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Thanks, Alice!

Alice Elston, a long-time and active member of the Victoria Natural History Society, is moving up north of Victoria and is having to give up some of her work with the Society. She has been most recently serving as the Society's secretary and is the voice of the Rare Bird Alert. We take the opportunity to thank Alice for her work with the society and wish her well in her new home.

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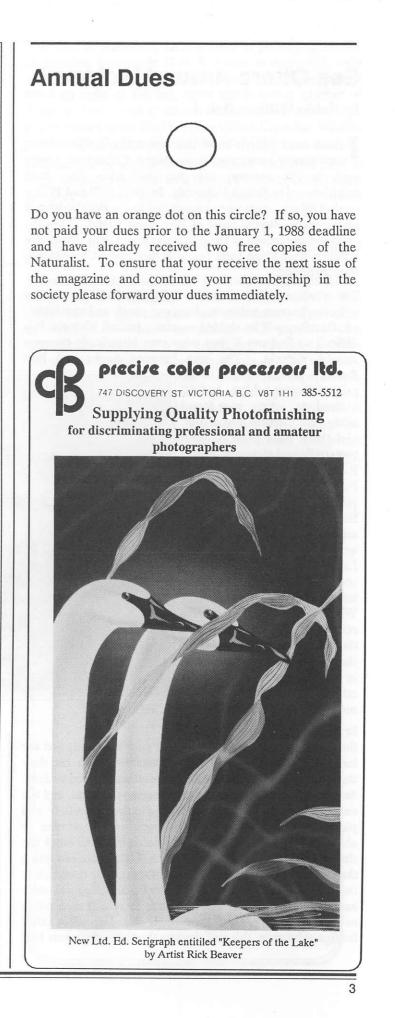
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Sea Otters Around Victoria?

by Robin William Baird

T think most people know that sea otters, *Enhydra lutris*, were totally eradicated from British Columbia's waters early in this century, and that they have since been reintroduced to British Columbia. In 1969, 1970 and 1972, a total of 89 sea otters were introduced to the Bunsby Islands on the the northwest coast of Vancouver Island. After the introductions, many of the otters dispersed, and there were sightings from Cape Saint James in the Queen Charlottes to Barkley Sound.

The question I find most interesting is whether sea otters will ever become common along our coast, and specifically whether they will be sighted regularly around Victoria. It is difficult to find out if they were ever historically common around Victoria. The area between Sooke and Port

Renfrew seems to me to be prime sea otter habitat. In 1982 a dead sea otter was found along the Victoria waterfront, and there have been at least two confirmed sightings, one at Race Rocks and one at Dallas Point. I have heard at least one very convincing report for Esquimalt Lagoon, and there are many more reports which were most likely of river otters, Lutra canadensis, which are common in the marine environ-Victoria. ment around Whenever anyone reports a sea otter sighting locally, I ask what the animal was doing. Usually the reply is that it was on shore, in which case it was a river otter, as sea otters as a rule do not come ashore, even to sleep. Sea Otter

Sea otters are usually found

floating on their backs in the midst of a kelp bed, and are larger than river otters. River otters remain on their stomach in the water and will often return to land to feed. Sea otters are the smallest totally marine mammal, and the only one that uses tools. After diving to the ocean floor and picking up an armload of food such as sea urchins or abalone, a sea otter will return to the surface and crack the shells on a stone, held on its stomach, to facilitate extracting the food. Another difference from other marine mammals is that instead of a layer of blubber for insulation, a sea otter has a coat of dense fur. Sea otters are extremely susceptible to polluted waters, for if their fur is soiled by oil or other foreign substance, this will destroy the tiny air pockets that

provide the insulation, and the animals can quickly die of hypothermia.

A survey in 1984 revealed at least 345 sea otters in the Bunsby Islands and in a new colony at Bajo Reef, 65 kilometers south. But any sea otters that may be seen around southern Vancouver Island could come from one of two sources. Sea otters were similarly reintroduced to the Washington coast, and presently appear to be increasing at the amazing rate of 16.5% per year, with a minimum population of 100 animals in 1987. Although primarily on the open coast, sightings have been made in as far as Neah Bay, on the northern coast of the Olympic Peninsula. A population in Alaska is similarly growing at about 15% per year. If the B.C. population is growing at even close to that rate, it could double every 5 to 6 years.

Of course, there is also a great controversy over the presence of sea otters in areas where there are commercial shellfish fisheries, as, different from river otters which feed on fish, sea otters feed mostly on shellfish such as crab, abalone, sea urchins, clams and scallops. Opposition to new



Mark Hobson

introductions to areas such as the Queen Charlottes is detering such introductions. New information, however, shows that while sea otters do have a major impact on the shellfish fisheries in localized areas, their presence does not mean those fisheries are totally wiped out; it also shows that shellfish recruitment is often unpredictable, with or without otters. Sports fishermen should probably welcome the presence of sea otters, as their predation on sea urchins increases the growth of kelp beds, and increases the available habitat for rockfish.

From a naturalist's point of view, of course, the presence of even an occasional sea otter off East Sooke Park or even along the Victoria waterfront would add a greater dimension to an enjoyable excursion.

Birders, Look Out For....

The following requests for assistance have been brought to our attention and might provide birders with that something extra to look for on their next spring birding outing. Noteworthy sightings of interest to researchers can be sent along with other sightings for the Bird Report, and we'll send them on to the appropriate researcher. Sightings can be sent to Vancouver Island Bird Report, c/o David F. Fraser, 5836 Old West Saanich Rd., RR 7, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X3.



Look carefully at Cedar Waxwings

David Fraser

CEDAR WAXWINGS, both adults and juveniles, have appeared in several states since at least 1969 with orange rather than the normal yellow tail tips. Kenneth C. Parkes and Scott Wood, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, would like to know of such sightings. where you saw them and when.

GREAT BLUE HERONS have been marked on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands with coloured leg bands by the Canadian Wildlife Service. They would appreciate reports of such birds by local birders.

BRANT that are likely to migrate down the Pacific Coast of North America have been marked with special plastic leg bands that can be read from a distance with the aid of a telescope. Birds were also marked with standard metal leg bands and a few were fitted with radio transmitters. Observers or hunters are asked to record the following informa-

tion: date of encounter; locality; color of plastic band; color of lettering; letter code (2 or 3 letters or numerals); code and whether read from body to foot or vice versa; colour band on right or left leg; other bands noted; number of Brant in flock, and if others in the flock were banded. Please report to the Bird Banding Office, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0H3.

Information on colour-banded LEAST SANDPIPERS is being sought in relation to a Queen Charlotte Island study of these birds by John Cooper from the Royal British Columbia Museum. Please report any marked Least Sandpipers seen on migration, noting the colour of the bands, the order and which bands are on the right leg and left leg.

Volunteer Field Assistants are needed to assist with an ongoing study of AMERICAN COOTS in central B.C. The study concerns the ecological and evolutionary significance of intraspecific brood parasitism and parental care strategies in a population of wild coots. Assistant's duties will include trapping and marking birds, monitoring nests, and various behavioral studies. Previous field experience is required. Assistance preferred from 15 April to 15 August, but is not critically required before 1 May 1988. Will provide room and board and transportation from Vancouver. Send resume and names, addresses and phone numbers of 2 references to Bruce Lyon, Dept. of Biology, Princeton University, NJ, 08544 (609-452-5402).



Book Reviews

by Betty Kennedy

Eagles of North America. Candace Savage, 1987. Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. 125 pages. \$24.95.

Birds of Prey. John P.S. Mackenzie, 1986. (Birds of the World Series). Key Porter Books, Toronto, Ontario. 144 pages. \$29.95.

John Mackenzie is a noted naturalist and former chairman of the National Conservancy of Canada. He lives in Ontario, but has travelled all over the world in search of sightings. His book on birds of prey consists of five pages of introduction dealing with the historical perception, use and abuse of these birds, over 130 superb colour photographs and a brief but informative discussion of each of the seven main families normally accepted as "birds of prey." The main pictorial emphasis is on North American species, but many others from all over the world are represented also. The birds are pictured in their natural habitats, and most are shown perching.

The author discusses the distribution world-wide of each of the five families of falconiformes - American vultures, the Secretary-bird, hawks (which includes eagles), the Osprey, and the falcons - and of the two families of owls, Barn Owls and the others (Strigidae). He also describes briefly their main characteristics and habits. The falconiformes are shown in 98 photographs, and the owls in 35. Because the scope of the book is world-wide, the pictorial coverage given to any one species is, of necessity, limited, and we are not shown many details of their lives.

Candace Savage lives and works in Yellowknife, and is the author of three other books of natural history. She has read widely in the available literature on eagles, and has prepared a very readable ten pages of text followed by some 90 magnificent full-colour photographs showing Golden and Bald Eagles in their natural settings. Their lives from birth to death are shown in photographs chosen with both an eye to beauty and a respect for the eagles and their activities. The text deals with the place of eagles in the religious and political symbolism of many peoples of the world and with the appearance, habitat, distribution and habits of the two eagles - Golden and Bald - that are found in North America. The author notes that "eagles are capable of tolerating a reasonable amount of intrusion and change. In general, they are quite willing to share their habitat with us, provided we make appropriate allowance for their needs" by the protection of crucial nesting and wintering areas, by preserving nest trees, roosts and feeding grounds. Our land-use planning must be sensitive to their needs, and, above all, we must control the use of poisons and the disposal of toxic waste. The author makes note of our changing appraisal over the years of the value of eagles and the increasingly successful attempts to re-establish them in parts of the country from which they have vanished.

If you admire and respect eagles, you will return again and again to the superb photographs in this book, becoming increasingly aware that eagles, perhaps more than any other bird, "bring us close to the sources of life and the powers beyond ourselves that are our sustenance."

Escapism

by Keith Taylor

The author, in pursuing live exotic species for an art project, has visited many aviaries in the checklist area and has made discoveries he would rather not have made: for example, Cassin's Finches and House Finches, and crosses of these two, as well as the usual Eurasian species, whose origin, if they are seen in the wild, might go unquestioned. There is a fallacy about caged birds being banded and waterfowl being pinioned. A great many are not banded and only waterfowl not penned are pinioned. The most common ailment of penned birds is bad feet either from frostbite or injuries from the wire floors (to keep out predators). Tails are often badly frayed.

Many exotic species of waterfowl were found during the years 1986-1987. There seems to be a raduis of sightings near the Duncan area: one or two Barnacle Geese, Somonos Lake area; one or two Mandarin Ducks from Cowichan Lake and Saanich (common in aviaries around Victoria); a "Blue Goose" near Cowichan Bay; and the unconfirmed report of a Smew from Saltspring Island. A Tundra Swan with badly cut feet, though not pinioned as reported in The Victoria Naturalist (Vol. 44.2), was discovered at Portage Inlet in July (the same kind of cuts as seen by the author in penned birds in aviaries). Lastly, three Tufted Ducks were found. It is certainly known that wild Tufted Ducks are seen on the west coast and are presumed to be regular rare migrants and winter visitors. Are we incorrect in assuming all are wild? Tufted Ducks are kept in captivity and some may be escapes. One drake was found in March(28-29) at the Duncan sewage lagoons, a different drake(shorter crest, less convex on sides) at Esquimalt Lagoon on May 3, and one at the Cowichan Valley on May 29. The May records are unusual, though not unprecedented. Could all of the above species have been released by an aviculturist?

The known species of raptors to have escaped from falconers in the Martindale area last year were: Prairie Falcon, Lanner Falcon and Goshawk. All were of breeding stock not wearing jesses.

