, while in the palm jungles enjoy looks at Fan-tailed Warblers and Blue-rumped Parrotlets. In the pine and oak forests of the Sierra Madre Occidental observe Red Warblers & Slate-throated Redstarts foraging on epiphyte-laden trees while Tufted Jays & Mountain Trogons call from the barranca below. When the birds are taking their siestas, enjoy swimming in warm tropical waters, shopping in markets and craft shops and dining on excellent Pacific seafood. Fantastic birding, exquisite settings and warm Mexican hospitality combine to make this a truly wonderful tour.

NOVEMBER 14 - 28, 1987

EXPLORE HAWAII

Experience the tropical isles of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui and Kauai. This is an exotic land where one can enjoy the natural delights of scented plumeria blossoms, active volcanoes, lush rainforests, beautiful sand beaches and magnificent sunsets. On Oahu visit the Polynesian Cultural Centre & Bishop Museum, view expansive pineapple fields & watch the famous surf pound the shores of Waimea Bay. Leaving the crowds behind us in Waikiki, we'll fly to the island of Hawaii where you'll visit the Thurston Lava Tube, Volcanoes National Park & the City of Refuge. Maui offers many delights including Iao Needle, the old whaling town of Lahaina, Keanae Point & scenic Hana Highway. You'll also enjoy sunrise atop Haleakala, Maui's 10,023 foot volcano. On Kauai, our last island stop, explore Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge & Waimea Canyon. With Swiftsure Tours you'll be certain to enjoy the best of Hawaii, from her famous beaches to her colorful native wildlife.

NOVEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 2, 1987

*Write for our
detailed itineraries
today!*



119 - 645 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1G2
(604) 388-4227