

# The Victoria NATURALIST

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# The Victoria NATURALIST

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## On our Cover

"Three's a Crowd" is the title of this work in watercolour and gouache by wildlife artist Morgan Warren. Morgan, a VNHS member, lives in Brentwood Bay and paints full time at her A-frame studio in Canoe Cove. She has been painting wildlife professionally for the last 11 years, and her limited edition prints and art cards are distributed throughout North America.

The painting on our cover is a work commissioned by a Vancouver Island resident. Of its subjects Morgan says, "Anna's Hummingbirds are colourful characters in more ways than one: flamboyant and territorial, they make fascinating subjects, and it is a challenge to capture in paint the ever-changing hues on their throats and foreheads. I enjoy painting my subjects in high detail with a misty, out of focus background that hints at surroundings rather than portraying them exactly. I also believe it is important to capture some interaction between subjects in a picture, to tell a story that gives us some insight into the world of another species."

For a glimpse of the colour we couldn't bring you on our cover, be sure to read Morgan's evocative poem "The Summer Song of the Anna's Hummingbird" on page 7.

## Only the Names have been Changed ...

In our last issue we announced that John de Bondt had taken over from Mark Nyhof as editor of the *Naturalist*. Unfortunately, the pressures associated with producing the magazine entirely on volunteer "steam" served to remind John of why he had retired from editing just a few years ago, and he has decided to resign.

The publications committee will continue to try a team approach to producing the *Naturalist*, and I have agreed to act as editor. We are confident that the magazine can be successfully produced "in house," with the help of volunteers and a home computer. (In past, the Society has hired a commercial desktop publishing firm to do the typesetting and layout.) The substantial saving to the Society, and the greater flexibility afforded the editorial team, should more than justify the additional demands on the volunteers involved. It is, however, a big job, and we'll need the help and cooperation of the VNHS membership even more than in the past. Please see pages 7 and 10 for ways you can help!

—Brenda Robson



## Colourful Finds at Botanical Beach

by Betty Mundy

The Botanical Beach field trip, part of the program for the FBCN annual general meeting, began at 6 a.m. on May 7 from the University of Victoria. The 27 participants included delegates from many parts of the province, as well as one visitor from Alberta. We travelled in a large comfortable bus. Two 'pluses' soon became evident: a cheerful, competent bus driver and a knowledgeable, enthusiastic leader. The lovely early morning drive along highway 14 through Jordan River and Port Renfrew changed markedly as we negotiated the last section--over the rough, twisting, tunnel-like logging road, where Ray, our driver, showed his ability. With the bus only just fitting between the road and the ceiling of trees, Ray kept his nerve uphill, down, and around narrow hairpin turns. We were duly deposited at the end of the logging road at 8:30 a.m., in good time to begin our walk down the trail to the beach and to take advantage of one of the lowest tides of the year. After crossing the short strip of beach, we found ourselves clambering over rocky formations amid the wonderful tidal pools, the sea seemingly at full ebb.

Joel Ussery--our leader and biologist--and several members of the group immediately began examining the many forms of life in the pools. Joel was a fund of knowledge, bubbling with information about each find. He also pointed out some of the hazards faced by the pool dwellers--for example the heat and salinity that the creatures have to cope with until the sea returns to cover the pools to a greater depth.

One of the first finds was a sunflower star, which is an unusual, large sun star, 35 cm (approximately 14 inches) in diameter. Its Latin name is *Pycnopedia helianthoides*. These differ in proportion from the small orange sun stars: they are not as brittle, have a softer, larger body mass, many shorter arms, and a dark brownish-green upper side. Quite a find, Joel said. This one was having a purple sea urchin for dinner.

Colour was everywhere. The Alberta visitor called our attention to a 2 cm orange "blob," which Joel informed us was an orange nudibranch, a small sea slug feeding on an orange sponge. The wee nudibranch also carried orange eggs!

Orange sea stars, 14 cm (approximately 5.5 inches) were more numerous. These are rough and brittle and typically 'starfish' shaped, each arm having a grey stripe.

Also found were many deep purple spiny sea urchins, with one much larger red one. This red one was a lucky find, as these sea urchins generally stay below the low tide level. They have

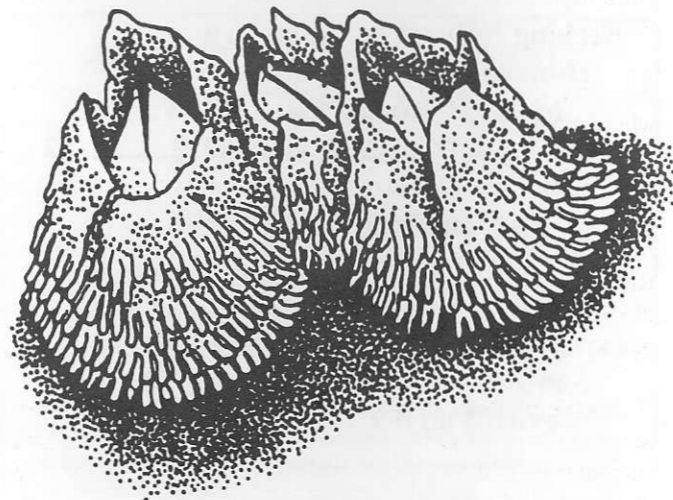
longer spines than the small purple sea urchin. We were able to observe and touch these specimens.

Surprises still to come: Octopuses! Altogether the party found three, but most of us saw only one or two, as we were spread about the rocky area. These were surprisingly longer than expected, at least 35 cm (approximately 14 inches), the tentacles accounting for about half of their length. One was typically hiding under a rock ledge in a pool and another was pulsing through a trough, changing colour somewhat.