The Pleasures Of Bird Photography From The Portable Blind

by Dannie Carsen

Before Christmas, I resolved to build a portable blind and get involved with bird photography. For many years I had gazed enviously at the crisp, colourful images in magazines and wondered if I could produce such masterpieces. So, the Saturday after Boxing Day found me at Jeune Bros. & Peetz, clutching my copy of Tim Fitzharris's *The Adventure of Nature Photography* and pricing camouflage fabric. My enthusiasm was slightly dampened at the \$90.00 just to buy coated cloth, so I decided to substitute tent fabric. At Capital Iron I finally found two inexpensive tent flies and most of my other supplies (except the hula hoops, which turned up at Sears). Here is my parts list:

Tent flies (7'x9'8", 7'x7'8"), \$13.99 + \$8.99	\$21.98	
Hula hoops, 4 @ \$2.49	9.96	
Wooden dowelling (3/4"x 8')	7.19	
Pack frame (used Camp Trails - 3/4" tubing)	20.00	
Rubber cement	7.99	
Stainless steel screws (1/8"x 3/4")	1.20	
Rubber caps (to fit over 3/4" dowel)	.78	
Boot laces	.99	
Buttonhole thread (polyester)	.99	
Tax	4.26	
Total cost of blind	\$75.34	

New Year's Eve was a lot of fun, especially sewing the 2inch seams in the 7' x 9'8" fly to allow the hula hoops to be pushed through. After several glasses of champagne, it took two of us to finish the job and the seams had very imagina-

tive lines. Sometime the next day, while clearing the clouds of New Year's celebration from my mind, I decided to alter Fitzharris's basic design. Since I have done a lot of backpacking, I thought, "why not use the frame from a backpack to support the blind?" Instead of wires supporting a central pole, I used a 3/8" x 2" wooden slat attached with boot laces to the top hula hoop. By installing two grommets in the barrel wall of the blind on either side of the slat, I could tie the boot laces around the hula hoop to tightly fix the slat to the top of the blind. After cutting two 8-inch pieces of wooden dowelling, I whittled down the ends and jammed them into the tubes of the pack frame. To secure the wooden pieces tightly, I drilled and pinned them with packsack pins. Then, the



The blind in use

rubber caps were attached to the slats with stainless steel bolts and it was ready. Sliding the pack frame into the rubber caps provided very comportable support for the blind. The blind was easily dismantled by removing the pack frame from the caps and allowing the blind to collapse.

The diameter of the blind was adjusted by cutting down the hula hoops and testing the size. Then, I taped the tubes, cemented the overlapping fabric, tied on the wooden slat and glued on the roof to finish the job. My blind had approximately 6" of head room, was 32" in diameter and hung almost to the ground.

The test flight for the blind was left for the afternoon of the first Tuesday birding in the New Year. I was determined to get some pictures from the blind so I chose Blenkinsop Lake and dragged the blind down the trail past the lookout to the open water. Stumbling through the bush with the blind, I excitedly started to move closer to my prey, two Mute Swans. Finally, I arrived at the lakeshore, fumbled into the blind and pointed my camera out the hole. I was looking at sky! Hmm, I may have cut the hole too high, or is my tripod too low? Meanwhile, my prey kindly approached more closely as I frantically focussed on their black beaks. Suddenly I realized that I could not focus any closer; the swans were only six feet away and waiting hopefully for a handout. By this time it was 4 p.m. and the light was fading fast. I managed to snap three photographs before escaping from the blind to find my boots filled with water. Now I see why chest waders are a good idea!

The next test was bound to be better. I chose Goldstream estuary and this time I picked a bright morning to go out. A Blue Heron flapped into the trees as I passed by, so I hurriedly entered the blind and began my stalk. After twenty anxious minutes, I realized the bird had flown. Muttering to myself, I continued to move closer to rafts of gulls feeding on

dead fish. Even the gulls seemed suspicious of a green barrel-shaped contraption ambling towards them.

A bit frustrated, I walked out into the estuary and entered the blind well before apporaching a pair of Goldeneyes. This time, I exulted, those ducks won't even notice me as I sneak up on them. All the Buffleheads and Goldeneyes edged away nervously as I approached and it was difficult to get within 50 feet. Was it me? After an hour of the ducks swimming out of range I thought that I ought to try a new approach. Perhaps the blind was the wrong colour?

Meanwhile, I have somehow taken four pictures of the inside of the blind and two of the ground. Perhaps by next issue I will have more to report on the pleasures of bird photography from the portable blind.

The Canada Goose

by Hank Vander Pol

The recent excitement about the Emperor Goose brought many birders to the fields at the corner of Blenkinsop Road and McKenzie Avenue. These birders undoubtedly noticed the many Canada Geese which avail themselves of the carrots left in the field, and noticed in particular those geese with numbered red collars around their necks.

During most years, small numbers of Canada Geese winter in the Victoria area, and the carrot fields at Blenkinsop have always been a favorite spot. Between 100 and 200 geese can be found there on most days.

While observing this group of geese during the winter of 1986, I became intrigued by their different colours and sizes. There were probably three subspecies, but I had no idea which. Godfrey, in *The Birds of Canada*, states that the "...subspecies of this goose are at present imperfectly understood". He goes on to list 10 subspecies of Canada Geese. With that bit of helpful information, I recorded the numbers of the five birds with red collars in order to obtain whatever information I could. I was not only curious to learn which subspecies the collared birds were, but also where our wintering geese make their summer home. The numbers were forwarded to the Canadian Wildlife Service.

In March, 1987, four Canada Geese with similar red collars were observed at Martindale flats. They were migrating through this area with other Canada Geese. Numbers from their collars were taken as well.

In late November, 1987, I received the following comments from the Alaska state game biologist about the red-collared birds: "These birds are Dusky Canada Geese (*B.c. occidentalis*) that are only known to nest on the Copper River delta of southern Alaska, and winter primarily in the Willamette Valley of Oregon and S.W. Washington. As a result of declining numbers (about 12,000 left) these birds have been the subject of considerable studies and management efforts on both the nesting and wintering grounds."

All of the collared birds were adults. Four of the overwintering birds and three of the migrating birds were males. Seven of the birds were collared in July 1985, and one each in July 1984 and July 1986.

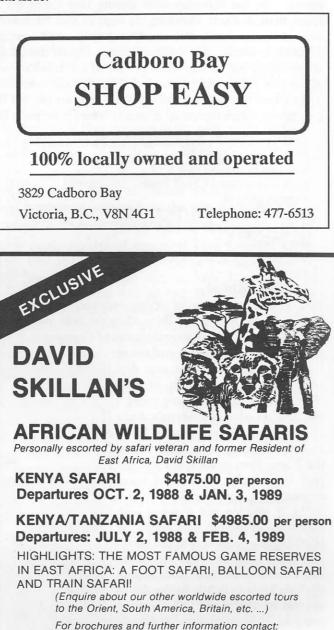
Both the National Geographic field guide and Peterson's *A Field Guide to Western Birds* list *occidentalis* as one subspecies. Godfrey, for some unknown reason, does not. The National Geographic field guide has a picture which is quite good, showing a dark brown, almost chocolate colour.

So far this winter (1987-88) there are six geese with collars. All are duskies. Only two of the six are birds which were here last year, number 674 and 817, a male and a female.

So now we know that all the dark, chocolate-coloured birds belong to the subspecies *occidentalis*. Or do they? After

delving into the subspecies problem a little further, it became clear to me that there is considerable overlap in both size and colour between the various subspecies. Some of the lighter-coloured occidentalis could be the darkercoloured fulva subspecies. And what about the other, lighter-coloured Canada Geese at Blenkinsop or Esquimalt Lagoon? Is it possible to distinguish the various subspecies by simply observing the differences in colour or size or white neckband? And what about the geese which nest in the Victoria area?

More about Godfrey's "imperfectly understood" problem, and how to identify the Canada Goose subspecies, in the next issue.



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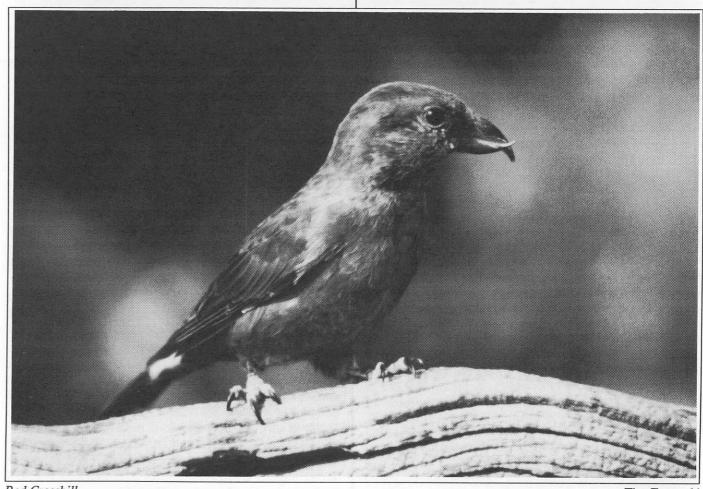
by Barbara Begg

Have you ever wondered if all Crossbills' bills cross in the same direction?

At a recent "Birders' Night", I posed this question to the large group present, and if anyone knew the answer, they weren't saying!

A check of various field guides and other bird books revealed that, in both illustrations and photographs, the upper mandible was shown crossing to either the right or the left. Almost without exception, there was no reference in the texts on this matter.

In the Funk and Wagnall Wildlife Encyclopedia, 1974, I finally found the following information: "When they hatch, the young crossbills have ordinary bills with the mandibles meeting at the tip. It is not until they leave the nest that the two halves cross over by growing crooked. The upper mandible may cross over either to the left or right of the lower."



Red Crossbill

On examining seven White-winged Crossbills, W.W. Cooke, 1885, contributor to Bent's Life Histories of North American Birds, found that in six out of the seven birds, the upper mandible crossed to the left.

Relying on illustrations and photographs could be misleading due to artistic licence or photographs being reversed, so a check of the specimens at the Museum's Curatorial Tower was in order. Only a small number of specimens was rejected due to damage, and some juvenile birds weren't matured enough to see the direction of crossing readily. Out of 119 Red Crossbill specimens, 48 (40%) had upper mandibles crossed to the left, while in the White-winged Crossbills, 35 out of 38 (92%) had upper mandibles crossed to the left. For the latter species, this seems to agree generally with Cooke's percentages in his small sampling.

Taking into consideration the limited scope of this study, it would appear that in Red Crossbills the upper mandible more often crosses to the right, whereas White-winged Crossbills' upper mandibles usually cross to the left.

References

Funk & Wagnall's, Inc., New York. Wildlife Encyclopedia, 1974, Volume 5.

Bent, Arthur Cleveland. Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows and Allies. Part 1. Smithsonian Institute Press, 1968.

Tim Zurowski

The 1987 Birding Year

by Keith Taylor

At the beginning of each year I look forward with an-ticipation to that single new species that will be added to my North American list in the Pacific Northwest.

Not only am I interested in those species that may be added to various lists, but also what unique weather systems will be responsible for bringing them. In 1983 El Nino brought many southern sea birds, among them Brown Pelicans and Elegant Terns, and unprecedented numbers of pelagic species to the inner straits. Also in 1983 "The Siberian Express", an expansive cold air mass travelling over the northern hemisphere, brought Asian species to North America and to southern Vancourver Island: the Brambling and Rustic Bunting. Although 1984 was rather uneventful, a decline in the Lemming population was responsible for many northern raptors, Snowy and Short-eared Owls, Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes, invading our area. In 1985 there was a large influx of "prairie" shorebirds, Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's, Stilt and Buff-breasted Sandpipers and American Golden-Plovers. These birds occurred in unprecedented numbers from August through mid-September, and, although the exact cause is uncertain, a severe drought in the prairies may have been responsible. The year 1986 brought us many interior species associated with two unusual cyclonic low fronts originating off Mexico and reaching the interior of Washington and B.C. (see "1986 Birding Year," The Victoria Naturalist.," Vol 43.5). The 1987 birding year may be summed up in one word: "drought"! El Nino, though not as dramatic as 1983, was responsible for the continuing warm and dry weather.

1987 began with a very mild winter, with record high temperatures in late March and early April. This was responsible for a number of early migrants and a few unusual winter records. The first was a Common Yellowthroat which remained into January (2). An Osprey was reported at Pat Bay (January 29) (February 14), for the first winter record for the checklist area. A California Gull (February 7) at the Hartland Dump confirmed the presence of individuals through the whole winter. An unidentified swallow (Tree, Violet-green) was the first for late January (29). Turkey Vultures appeared in above-average numbers in February, and Cinnamon Teal in March. Two Cliff Swallows were early for April 1, and a Sora on April 8 was the first for early April. An Olive-sided Flycatcher on April 20 beat out the old record by one day. Past April records for Swainson's Thrush have been considered to be hypothetical, but a singing bird on April 26 (H.Vander Pol) may cast doubt on this hypothesis. Swainson's Thrush were unusually early this year, abundant by May 9. There was a "drop out" of Orange-crowned Warblers on April 4.

Evening Grosbeaks persisted in unprecedented numbers through May, with, for the second year, low numbers occurring in summer (looper die-off); numbers did not return in the fall. Those species dependent on conifer seed crops were less abundant through most of the year: Siskins and Red Crossbills. The only rarities of January-March were two Swamp Sparrows (now becoming an annual rarity; overlooked in the past) and a White-breasted Nuthatch which stayed in Victoria until March 28. Temperatures had returned to normal by the second week of April.

The continuing drought in the interior of California, Oregon and Washington was a direct influence on birding in the spring months, when birds dependent on wetlands began appearing on Vancouver Island. Black-necked Stilts, the first appearance on southern Vancouver Island, were at Clover Point (R. Satterfield et al.) on April 27, with three individuals; there was a single on May 5 in Central Saanich and at the Victoria Golf course. Courtenay had up to nine reported (April 29-May 5). Previously there was only one record for Vancouver Island, at Hanson's Lagoon, May 17,1974. Four American Avocets at Tofino on May 7 (Adrian Dorst) were the first for the west coast of the island. Unprecedented numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons were recorded, with two in Central Saanich on May 6 (B. Gates and W. Drinnan et al.) and two to six at Somonos Lake, Duncan (May 19-July). A Great Egret appeared at Cowichan Bay for the first April record (April 29-May 1), and a Snowy Egret in Saanich (May 14-27). An additional Great Egret was found at Courtenay on May 21. Unusual numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds (all males) occurred, with four on April 20 at Swan Lake, one on May 24 at the Cowichan estuary, and one on May 24 at Martindale reservoir.

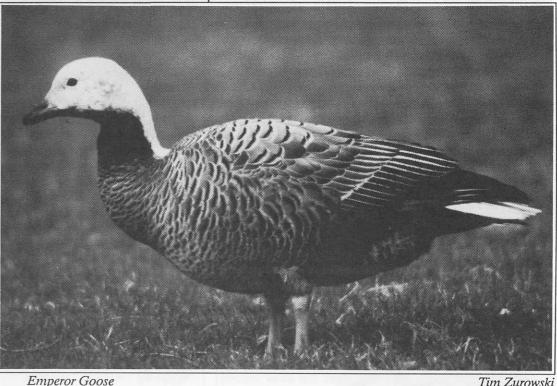
Western Wood Peewees persisted into mid-June in increased numbers, as well as New and California Gulls into May. A new nest site of the Northern Oriole was located in North Saanich on Laurel Rd. in a row of Lombardy Poplars.

In July a couple of north-west Pacific fronts may have been responsible for the rarest bird to show in the checklist area: the Terek Sandpiper (July 21-August 2). It was found at Goodridge Peninsula, Sassenos, the first record south of Alaska. Congratulations to Vic and Peggy Goodwill! This Eurasian species is difficult to see in North America, with casual sightings in the Bering Sea islands of western Alaska, perhaps annual. There are three mainland Alaskan records from Anchorage. The bird was photographed and seen by observers from all over North America.

A high pressure system remained motionless through summer into mid-November. The drought continued until late November. Fresh water shorebirds were poorly represented, although a "good list" of shorebirds appeared. A Long-billed Curlew at Sidney Spit on August 3-16 (K. Taylor et al.) was only the third record, as was the Bartailed Godwit at Clover Point on August 16 (R. Satterfield et al.). Wilson's Phalaropes were slightly more numerous during August. Baird's Sandpipers were seen until late September in increased numbers. Revealing was the discovery that Sidney Spit was a main "stopping" area for Sanderlings,

with up to 120 individuals daily in August. Buff-breasted Sandpipers (recently an annual rarity) were present, with one at Sidney Spit on August 23 (photographed) and one at the university on September 10 (unconfirmed). Lesser Golden-Plovers were well represented, with fourteen individuals reported. Eight were Dominica: seven juveniles (August 16-October 1) and one fully breeding plumaged adult male (black undertail coverts) seen on August 16 at Cowichan Bay. This should be considered the first record of an adult Dominica for the checklist area and the first fall record for Vancouver Island. Three juvenile Fulva were present, the one on September 7 at Victoria Golf Course providing the earliest date yet recorded. A pair were recorded at Sidney Spit (September 12-27). Three were not specifically identified, seen by inexperienced birders or as fly-bys. No Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found this year.

The incredible fall weather produced the slowest fall birding I have ever seen, most migrants moving straight through. A Lincoln's Sparrow (August 7) and a Lapland Longspur (August 29) were early records. Franklin's Gulls were well represented, with up to eight reported from the Duncan sewage ponds at one time (the best spot in the checklist area for this species). There were unconfirmed two records of Common Black-headed Gulls. The best bird of the fall was an adult Forster's Tern at Oak



Bay (probably the same bird seen last year returning) on October 24 (25). Again Swamp Sparrows have returned. with the first fall record at the Goldstream estuary on Octover 28. At least four individuals were seen in December. Snow Buntings were very scarce this year, with one record of an individual at Cattle Point, staying an unusually extended period of time, from early November into the new year. Unprecedented numbers of Common Terns remained into mid-November, with fifty at the Ogden Point breakwall (always the area for the latest terns). An Osprey on October 29 (D. Weston) at Island View Beach was very late. Puddle ducks were late again this fall, and Trumpeter Swans did not arrive until late November, since the fields were not flooded until late November.

Strong storm fronts from the Pacific arrived in mid-November and produced some good pelagic birding. Until November, the pelagic species recorded included Forktailed Storm-Petrels, with four recorded in April, May and August and two on November 14. Jaegers were also well represented in summer, with a Long-tailed seen from the "Coho" on July 11 (D. Stirling et al.) and another at Clover Point on August 22. Both of these records were "out of season" for Victoria; the usual time slot for this species is in September-October. An adult light-phase Pomarine Jaeger was seen off Discovery Island on August 22. Parasitic Jaegers were here in their usual numbers; the author recorded twenty-eight sightings (September 1-November 28). Red Phalaropes first appeared in mid-November, with one thousand seen from the "Coho" on November 28. One individual remained for the Christmas count. Fulmars were seen on November 14 and 28, and one Leach's Storm-Petrel on November 14, all from the "Coho". Only one sooty

Tim Zurowski

Shearwater was found this December, at the Chain Islets. The last record received of Vesper Sparrows from the "colony" at Cobble meadows was of one on September 13, 1986. Have we lost them?

December came in with two weeks of violent Pacific fronts. Soon after, temperatures fell below normal although the sun at mid-day produced pleasant temperatures. A Clark's Grebe was found at French Beach on November 26-28 (V.and M. Goodwill et al.), the second record here. Excitement reigned at Royal Roads-Esquimalt Lagoon when a Palm Warbler (December 12-31) and then an Emperor Goose (December 13-January 1) were found (H. Vander Pol). This was the first confirmed record of Emperor Goose for Victoria since 1978. The final rarity for 1987 was an adult male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker found by D. Stirling at the Royal Roads grounds on December 17-29. This must

be considered the first record for Vancouver Island, as past rumours of this species may indeed have been Red-naped Sapsuckers. The bird was photographed (T. Zurowski). The complete red throat (no white on chin) bordered with an uninterrupted black border, white replacing red on the nape, and the extent of creamy-white ladder-backed effect separates it from the Red-naped Sapsucker. The black breast band was also restricted, smaller than that of the Red-naped.

At the end of the year Red-breasted Sapsuckers were in above-average numbers, as were wintering Rhinoceros Auklets, with six at the Ogden Point breakwall. Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce. Wintering Hermit Thrushes were in above-average numbers.

Note: none of the records above have been reviewed by a records committee!

1987 will be remembered as the year Black-necked Stilt, Terek Sandpiper and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were added to the checklist, and the year Victoria broke the Christmas count record with a total of 145 species.

Erratum:

Vol. 44.3 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The bird was still present on May 19, not 18.



Growing Native.... Red Flowering Currant (Ribes sanguineum) in the Garden.

by David F. Fraser

Perhaps no native shrub has been so widely planted or is so well known to local gardeners as this one. Rightly so, too, for here is an adaptable, drought-tolerant, deciduous shrub for sun or shade. It is also one of the most reliable blooming shrubs, seldom missing a bloom season.

The shrub can be propagated in a number of ways. For large quantities, seeds can be used. Fruits usually contain ripe seeds by July-August (Mowat 1969), and the fruit can be separated from the seeds by placing the fruit in a kitchen blender, covering them with water and running the blender for 15-45 seconds (Morrow et al. 1954). The seeds need three months' cold stratification at 0° to 2° C (Quick 1939). I prefer to propagate this shrub by cuttings, however, as individuals vary widely in flower colour, size, size of raceme, shape of plant and time of flowering. By carefully selecting the parent stock, you can propagate those plants with characteristics that best suit your needs. It pays to be choosey!

A few years ago a volunteer seedling established itself in our Salt Spring Island garden and grew quickly, eventually reaching a height of 4 m. Unfortunately this individual had a small flowers that did not fully open, only 3 or 4 flowers to a raceme, and it had blossoms that were a rather uninspiring colour. The growth qualities were terrific, but the flower show was very disappointing. Needless to say, we struck no cuttings from this plant. Fortunately it was short lived and has now been replaced with a much better specimen.

As spring develops, it's a good idea to make a note - or inconspicuously mark-indivdual *R. sanguineum* that have desirable characteristics, in order to revisit them later to take cuttings. My own garden has a shrub that blooms about two weeks earlier than usual; it was collected from a plant on Jackscrew Island off the north end of Saltspring Island. Last spring I noticed two large and bushy specimens, with large racemes of pale pink flowers tinged with green growing near the parking lot of Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Park - very different from any of the forms that I currently have in the garden.

Cuttings can be taken with a good success in the fall, when the plant is dormant (Kruckeberg 1982). Spurr (1978) recommends taking cuttings from June to August. I prefer to take semisoftwood cuttings in the late spring and early summer and root them under mist. I can usually expect rooted cuttings ready to pot within 6 weeks. *R. sanguineum* is available in most local nurseries during its early bloom season. Again, watch for cultivars that have the characteristics you want.

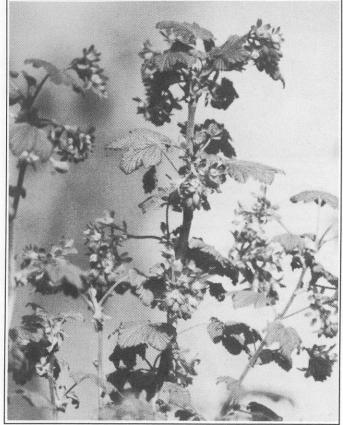
Some available cultivars (mostly developed in England) include:

"Albescens" (also known as Albidum): white flowers tinged with pink;

"King Edward VII": flowers a deeper red than the type, and the plant is somewhat shorter; the commonest form offered by our local nurseries.

"Pulborough Scarlet": bright crimson-red flowers in large clusters.

"Splendens": flowers rosy-crimson in very long racemes.



Red flowering Currant

David Fraser

If the attractive and care-free nature of this shrub wasn't reason enough for you to consider growing it in your garden, consider the value of this species to hummingbirds. Here in Victoria both Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds use flowering currants in the early spring. In fact, the migrant Rufous Hummingbirds' arrival here in spring seems timed to coincide with the blooming of *R. sanguineum*.

Easy to grow, attractive to hummingbirds and gardeners alike - a must for the local garden.

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Quick, C.R. 1939. Experimental germination of Ribes seed. USDA Bur. Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Berkeley, California no. 111, 29 p.

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The Mystery of the Wailing Bush

by Margaret Mackenzie-Grieve

The pyrancantha shrub grew against the whitewashed wall. On the thickest branch hung the hummingbird feeder, which was visited by a procession of Anna's Hummingbirds. The sun shone on the clusters of scarlet berries. It was a beautiful sight and a joy to behold.

Then, a few weeks ago, things changed. Taking the dog out for her last walk, I heard eerie noises coming from the bush. "It will be the wind," said my husband, and I had to agree it was pretty rough. The next night was calm, but the noises were still there. "Do you think it's a kitten?" I asked, but my husband quashed that suggestion, although he did come out to listen. He couldn't identify the weird sound. Every night the wailing continued, and sometimes it was so loud it could be heard in the house.

Our garden has been the temporary home for rare birds from time to time, but nothing like this.

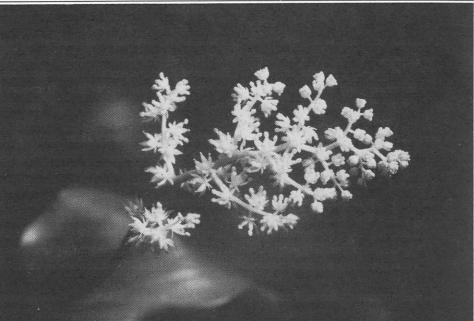
I told Mark Nyhof that we were wondering if we had some kind of beetle there. He suggested we ask the opinion of an etomologist. Remebering Rob Cannings of *Birds of the Okanagan Valley* fame, I asked if he could help. He said beetles were not really his forte, but would be happy to come.

It was dark when he and his friend Jennifer Fisher arrived. The wailing was permeating the night air. They quietly made their way towards the pyracantha bush, carrying with them a large butterfly net. They listened carefully; they were equally baffled and agreed they had not heard a noise like that before. We shone flashlights on the bush. It had to be something alive, since the sound just then seemed to be coming from a different part of the bush.

Rob carefully placed a ladder against the wall to the left of the bush. We aimed the flashlight to light up the branches as he ascended. He leaned over and shook the shrub fiercly with one hand. In his right hand he poised his net ready for the catch. There was a great commotion and it seemed that suddenly the whole bush was alive. Out flew an irate, wheezing sparrow and his companion into the night air, and all was quiet.

Chronological Plant List

With this second instalment, we continue to reprint a list of the flowering dates of Victoria's plants, trees and shrubs which was compiled by botanist M.C. Melburn for the year 1954 and appeared in The Victoria Naturalist at that time



False Solomon's seal

Flowering Date Family

Apr. 18 Cruciferae Apr. 23 Scrophulariaceae Apr. 23 Fagaceae Apr. 23 Caryophyllaceae Apr. 24 Caryophyllaceae Apr. 24 Cruciferae Apr. 24 Cruciferae Apr. 24 Polemoniaceae Apr. 24 Hydrophyllaceae Apr. 24 Leguminosae Apr. 25 Saxifragaceae Apr. 25 Ericaceae Apr. 25 Geraniaceae Apr. 25 Boraginaceae Apr. 25 Saxifragaceae Apr. 25 Umbelliferae Apr. 25 Ranunculaceae Apr. 25 Leguminosae Apr. 26 Boraginaceae Apr. 26 Scrophulariaceae Apr. 26 Scrophulariaceae Apr. 26 Liliaceae Apr. 26 Boraginaceae Apr. 26 Leguminosae Apr. 26 Plumbaginaceae Apr. 27 Leguminosae Apr. 27 Cyperaceae Apr. 27 Gramineae Apr. 27 Leguminosae

Scientific name Brassica arvense Veronica arvensis Quercus Garryana Spergularia rubra Cerastium arvense Lepidium strictum Arabis glabra Gilia gracilis Nemophila micrantha Trifolium tridentatum Tellima odorata Vaccinium parvifolium Geranium molle Myosotis versicolor Ribes Lobbii Osmorrhiza divaricata anemone Lyallii Vicia sativa Plagiobothrys medius Orthocarpus faucibarbatus (sub sp.albidus) Orthocarpus pusillus Smilacina racemosa Amsinckia barbata Trifolium oliganthum Statice Armeria Trifolium depauperatum Carex vespertina Poa bulbosa Medicago lupulina

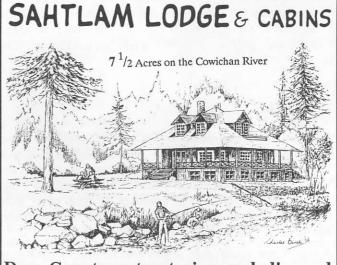
Common name charlock common speedwell Garry oak sand spurrey field chickweed peppergrass tower mustard gilia sp. grove lover lance clover tall fringe-cup red huckleberry dove's foot geranium forget-me-not red-fl. gooseberry sweet cicely anemone spring vetch "allocarya" sp. lesser paint-brush

lesser paint-brush false Solomon's seal Fiddle Neck few-flowered clover sea lavender (thrift) low clover sedge sp. meadow grass black medic

Location cult. ground lawn Uplands roadside Uplands Mt. Douglas Mt. Douglas Mt. Douglas Mt. Douglas Mt. Douglas Killarney Wd. Cattle Pt. Cadboro Bay

Cadboro Bay Cadboro Bay Cadboro Bay Humber Wood Humber Wood B. Hill Park Mt. Douglas B. Hill Park city lot

Apr. 30	Cornaceae	Cornus Nuttallii
Apr. 30	Valerianiceae	Valerianella samolifolia
May 1	Violaceae	Viola sempervirens
May 1	Scrophulariaceae	Mimulus nasutus
May 1	Scrophulariaceae	Mimulus guttatus
May 1	Saxifragaceae	Saxifraga ferruginea
May 1	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus orthorhynchus
		var. platyphyllus
May 1	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus acris
May 1	Orchidaceae	Listera cordata
May 1	Ericaceae	Arctostaphylos tomentosa
May 1	Ericaceae	Vaccinium ovatum
May 1	Rosaceae	Prunus demissa
May 1	Myricaceae	Myrica Gale
May 1	Ophioglossaceae	Botrychium silaifolium
May 3	Caryophyllaceae	Stellaria nitens
May 3	Aristolochiaceae	Asarum caudatum
May 3	Rosaceae	Prunus emarginata
May 3	Selaginellaceae	Selaginella Wallacei
May 3	Coniferae	Tsuga heterophylla
May 4	Crassulaceae	Sedum spathulifolium
May 4	Liliaceae	Smilacina stellata
May 4	Orobanchaceae	Orobanche uniflora
May 4	Umbelliferae	Lomatium nudicaule
May 4	Umbelliferae	Sanicula bipinnatifida
May 4	Caryophyllaceae	Cerastium vulgatum
May 4	Liliaceae	Zygadenus venenosus
May 4	Primulaceae	Centunculus minimus
May 4	Plantaginaceae	Plantago Bigelovii



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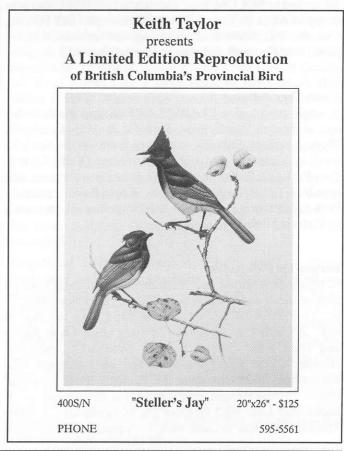
flowering dogweed sea blush evergreen violet monkey-flower monkey-flower saxifrage sp. Buttercup sp.

tall buttercup twayblade manzanita evergreen huckleberry chokecherry sweet gale moonwort (grape fern) shining chickweed wild ginger wild cherry common clubmoss western hemlock stonecrop star-fl. solomon's seal cancer-root (parasitic on stonecrop) Indian consumption plant sanicle sp. mouse-eared chickweed poison camas chaffweed plantain sp.

Uplands Humber Wd. Sproat lake Sproat Lake Sproat Lake Sproat Lake Sproat Lake

Sproat Lake Sproat Lake Sproat Lake Sproat Lake Sproat Lake Sproat Lake Sproat Lake Sproat Lake Nanaimo Nanaimo Nanaimo Beach Dr. Humber Wd. Humber Wd. Humber Wd.

Cattle Pt. Cattle Pt. lawn Cattle Pt. Cattle Point Cattle Pt.



Summary- Vancouver Island Bird Report The Fall Migration August 1 to November 30, 1987

by David F. Fraser.

This is a brief summary of the '87 Fall Bird Report (the Fall Migration) for Vancouver Island, The report has been compiled by several people: Loons thru Ducks (Jerry and Gladys Anderson, Mike Edgell); Vultures thru Cranes (Bruce Whittington); Plovers thru Puffins (Leah R. Ramsay, David F. Fraser); Doves thru Vireos (Mike and Barb McGrenere); Catbirds thru Finches (Lyndis Davis and Margaret Jeal). 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 noteworthy sightings by the end of each month. Sightings can either be brought to Victoria Natural History Society general meetings, and Birders Nights or dropped off/mailed to 5836 Old West Saanich Rd., RR 7, Victoria or dropped off at Swiftsure Tours Office, 119 - 645 Fort St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1G2. Sightings are forwarded to the Royal B.C. Museum and are used in their records.

Loons Thru Pelicans

A single report of a **CLARK'S GREBE** was received, for one at French Beach Prov. Park (V & M.E. Goodwill). Three Northern Fulmars were seen from the M.V. Coho south of Victoria on 14 and 28 November (Keith Taylor). Two Fork-tailed and one Leach's Storm-petrels were also seen by KT et al. on 14 November. Robin Baird reported a Fork-tailed Storm-petrel on 7 & 8 November off the mouth of Victoria Harbour.

Herons Thru Waterfowl

K. Neusman reported an American Bittern at Swan Lake on 29 September and it was reported again on 25 November (C. Trotter). A bittern wintered at Swan Lake last year as well. A Cattle Egret was seen by many observers at Sooley and Hunt Rds., Central Saanich, from 1-17 November. Another Cattle Egret was seen and photographed near Tofino from 21-25 November (M. Paquet). Four reports of Green- backed Herons were sent in: 3 in August and one at Blenkinsop Lake on 3 October (A. L. Macleod). A single Tundra Swan was present with Trumpeters at Martindale Flats from November 22 throughout the reporting period (KT, m.obs.). B.R. Gates reported 87 Mute Swans from the Cowichan estuary on 5 August. A flock of up to 10 Greater White-fronted Geese were seen at Martindale Flats from 19 September to 23 November (m. obs.). Sue Cummings reported 15 on 13 September at the Victoria Golf Club and there was 1 bird on 3 October at Blenkinsop Lake (ALM). B.M. Sedgewick found a flock of 13 on 9 October near Courtenay. A single Snow Goose was found at Weir Beach slough, Metchosin, from 2 to 16 November (J&RS). Brant, unusual in fall on Vancouver Island, were reported on 24 October with 6 near Clover Pt. (DFF,BW, ALM), and 2 at Juan de Fuca Strait (KT). A single Barnacle Goose, likely an escapee, was found at Somenos Lake on 17 October (DFF, LRR). American Black Ducks were reported from their now usual spots, Harrison Yacht Pond, Victoria, and Esquimalt Lagoon, Colwood.

The first of the fall's Eurasian Wigeons were seen on 10 October at Esquimalt Lagoon (R. Satterfield) and at Somenos Lake (DFF, LRR). A few Canvasback were reported, the first at Pat Bay on 8 October (J&RS). Cumberland Sewage Lagoon near Courtenay had 2 on 25 October (B.M. Sedgewick). A single male Redhead was reported on 19 November at Prospect Lake (BW, Ken Morgan) and again at Swan Lake on 24 November (RS).

The first fall Oldsquaw were reported on 1 Oct, off Gonzalez Pt., Oak Bay (RS). High count for the period of Black Scoters was 13 at Yellowpoint, south of Nanaimo (DFF). Sixty Hooded Mergansers at Summit Reservoir, Victoria, on 21 September was the high count (A. Porcher). A single Mandarin Duck, probably an escapee, was reported from Killdeer Rd., Saanich on November 5. It should be noted that this species is now considered feral on the Lower Mainland.

Shorebirds

Notable high count of Black-bellied Plovers was 283-300 at the Weldwood Log dump at Union Bay, south of Courtenay, from 1 to 15 November (BMS, D. Maloff et al.). Thirteen reports of Lesser Golden Plovers came from the Victoria checklist area from 6 September through to 1 October; approximately equal numbers of both races were reported. A notable concentration of Black Oystercatchers was 42 on 31 October, Race Rocks (Robin Baird).

A report was received of a very late Lesser Yellowlegs at Courtenay (V. Chungranes, BMS). Solitary Sandpipers made four appearances on southern Vancouver Island, all single birds, from 7 through 15 August. The **TEREK SANDPIPER** that was first reported in the summer reporting period at Goodridge Peninsula, Sooke, was reported by m.obs. to 2 August. Ten Whimbrel reports were received from the Victoria checklist area from 3 August to 4 November all single birds from the Oak Bay/Victoria waterfront except for 2 on 13 September, Clover Pt., Victoria (RS). A LONG-BILLED CURLEW was seen from 3 to 15 August on Sidney Island (KT, J&RS, photographed by Nigel Drever); this represents the third record for the Victoria checklist area. Another species put in its third appearance for the Victoria checklist area, a Bar-tailed Godwit on 16 August at Clover Pt., Victoria (George Sirk and RS). Marbled Godwits were represented by 1 immature from 6 to 11 Sept, Victoria Golfcourse, Oak Bay (J&RS), 1 on 23 and 24 September, foot of Bowker Ave., Oak Bay (Ron Hooper, KT, RS), and 1 seen for a period of 4 days around 8 October (Dr. & Mrs. Galbraith). Still another bird was present from the 15-28 September at the Courtenay Sewage Lagoon and nearby river estuary (BMS, m.obs.). A single immature Red Knot on Sidney Spit first seen by KT on 29 August was seen again on 6 September(KT) and 8 Sept (J&RS). High numbers of Sanderlings were reported from Sidney Spit, Pacific Rim National Park (A. Mills) and at Union Bay south of Courtenay. Three reports of Semipalmated Sandpipers were received, 1 on 15 August from flooded fields, Cowichan Bay (MMc, et al.), 1 on 16 August, Cordova Spit, Central Saanich (J&GA), and 2 on 2 Septem-



Longbilled Curlew

Nigel Drever

ber, Witty's Lagoon, Metchosin (J&RS). Large numbers of Western Sandpipers were reported from Sidney Island (J&RS) and Witty's Lagoon (J&RS). Baird's Sandpipers were well reported, mostly passing through in the first half of August, with a few late stragglers to 20 September There were no reports of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers turned in from the Victoria checklist area; however, there was a report received from the Courtenay Sewage Lagoon on 1 October (Mr. Fitzpatrick, E. Bowen). The first report of Rock Sandpiper was on 18 October at Ogden Pt. (RS). The only report received from outside the Victoria checklist area was of 5 on 7 November at Long Beach Pacific Rim National Park (AM).

An amazing flock of 4,000 Dunlin on log booms near Courtenay on 1 Nov had dwindled to 3,000 on 8 November, and to 1500 on 15 November (BMS, D. Maloff). One Vancouver Island report of a Stilt Sandpiper was turned in, a single bird at the Courtenay Sewage Pond, on 17 August (fide BMS). Wilson's Phalaropes were reported in aboveaverage numbers this fall, 1 at Witty's Lagoon on 4 August (Phil and Alan Hoover, Tuesday Group), 4 on 8 August seen swimming near a sandbar atSidney Spit (Sue Cummings), and 1 on 9 August at Cowichan Bay (Dave Aldcroft). There were numerous Red-necked Phalaropes reported from the Victoria waterfront from 12 August to 22 September Red Phalarope numbers peaked near the end of November with 1,000 birds seen off the M.V. Coho in Juan de Fuca Strait (KT, m.obs).

Jaegers And Skuas

A Pomarine Jaeger was seen on 22 August 2 miles east of Discovery Island (Robin Baird, Pam Stacey). A Long-tailed Jaegar was seen on 22 August off the Victoria waterfront (KT, Hank vander Pol). There was an unconfirmed report of a **South Polar Skua** seen on 19 August 2 miles offshore from Seabird Rocks off Pachena Beach near Bamfield (DFF).

Gulls Thru Alcids

Fourteen reports of Franklin's Gull were received from the Victoria checklist area. The biggest concentration was reported from the Duncan Sewage Lagoon (m. obs.), with up to 8 birds seen there until 10 October; one report was received from the Courtenay Sewage Lagoon and estuary (BMS, V. Chungranes, Capes [sic] et al.). Little Gulls were represented by three or four birds including 1 adult on 15 August, Beaver Pt., Ruckle Park, Salt Spring Island (DFF), an adult on 23 Aug at Clover Pt (KT) and 1 on 24 October off Race Rocks with a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls (Mike Force). There were unconfirmed reports of Common Black-headed Gulls from the Victoria area. The largest concentration of Heerman's Gulls was 200 + on 5 October, Aylard Farm, East Sooke Regional Park (DFF, LRR, E.C. Lofroth). An abnormally high number of salmon and low water levels on the Goldstream River attracted a large number of gulls - peak counts at the end on November were 673 Mew, 45 Herring, 98 Thaver's, 33 Western, 1,100+ Glaucous-winged and 2 Glaucous Gulls(DFF).

Ring-billed Gulls were reported from widely scattered freshwater and estuary locations. A Sabines' Gull was reported from the Duncan Sewage Ponds by S. & E. Watts. The only Caspian Tern reported was one on 6 Aug at Gonzales Pt. (RS). For the second fall in a row a FORSTER'S TERN turned up, this time 1 on 24 & 25 October, Oak Bay Marina, Oak Bay, a winter-plumage bird seen with Common Terns (Viveka Ohman, DFF, LRR, BW, m. obs.). There were 1,200 Cassin's Auklets on 19 August, extending from the Swiftsure Banks north for approx. 4 miles (DFF, Alan Burger, m. obs.). Three Tufted Puffins were reported during the reporting period.

17

Raptors Thru Cranes

Twelve reports of Northern Harriers were received. Two reports of Northern Goshawks were received, one adult over the north end of Salt Spring Island on 12 October(LRR) and one adult chasing and being chased by Northwestern Crows at the Goldstream Estuary on 9 November (DFF). A Rough-legged Hawk was reported from Loon Bay by the Tuesday Group, and there were three reports of Golden Eagles. BW noted that American Kestrel reports were down by a third over last year, while Merlin reports increased. There were no reports of Gyrfalcons this fall. A very late Sora was seen at the old sewage lagoon at Courtenay by V. Chungranes and BMS) on 16 October Sandhill Cranes put in a better than average showing on southern Vancouver Island. Jim Maloff observed 402 canes flying south over the Gooseneck Lake area west of Campbell River from 24-25 September! More frequent reports from this intersesting area are needed.

Doves Thru Woodpeckers

Common Barn Owls were reported from Swan Lake (Anne Scarfe) and the Goldstream estuary for a new Goldstream Prov. Park record (DFF). Unusual was the report of a Western Screech-owl that boarded the ferry at Tsawassen on the top of a truck and flew off at Long Harbour, Salt Spring Island, after dark (Don Layard). Northern Pygmyowls were reported from near Mt. Work Regional Park (DFF, VNHS members), Goldstream Park (BW, ALM, RS), and Marble Bay, Lake Cowichan (DFF, LRR). Marble Bay also had a Barred Owl on 16 October (DFF) and the bird at the UVIC woods was also reported. The only Short-eared Owl reported was one on the Vicoria Golf Course on 4 November(RS). Black Swifts lingered into late Sept, over Victoria (J&RS). High count for Vaux's Swift was 200 on 18 Sept at Pedder Bay (David Stirling).

Flycatchers Thru Vireos

Two Purple Martins were seen over Swan Lake on 5 Aug (ME&VG) and on 15 August (BRG); 4 on 18 August over Victoria (KT); as well as 7 in the more usual Cowichan Bay

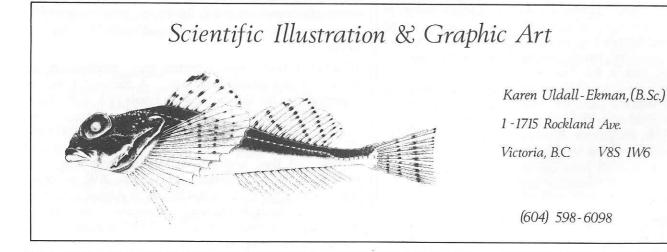
area on 22 Aug (A. Elston). Three Bank Swallows were reported. American Dippers hit a fall high of 20 birds in early October at Goldstream Prov. Park (DFF). Three Townsend's Solitaires were reported this fall. The good fall may be responsible for an extremely late Swainson's Thrush which lingered at a Saanich birdbath through September until 16 October (DFF). Northern Shrikes made their first appearance in mid October A Solitary Vireo was reported from the UVIC woods on August 29 (J&RS).

Warblers Thru Finches

Swamp Sparrows were reported from two areas, one on 29 October at the Goldstream Estuary (DFF) and again on 2 November (J&RS); and one on 11 November, at the river delta, Port Alberni (Sandy McLure). The earliest Whitethroated Sparrow reported was 1 on October 8 & 15, Central Saanich (LRR); 5 other birds were reported, all from Saanich or Central Saanich (M&B Sendall, Tim Zurowski, J. Mayall). Harris' Sparrows were found on 2 November in Brentwood (M. Yunker) and 1 on 25 November (R. Mackenzie-Grieve). Longspurs moved through from August 29 to October 31 (KT, BB, J&RS, AM). A Snow Bunting was at Cattle Pt. November 4-7 (E&A Davidson, J&RS, G&JA). A single set of Northern Oriole reports was turned in, of one in north Saanich seen from 10-16 August. There were small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks until early October; larger flocks were reported during the remainder of the period the largest flock being 110 at Goldstream Prov. Park (DFF).

Additions to previous reports:

Great Egret - one, Courtenay Sewage Lagoon 21 May "for several days" (BMS, m.obs). Lesser Golden Plover - one, race not reported, Courtenay Sewage Lagoon 21 May, 1987 (BMS, m.obs). Wilson's Phalaropes - two, Courtenay Sewage Lagoon, 21 May 1987 (BMS, m.obs). Caspian Tern - 4, Trent River on 24 June 1987 (A. Brooks). Yellowheaded Blackbird - one, Courtenay Sewage Lagoon, 30 April 1987 (BMS m.obs.).



Some Notes from Davey

QUICK'S POND

Saanich Municipality purchased the land around the Quick's Pond marsh and declared it a conservation area some years ago. At that time it held water throughout the year, as the many muskrat houses testified. Now it dries up early in the summer, except for the pool on the west side which was excavated for its peat content.

Quick's Pond is part of Colquitz Creek, and is the runoff of Beaver and Elk Lakes and is perennial. What is urgently needed is a small dam at the south end to raise the water level.

Maybe our Society could contact the Saanich Parks Branch and have their surveyors report on the possibility of rejuvenating this important area.

To reach Quick's Pond, take West Saanich Road to Markham Road, which, when you are driving westward, is the first turning to the left after Wilkinson Road where the stop lights are. Saanich has made excellent parks through the Markham side of the area.

ASCOT POND

This pool, like Quick's Pond, was turned over to our Society as a bird sanctuary and conservation area, but it has been allowed to deteriorate to the extent that it is now practically useless, being overgrown with trees, shrubs and the beautiful but pestilential purple loosestrife. To make it useful again, all the trees should be removed and the pond deepened where the loosestrife has taken possession.

I do hope that our Society will take this matter seriously and have this pool restored to its previous condition.

Ascot Pond is situated at the end of the road called Ascot Road, which is south off Cedar Hill Cross Road between Braefoot and Blenkinsop Roads.

EAGLES AND TRUMPETERS

We have been sent copies of the two Christmas Bird Counts taken by the Comox-Strathcona Natural History Society, one taken at Comox and the other at Deep Bay about 15 miles further south.

These lists are sent me by Walter Fitzpatrick of Denman Island, a veteran birder with 72 Christmas Counts to his credit, which is probably a record.

Here are some of the most interesting figures of the two counts combined:

134 Common Loons 791 Trumpeter Swans 503 Pintails 1,333 Scaup 458 Harlequin Ducks 892 Black Scoters 1,967 Surf Scoters 2,032 White-winged Scoters 839 Common Goldeneyes 226 Barrows Goldeneye 443 Bald Eagles (Adult 268; Imm. 171; unaged 44) 441 Sanderlings

18

The 1987 Christmas Bird Count

by Lyndis Davis

Victoria now holds the Canadian record for the greatest number of species of birds recorded on a Christmas Bird Count, 145, beating the previous high, held by Vancouver, of 142.

Two species came in "low" this year. American Wigeon were at their lowest numbers since 1968 and Canvasbacks were at an all time-low.

Seven species were count records. The Swamp Sparrow was sighted for only the third time on a Victoria CBC; Red Phalarope, Northern Pygmy-Owl and Barred Owl were second-count records; and we tallied three new species for the Victoria count list, Emperor Goose, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Palm Warbler.

Fourteen species were second-highest count numbers. Alltime high counts were recorded for the following 14 species: Mallard, Cooper's Hawk, California Quail, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Water Pipit, Rufous-sided Towhee, Fox Sparrow, and House Finch.

The all-time high counts for the following species showed increases of 11% to 20%: Pied-Billed Grebe, Bufflehead, Steller's Jay, Golden Crowned Kinglet and Song sparrow.

The following species were recorded in unusually high numbers on the 1987 CBC:

		Previous	
	1987	all-time high	% increase
Common Goldeneye	653	495 in 1979	31%
Sharp-shinned Hawk	20	15 in 1971	33%
White-throated Sparrow	4	3 in 1984	33%
Benwicks Wren	218	162 in 1983	34%
Downey Woodpecker	96	68 in 1983	41%
Anna's Hummingbird	43	29 in 1985	48%
Common Barn-Owl	3	2	50%
White-crowned Sparrow	163	104 in 1986	56%
American Dipper	11	7 in 1983	57%
Golden-crowned Sparrow	v 739	384 in 1984	92%

This was a great way to finish and celebrate the Wildlife 87 Centennial year.

The CBC party was a great success. Many thanks to Kay Goodall and her "set-up" team of Dorothy Henderson, Bertha Gow and Norma Slater, and to those who donated the table centres and brought food.

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 an 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.

If you would like to lead a field trip, or have an idea for a program or club activity, please phone Dave Fraser at 479-0016.

MARCH PROGRAMS

Thursday, March 3: "Ancient Forests - Priceless Treasures." - an illustrated lecture on old-growth forests by one of the U.S.'s premier forest ecologists, Chris Maser. 7:30 p.m. Newcombe Theatre Event - phone 387-5822 for more information.

Saturday, March 5: Willow Way Trail Birding Trip with Eric Lofroth. Meet at the gravel pit just beyond the school on Keating Cross Road. at 9:00am.

Sunday, March 6: Forest Films. 2 p.m. Newcombe Theatre Event - phone 387-5822 for more information.

Tuesday March 8: Birds, Bugs and Beasts - Natural History of Queensland, Australia. With the help of slides and tape recordings, Dave Denning will recount some encounters with fauna in Australia's Queensland area. 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium, RBCM. ANNUAL GENERAL MEET-ING, including the election of new board members.

Friday, March 11: Third annual Chief Henry Hunt Memorial Lecture by George MacDonald, Director of the Canadian Museum of Civilisation. 8 p.m. Newcombe Theatre Event-phone 387-5822 for more information.

Saturday, March 12: Day field trip with Dr. Hans Roemer to find the "Red Creek Fir", Canada's Largest Tree, at Port Renfrew. Newcombe Theatre Event -phone 387-5822 for more information. Tuesday, March 15: Botany Night at the RBCM classroom, meet at 7:30 p.m. Hans Roemer will deal with Rare Plants and Ecological Reserves.

Wednesday, March 16: "Underwater Excavations" at Herod's Harbour, Caesarea Maritima, Isreal. Newcombe Theatre Event -phone 387-5822 for more information. 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 18: Concert "The wheel of Life: A celebration of the Natural World" featuring Doris Donnelly and Becky Bernson. 8 p.m. Newcombe Theatre Event-phone 387-5822 for more information.

Saturday, March 19: Birding Trip to Witty's Lagoon with Bruce Whittington. Meet at the parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 20: "A Night to Remember" film recounting the sinking of the Titanic. 2 & 7 p.m. Newcombe Theatre Event -phone 387- 5822 for more information.

Monday and Tuesday, March 21 and 22: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Biology for Birders. Victoria Natural History Society Workshop with David F. Fraser, Dan Farr and Neville Winchester. Session One will be an introduction to the parts of a bird and what they are called, some special structures on different groups of birds and the structure of feathers. Session 2 will deal with bird anatomy, how specimens are prepared and what collections at UVIC are used for. Those who wish to will be able to prepare a bird specimen for the UVIC collection. Cost \$5:00 to cover materials. Space will be limited; please phone Dave Fraser at 479-0016 to reserve a space for this laboratory workshop.

Wednesday, March 23: Birder's night at the RBCPM classroom at 7:30 p.m. March Program is entitled "Spring's Coming - Shape up Your Birding Skills" with Mike Shepard.

Thursday, March 24: "Discovery of the Titanic". Dr. Robert Ballard, team leader that, found the Titanic presents a video and slide illustrated talk. University Center Auditorium. Phone 387-5822 for more information.

APRIL PROGRAMS

Wednesday, April 6: Leon Pavlick presents an illustrated lecture "Grasslands of Southern B.C." 7:30 p.m. Newcombe Theatre Event -phone 387-5822 for more information.

Saturday, April 9: Birding at Pat Bay, the Airport and surrounding hedgerows, with Barbara Begg. Meet at Pat Bay by the church south of Mills Rd., waterside, (north of the Institute of Ocean Sciences), at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 10: Botany trip to Jocelyn Hill with Adolf and Oluna Ceska. Meet Helmcken Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. This won't be a difficult hike at all.

Tuesday, April 12: "Aphids - Tickle Them and They Sprout Wings and other Bizarre Facts" with Michelle Gorman. Familiar and fascinating, aphids are all around us - but how much do you really know about them? Dr. Gorman, an entomologist with the research branch of Safer's Ltd., will talk on the bizarre natural history of these common insects. 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium, RBCM.

Wednesday, April 13: Robert Cannings presents an illustrated lecture "Animal Life on the Grasslands". 7:30 p.m. Newcombe Theatre Event -phone 387-5822 for more information.

Saturday, April 16: Field Trip to see the Pink Lilies (*Erythronium revolutum*) with Leon Pavlick. - Phone the Rare Bird Alert prior to April 9 to see if there is an advancement on the field trip due to the season. Meet at Helmecken Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. or at the viewpoint at the Pink Easter Lilies at Sutton Creek, Honeymoon Bay Wildflower Reserve.

Tuesday, April 19: Botany Night RBCM classroom, meet at 7:30 p.m. Medical Botany with Oluna and Adolf Ceska.

Wednesday, April 20: Dr. Robert Coupland from the University of Saskatchewan presents an illustrated lecture "Prairie Grasslands". 7:30 p.m. A Newcombe Theatre Event. Phone 387-5822 for more information.

Thursday, April 21: A Botanical Pilgrimage to Japan" - with Adolf Ceska. 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Theater, RBCM. Friends of Thetis Park program. All welcome.

Saturday, April 23: Botany trip to Camas Hill, meet at Helmecken Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. or at pullout east of junction of Kangaroo Rd. and Sooke Rd. Bring a lunch. Leader Terri Suttil.

Sunday, April 24: Birding at Quick's Bottom/ Beaver Lake with David Pearce. Meet at Mayfair Lanes at 8:30 a.m. or at the trail entrance to Quick's Bottom on Markham Rd. at 8:50 a.m.

Wednesday, April 27: Birder's Night RBCM classroom, 7:30 p.m. Alex Mill's program will be featured - "Goatsuckers and Moonlight". Bring a friend.

Saturday, April 30: Birding trip along the Cowichan River. Leader, Dan Carsen. Meet at the Helmcken Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. Those who wish to meet at Cowichan phone Dan at 384- 4924 to arrange a meeting place.

SOME UPCOMING MAY PROGRAMS......

Sunday, May 8: Natural History in the Nanaimo Area. Leader Sharon Hartwell. Meet at Helmcken Park & Ride 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. Botany, birding and whatever.

Tuesday, May 10: VNHS General Meeting. "The Eightarmed Giants of British Columbia" with Jim Cosgrove, from the RBCM. Octopus are among the most fascinating marine animals, and Jim will be talking about some of his research on these enormous, intelligent molluscs found in our local waters. 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium, RBCM

Sunday, May 15: Birding at Cowichan Bay with Bryan Gates. Meet at Helmcken Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. or join the group on Cowichan Bay Dock Rd. anytime after 8:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and friend. An easy but productive walk, with 59 species seen last year.

• Make a weekend of it. Consider a stay at Sahtlam Lodge. See pg. 15

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1987 VICTORIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Species Name	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Area 11
Red-throated Loon Pacific Loon	4					2	10	50		2	
Common Loon	4					10	12	10		6	5
loon sp.	-						••	20		5	
Pied Billed Grebe	5			5	15		6	2	22	13	
Horned Grebe	7					12	14	25		18	84
Red-necked Grebe	8					7	5	40		106	15
Eared Grebe											
Western Grebe Double-crested Cormorant	1	1	7		57	4	2000	15 20	17	49	17
Brandt's Cormorant	2	1	/		57	11	10	25	17	6	17
Pelagic Cormorant	5					6	6	30		22	41
Great Blue Heron	7		2		1	6	9	10	7	20	
Trumpeter Swan			3	3	1						
Mute Swan			6		2		6		8		
Greater White-fronted Goos	e						1				
Emperor Goose			7	49			1 100	11	164		
Canada Goose Wood Duck			1	49			100	11	104		
Green-winged Teal			71	178		13	3	14	- 11	3	
Mallard	275	1	108	349	41	122	372	28	448	79	1508
American Black Duck										1	
Northern Pintail				79		10	5	3	17		
Northern Shoveler		1		30	3						1
Gadwall				4	14		7				12.0
Eurasian Wigeon				1/0		1	10		3	2	3
American Wigeon	87		80	160	53	203	40	12	326	217	440
Canvasback Ring-necked Duck	2			10	43		9 12		1		
Greater Scaup	2			2	2		20		13		
Lesser Scaup				-	-		10		201		
scaup sp.							20				
Harlequin Duck						5	7	24		21	44
Oldsquaw						4	8	20		3	5
Black Scoter						11/13/00	11	1988212		1	
Surf Scoter			48			28	112	30		105	59
White-winged Scoter			50		3	7	60 65	5 35	1	5 41	2
Common Goldeneye Barrow's Goldeneye	11		93 119		5	10	05		2	41	35
Bufflehead	4		156	3	31	68	212	170	636	152	96
Hooded Merganser	2		8	20	39	16	11	15	21	58	2
Common Merganser	4		108	20	60			2	3	3	8
Red-breasted Merganser	18	1				27	70	30		82	10
Ruddy Duck						2	1				
Bald Eagle (adult)			3	2			3	2	1	3	
Bald Eagle (imm)			4		2	4					
Golden Eagle (adult)			1								
Northern Harrier Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1			2	2		1	3		1
Cooper's Hawk	1	-		3	1	2	1			1	3
Northern Goshawk	1										-
accipiter sp.							2	1			
Red-tailed Hawk	6		2	3	3	2					1
American Kestrel	1										-
Merlin			54		1				1		
Peregrine Falcon	1		1							1	1
Ruffed Grouse Ring-necked Pheasant	2			3	1						
California Quail	13			3	20	25		1	1 15	1	
Virginia Rail	15				20			2	10	40	
American Coot	1			1	12		6	-	87		
Black-bellied Plover							4	15		215	
Whimbrel											
Killdeer	5			9		1	26	5	25	3	2
Black Oystercatcher						3	12		2020	6	3
Greater Yellowlegs						1	9		1	3	
Red Phalarope Black Turnstone						2	ŀ	3.3	6		
Slack Turnstone Surfbird						2	4	33	6	34	17
Sanderling							10	2		12	27
Rock Sandpiper							10			12	21
Dunlin						55	16	12	2	51	
Common Snipe					1		2	2			
					<i>i</i> :						

2	2		1	3	· · · · ·	1			1			
1		1			1	3	1	1	2			2
3	2	2	1			1			1		1	1
1				1					1	1		
1				1	1	1						1
1					1		1	1			1	3 1
20	25		1	1 15	40		2	5	13	19		1
12		6	2	87			13	1			9	
12		4	15	87	215		43	4	1			
	1 3 1	26	5	25	3 6	2 3	10 20 2	14	3	7		39
	1	9		1	3		23	2	6			
	2	4	33	6	34	17	9	2	6 7			
		10	•		12	27				18		
1	55	16 2	12 2	2	51		49	12				
ADEA 7	Ecquim	alt I ago	on - Mill I	LT:11								
	-			1111			AREA 1	3: Unive	rsity - Ca	dboro Ba	v	
AREA 8	: Esquim	alt Harb	oour									
AREA 9	Portage	Inlet - 7	The Gorge	;			AREA 1	4: Ten N	Aile Point	- Arbutu	is Road	
	0: Victori						AREA 1	5: Gordo	on Head	- Mt. Dou	ıglas	
							AREA 1	6: Swan	Lake - Co	edar Hill		
AREA 1	1: Beacon	1 Hill Pa	ark			AREA 1	7. Blank	incon I ol	ke - Panai	ma Flata		
AREA 1	2: Oak Ba	ay					MULAI	/. DICIIK	insop La	ke - Fanai	na riats	

AREA 1: Butchart's Gardens - Northern Highlands

AREA 2: Central Highlands

AREA 5: Langford Lake

AREA 3: Goldstream - Finlayson Arm

AREA 6: Albert Head - Triangle Mountain

AREA 4: Thetis Lake Hastings Flats

Area 12	Area 13	Area 14	Area 15	Area 16	Area 17	Area 18	Area 19	Area 20	Area 21	Totals	
1	1	8	2			1		7	1	89 105	
5 9	2	20 16	7 14			23		12 15	5 2	103	second highest
4				21		2	5			20 100	
46	15	68	45			153	2	139	22	650 295	
33	1	11	8			4 7		48	9	10	
4	2 2	54	57	1		141 24	1 42	3	14	2282	second highest
7 106	13	2 78	98			8 3 5		1	40	89 585	
6	5	5	90	4	2	3 3	3	36 5	109 20	115	second highest
				1	2			29		36 25	
										1	first for count
	4			40	185	3	111	163		837	
	1					27	2 20	7		3 347	
38	254	67	63	155	462	185	273	1721		6549 1	all time high
					3 2	25	3	150		324	
3	3			3		3 4	31 2	10 2		88 33	
4					1			5		19	
450	64	43		245	280	177	121	1607	8	11	all time low
	6		63	28	1	16 17	109	13	2	234 126	
	0		00	2				3	2	216	
1 2 5 4		38	3			20		4	103	52 312	
68		74	43			86		97	12	420 1	
80		43	30			63		127	97	822	second highest
59 90	25	12 51	231 31			3 73	2	1 6 6	18 30	454 653	all time high
1 155	15	1 49	38			71				132	second highest all time high
49	6	23	4	5 14		61	15 59	114	336 3	414	
31	3	9	6 18			150 30	37	54	6	401 391	
			12	12	0				2	27	
	2	1			2	3 1	2 2	3 1		15	
								1		1 2	all time high
		1			2	4	2	3		20	all time high
1	1	2			2		3	5		1	all time high
		1		1	1	4		б	1	31	
		1	1			1	1	2		1	
					1		1			5 1	
1 2	1 5	13	19	1	3	3	16	8		41	
		15	19		1	73	18	60		305 3	highest since 1968
13 43	1 4			9		1501	81		1	1712	all time high
10	14	1 3	7							1	
20	14	2	(39	8	7	43	1 8	208 40	
2									1	16	
23	2	6							47	174	second count record
9		7							1	10 59	second highest
49	12		18					1	1 63	19	
	100							7	00	261	

AREA 18: Elk Lake - Cordova Bay AREA 19: Prospect Lake - Quick's Bottom AREA 20: Martindale - Bear Hill AREA 21 - 23: Ocean (Zero rock, Chain Islets, Juan de Fuca).

Species Name	Area l	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Area 11	A	rea 12	Area 13	Area 14	Area 15	Area 16	Area 17	Area 18	Area
Bonaparte's Gull					12	656	200	250	51	218							1		1000	
Mew Gull Herring Gull	15 2		15		12	000	400	250	51	218			613	30	2144	2		4	38	
Thayer's Gull	13		180	1	10		1	300	460	120	10		206		1				4	
Western Gull	3				60	256	443	200	190	1 476	261									
Glaucous-winged Gull Common Murre	1163 11	10	4000	18	60	256	443	200	190	4/6	201		773	54	144	30	127	31	868 1	
Pigeon Guillemot	11						1	4			6		6		10	5			4	
Marbled Murrelet	12					2		3		6	5		4			3				
Ancient Murrelet Rhinoceros Auklet	1					1				2					1					
Rock Dove	18			21	15		11	32	163	1 3 3	82		26	4	4	13	53	12	72	
Band-tailed Pigeon																			37	
Common Barn-Owl Western Screech-Owl	2																1	1	1	
Great Horned Owl	1					1										1		÷		
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1																			
Barred Owl Short-eared Owl	1																		1	
Northern Saw-whet Owl																				
Anna's Hummingbird	1				7	4	1 2	3	6	6	1		2	7	16	3			2	
Belted Kingfisher Red-breasted Sapsucker	5		3		2	c	2	5	0	0				2	3	3		1	2	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker							1													
Downy Woodpecker	3	1		5	12	3	1	2	1	2	12		6	1	8		9	1	12	
Hairy Woodpecker Northern Flicker	2	4	1	1 17	8	16	4	60	13	8	15		9	15	25	9	3	1	2 41	
Pileated Woodpecker		7	1	1	1	1	1		1				9	15	23	1	2	1	41	
Eurasian Skylark	11																			
Steller's Jay	1 492	7	11 130	28 949	12 195	25 154	100	25 50	7 210	550	107		2	16	33	44	7 85	11 436	19 654	
Northwestern Crow Common Raven	36	22	5	8	19	34	4	5	4	2	1		106	75	101	30	2		14	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	49	6	5	37	85	55	36	50	52	35	31		31	49	86	25	20	12	172	
Bushtit				10	40 18	3	20	23	122	20	30		20	50	176	30	52		27	
Red-breasted Nuthatch Brown Creeper				3	8	5	4	4	2		5		1	2	6 2	4 2	1		6 10	
Bewick's Wren	3	9		2	27	6		10	19	1	5		66	5	2	5	8	3	20	
Winter Wren	10	7	9	9	12	6	4	12	4		6		3	6	15		3		23	
Marsh Wren American Dipper	1		11		÷		1										1			
Golden-crowned Kinglet	135	8	7	62	123	42	100	60	14	24	27		23	7	35	28	6	15	392	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2		2	3	32	1	12	6	9	6	7			4	14	3	2	1	48	
Townsend's Solitaire Hermit Thrush	1				3		1	3		1	1				1				1	
American Robin	181	103	1	63	182	169	12	25	135	71	152		255	113	314	145	119	43	472	
Varied Thrush	6	29	5	3	27	9	10	10	8		10		2	8	3	18	3		8	
Water Pipit Cedar Waxwing	40														20	15			2	
Northern Shrike	1			1			23		1	2					20	15				
European Starling	576	2	95	1335	110	157	3	125	741	332	312		272	290	163	400	60	82	229	
Hutton's Vireo Yellow-rumped Warbler					1												2		1	
Palm Warbler							1										2			
Rufous-sided Towhee	17	5	1	12	37	30	2	28	18	17	20		12	26	40	13	20	11	42	
Savannah Sparrow Fox Sparrow	1	14		21	43	7	1	12	23	17	16		2	10	31	4	3	10	31	
Song Sparrow	31	22	7	5	81	30	10	20	31	2.5	20		32	11	41	13	15			
Lincoln's Sparrow					1															
White-throated Sparrow Golden-crowned Sparrow	99			31	27	61		14	19	27	30		27	1 28	2 77	32	48	9	32	
White-crowned Sparrow	4			3	5				1	4			3	20	2	10	40	11	7	
Harris' Sparrow	100	0.4	1.0	79	213	320	20	70	109	32	102			1						
Dark-eyed Junco "S-c Junco"	190	84	10	79	215	320	20	70	105	1	102		24	115	200	35	49	54	375	
Swamp Sparrow													2							
Snow Bunting					15		15	20		12	5		1							
Red-winged Blackbird Western Meadowlark	50			6	15		15	20		2	,			2		2	10	7	58	έ
Brewer's Blackbird	15		1	88	30		11		1	20	40					60		5		
Brown-headed Cowbird		2			17			10	9	1										
Purple Finch House Finch	2	2 5		23	17	28	12	10 35	71	8	17		1	4	9	7	1		16	
Red Crossbill	11	2		23	7								37	44	104	24	8	2	00	
Pine Siskin	2 5				50	80	2	2 2	56	50	25			24				20	39	
American Goldfinch Evening Grosbeak							10	1 12											28	
House Sparrow	3	2		19	15	37		6	62	127	26		22	70	3 99	20	105	28	14	
			6076		2010	2070	4789	2245	4661	3754	3825									
Total Individuals	3745	360	5379	3803	2018	2870	4/09	2243	4001	3/34	5025		4089	1554	4684	1863	1366	1861	6986	į.

AREA 1: Butchart's Gardens - Northern Highlands	AREA 7: Esquimalt Lagoon - N
AREA 2: Central Highlands	AREA 8: Esquimalt Harbour
AREA 3: Goldstream - Finlayson Arm	AREA 9: Portage Inlet - The G
AREA 4: Thetis Lake Hastings Flats	AREA 10: Victoria Harbour
AREA 5: Langford Lake	AREA 11: Beacon Hill Park
AREA 6: Albert Head - Triangle Mountain	AREA 12: Oak Bay

Lagoon - Mill Hill Harbour et - The Gorge Iarbour ill Park AREA 13: University - Cadboro Bay AREA 14: Ten Mile Point - Arbutus Road AREA 15: Gordon Head - Mt. Douglas AREA 16: Swan Lake - Cedar Hill AREA 17: Blenkinsop Lake - Panama Flats

rea	19	Area	20	Area	21	Totals								
	9		13	1	974		201							
	39				2	0	49							
	10				55	1	371	sec	ond	d h	ig	hes	t	
	447		85	1	241	10	877							
			6		245		286							
			8		15		59 53							
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	50		4				61							
	93		64				550							
	6		1				21							
	30		15				700							
	4909	-	9799		4648	19	208							

AREA 18: Elk Lake - Cordova Bay AREA 19: Prospect Lake - Quick's Bottom AREA 20: Martindale - Bear Hill AREA 21 - 23: Ocean (Zero rock, Chain Islets, Juan de Fuca). Victoria Christmas Bird Count December 19, 1987

Participant List

Hector Alexander, Anne Algard, Gladys Anderson, Jerry Anderson, Barbara Begg, Mike Bentley, Fran Benton, Sheryl Bisgrove, N.C. Blacker, Alice Cassidy, Rob Cannings, Dannie Carson, Beth Chatwin, Elna Clark, Marg Crowther (feeder watcher), Dianne Cooper, John Cooper, Joan Crabbe, Eleanor Davidson, Brent Daikow, Lyndis Davis, Art Durkee, Mike Edgell, Yorke Edwards, Alice Elston, Terry Finch, Kathleen Fleming (feeder watcher), Dave F. Fraser, Jeff Gaskin, Bryan Gates, Tracee Geernaert, Ian Gibson, Graham E. Gillespie, Carin Gooch, Tony Gooch, Peggy Goodwill, Vic Goodwill, Robert Greig, Vera Guernsey, Frances Gundry, Leah Halsall, Sharon Hartwell, Dorothy Henderson, Shey Hewash, Gordon Hooper, Gwennie Hooper, Ron Hooper, Tracey Hooper, Harold Hosford, Bob Houston, John Hunter, Rowly Inglis, Mary Inkster (feeder watcher), Barbara Irwin, Alan Irwin, Margaret Jeal, Frances Jones, Anne Knowles, Eric Lafroth, Marilyn Lambert, Anne Laws, Peter McAllister, Dorothy McCann, Malcom McCartney, Alan Macleod, Barb McGrenere, Mike McGrenere, Margaret MacKenzie- Grieve, Rob MacKenzie-Grieve, Mike McNall, Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, Jane Mayall, Alex Mills, George Newell, Elizabeth North, Mark Nyhof, David Pearce, Florian Pikula, Alf Porcher, Linda Procter, Margie Purdy, Leah R. Ramsay, Sheila Reynolds, Leila Roberts, Sheila Rymer, Joy Satterfield, Ron Satterfield, Ann Scarfe, Stan Shadick, Michael G. Shepard (co-compiler, 119-645 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1G2), John Steele, Alan Stewart, Lynnette Stewart, David Stirling, Irene Stocker, Dennis Suttill, Kay Suttill, J.B. Tatum, Keith Taylor, Wendy Teece, Margaret Turner, Jack Van Strien, Margaret Wainwright, Ray Wainwright, Richard Wait, Sally Wait, Marie Ware, Reuben Ware, David Warren, Morgan Warren, Wayne Weber, D. Weston, Inez Weston, Tom Weston, Bruce Whittington, Neville Windester, Edred Williams, Judy Winterbottom, Freda Woodworth, Cynthia A. Zoyetz (co-compiler, 119-645 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1G2).

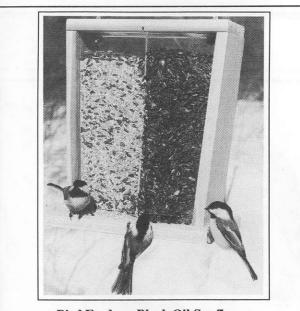
Some Exerpts from Wildlife '87 Press Release

- From Victoria, B.C. to St. Johns, Newfoundland, over 10,000 Canadians (double that of 1987) were in the field counting birds as part of the Kick-on to the second century of wildlife conservation in Canada, and the annual Christmas Bird Counts.
- Records were broken across the nation. Edmonton retains the title of having the largest wildlife census in the world with 1288(135 in the field and 1153 at feeders) participants on their count.
- Victoria's 145 bird species set a new Canadian high, taking it away from Vancouver that had a previous high of 142 species.
- Victoria had 30 species with new high numbers which wins them the Long Point, Ontario challenge of most species with
 new high numbers in counts going more than five years.
- In the interior of B.C. Dick Canning noted the Penticton people counted 104 species, the highest number ever recorded in the interior of Western Canada.
- Charlottetown had a lady of 86 out counting, the oldest participant in Canada.
- Edmonton had 22 trained bird dogs in the field with their handlers, the largest number of dogs working on a count in the world.

Classified advertising is available for V.N.H.S. members at \$5 per ad. Write your own ad - it will appear exactly as you submit it. Text only (no graphics or photos). Limit 35 words.

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Welcome To New Members!

Dec. 3	Susan Olive, of Powderly Avenue, whose interests are
Dec. 3	birdwatching and whales. Mr. and Mrs. D.A. Currie, of Davie Street. Particular inter-
Dec. 3	est - birding. John Rytter, of Downey Road, Sidney.
Dec. 8	Alan Perkins, of Lochside Drive. Particular interest - bird-
Dec. 0	ing.
Dec. 8	John and Katie Dawson, of Glenelg Avenue, Sidney. They like birding, botany, and insects.
Dec. 18	Donald and Evelyn Maclean, of Paul's Terrace. Birdwatch- ing and conservation.
Dec. 19	Hector L. Alexander, of Hollydene Place. Interested in birding.
Dec. 19	Kathleen Barbon, of Darwin Avenue. Likes botany and photographing nature.
Dec. 23	Mrs. Wendy Teece, of St. Patrick Street.
Dec. 23	Jim Neily, of Hawthorne Street. Particular interest: "The Victoria Naturalist".
Dec. 23	Peter Johnston and Sue Wheeler, of Denman Street. Inter- ested in life - particularly birds and plants.
Dec. 23	Wally Macgregor, of Westport Place. Particular interests: photography, general natural history, ornithology and botany.
Dec. 23	Daniel Farr, of Linden Avenue. Interested in natural his- tory of amphibians and reptiles; conservation.
Dec. 29	Lloyd Rushton, of Windsor Road.
Jan. 4	Lorraine Image, of Craigdarroch Road.
Jan. 4	Sandy McRuer, of Port Alberni. Particular interests: birds; Christmas Bird Count; talks and tours, up-Island especially; publication or magazine.
Jan. 7	Don Lassey, of Sooke. A park ranger, interested in bird- ing, plants and flowers, and marine life. He, Sharon and
	Merna Fleming are starting a bird watch/count in their
Jan. 7	area, which they will submit monthly. Sharon Lassey, of Sooke. An elementary school teacher with a general interest in nature.
Jan. 7	Merna Fleming, of Sooke. Interested in birds and general nature.
Jan. 12	Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Routledge, of Lougheed, Alberta.
Jan. 12	E.M. Kinghorn. She joined at the January General Meet- ing. For reasons that aren't too clear, we didn't get her ad- dress or phone number. Can someone advise us of these,
Jan. 12	so that we can send her "The Victoria Naturalist"? Aline and Norman Fowlow, of Michigan Street. Interested
Jan. 14	in oceanography, hiking, and nature preservation. Bob Greig, of Haro Road. Particular interest: birds in the landscape.
Jan. 14	Ron Blier, of San Juan Avenue. Interested in canoeing, geology, and geography.
Jan. 14	Henk Blouw, of Cardiff Place.
Jan. 14	Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Clarke, of Sidney. They say: "We are thoroughly enjoying 'The Naturalist's Guide' to this region
Jan. 19	- it opens so many doors!" Harry and Mildred Saunders, of Ottawa.
Jan. 19	Dr. Gloria Snively, of Hampshire Road. Particular inter-
Jun. 17	wildflowers and birding.
Jan. 22	John and Janet Mitchell, of Snowdrop Avenue. Many inter- ests: ornithology; marine biology; botany; nature photog-
Jan. 24	raphy; carpentry (bird houses and feeders); wildlife art. Michael Ryan, of Kentwood Lane. Interested in mosses,
Jan. 26	liverworts, lichens and vascular plants. Jan Talbot, of Sidney. Welcome back! Interests are birding
Jan. 27	and gardening. Wendy Beauchamp, University of Victoria. Birding, Marine
Jan. 27	Biology and anything to do with the outdoors.
Jan. 27	John and Gladys Boorman, of St. Matthews Street. Mr. and Mrs P.K. Gage, of Rowley Road. Interested in
5 dil. 27	birding.
Jan 29	Dannie Carsen, of Linden Avenue: Birdwatching, photog- raphy, natural history lectures, canoeing, backpacking.
Jan 29	Adrienne Mason, of Browning Street. Interested in all aspects of the outdoors. She is an interpreter with National Parks, and so she is also interested in education/interpreta- tion.
Feb. 2	Heather Dunlop, of Menzies Street. Events, activities, especially outings & birding.



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

BIRDS of the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia by ROBERT A. CANNINGS, RICHARD J. CANNINGS,

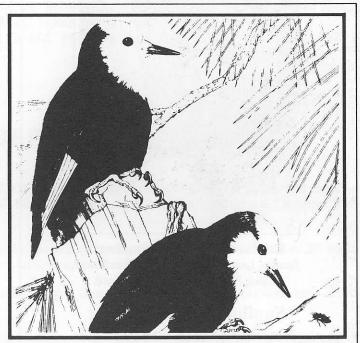
and SYDNEY G. CANNINGS, RICHARD J. CANNINGS and SYDNEY G. CANNINGS Published by the Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, B.C., Canada

The Okanagan Valley is famous in Canada and further afield for its varied bird fauna, especially the rich mixture of northern and southern species. Seldom does a regional bird book appear with the scope and detailed analysis found in the *Birds of the Okanagan Valley*, *British Columbia*.

Seasonal status, habitat preferences, migration patterns, breeding biology, and feeding behaviour are discussed for the 307 species (194 breeding) recorded. The authors examined over 126,000 records from both historical and modern sources. Introductory chapters outline the Okanagan as an environment for birds, stressing the historical changes that have affected them. Included are dozens of tables and graphs, black-and-white photographs of birds and their habitats, and sketches by the well-known Okanagan ornithologist and bird artist, Allan Brooks.

Robert A. Cannings is Chief of Biology at the Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, B.C. In the Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Richard J. Cannings is curator of the Cowan Vertebrate Museum, and Sydney G. Cannings is curator of the Spencer Entomological Museum.

"Birds of the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia is a remarkable book," says Ian McTaggart Cowan, former Head of the Zoology Department and Dean of Graduate Studies, University of British Columbia. "The delight that the authors derive from the extraordinary variety of birds and their comings and goings with the seasons shines through in memory-stirring prose...For every bird enthusiast... this book is a must."



White-headed Woodpecker pair (female above, male below) on Ponderosa Pine.

Robert A. Cannings 1987

420 pages + xix, illustrated, 8½" x 11", paperback - \$27.50 CAN (ISBN 0-7718-8601-2); clothbound - \$37.50 CAN (ISBN 0-7718-8593-8).

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