Beautifully coloured pale green sea anemones clung to rocks in the water. These were at least 14 cm (5.5 inches) in diameter; very impressive with their circles of tentacles waiting for a meal! Several species of chitons were found--the gumbot, black leather, lined and mossy varieties. Chitons browse or graze on algae at night, moving over the surface of the rocks to feed and returning to favourite places to rest by day. Chitons are very ancient forms of life.

Add to the above many clusters of mussels, small gooseneck barnacles, purple shore crabs, including a female with eggs, lots of hermit crabs, tidal pool sculpins (small fish), kelps and brown seaweeds in quite a young stage, and coralline algae.

We ate our lunch watching the tide coming in with the thundering Pacific Ocean waves and lots of foam filling the channels and pools. Then we made our way slowly and carefully over the sandstone ledges and rocks and around the filling channels to the trail. Joel was still able to give information as we walked the trail to the bus, noting twinberry, a monkey flower, thrift, and a lovely species of butter yellow cinquefoil. Ray managed to turn the bus around in a van-sized space. Our group congratulated and thanked both Ray and Joel for their efforts. We arrived safely back at the University by 4 p.m., full of vivid memories of the rich and colourful intertidal life to be found at Botanical Beach. I recommend a trip there to all.



*Drawing of thatched barnacles reprinted from Museum Notes #16 (1988), Royal British Columbia Museum.*

## Uplands Park Project

by Reuben Ware

The Parks and Conservation Committee is launching a project to survey the flora and fauna of Uplands Park in Oak Bay, including the Cattle Point area. The planned survey report will list all known plants, animals and birds, and will include a map of trails and significant natural features of the area. A supplementary report will cover recommendations for management of the park to enhance the ecological usage and raise public awareness about the park's natural values.

We need volunteers to assist in the project. If you have records of flora and fauna, knowledge about the park's natural aspects, or suggestions and concerns about the current state of the park, please contact the Uplands Project Coordinator, Mary Morrison, at 598-4823.

## The Buttertub Marsh

by Margaret Mackenzie-Grieve

If you happen to be driving through Nanaimo, why not make a detour, turning left onto Bowen Road, and visit the Buttertub Marsh?

This 45 acres of land on the banks of the Millstone River was once a farm used by the Dunsmuir Company. When the dykes were constructed the land flooded and it became an ideal stopping place for migrating water fowl. With the help of many societies, including the Nanaimo Field Naturalists and Ducks Unlimited, the land became a sanctuary in 1977 and was named "Buttertub Marsh."

Every visit is a delight. Last week was no exception. The whole marsh was covered with huge clumps of golden yellow irises, with the sunshine and the blooms reflecting in the water. An elegant Canada Goose carefully negotiated the flowers, followed by so many goslings she must have been baby minding. A Mallard swam by with her babies, then a pair of Ring-necked Ducks, possibly nesting. A Marsh Wren sang and the Blackbirds with their scarlet shoulders flashing flew hither and thither uttering their unmistakable calls.

If you follow the path to the other side of the marsh you come to the viewing tower. Go up the steps to the platform and there, surrounding you, is a whole panorama of nature. Last week it was a mass of irises as far as the eye could see. Perhaps next time we visit this unique habitat in Nanaimo there will be more surprises.

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*National Geographic Society Field Guide  
to the Birds of North America*  
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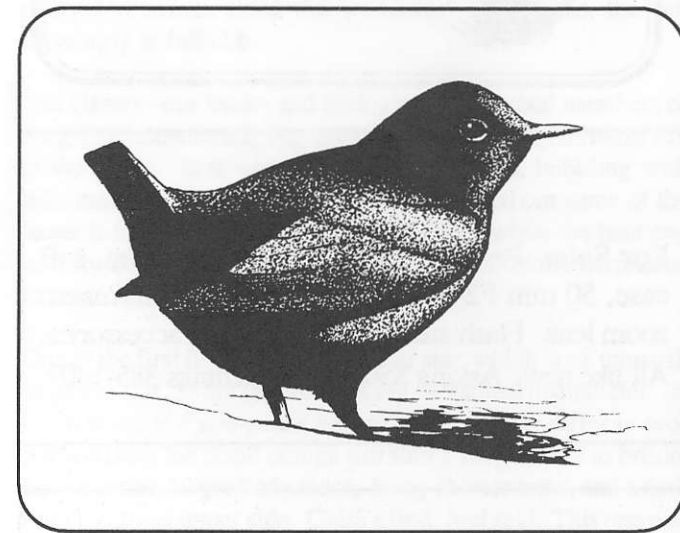


# An Observation of Piscivory by an American Dipper

by Graham E. Gillespie

During a Christmas vacation in Calgary, I spent a morning birding in the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Pearce Estate Park on the Bow River. The park is the site of the Sam Livingston Trout Hatchery, operated by the Alberta Provincial Government. The effluent canal for the hatchery runs through the centre of the park to the river, providing a constant supply of relatively warm, open water during the cold winter months. This attracts several winter resident species, like Black-billed Magpies, Black-capped Chickadees, and dabblers such as Mallards and American Widgeon.

Besides the open water, a small number of fry escaping from the hatchery also support year-round resident Belted Kingfishers, and transient Common Mergansers. The end of the effluent canal opens into a large pond, which also remains free of ice. At this pond I saw a large number of Mallards (100+), a dozen Canada Geese, and two Killdeer.



Also present at the pond was an American Dipper or Water Ouzel, *Cinclus mexicanus*. I first saw him (or her, I'm not sure which) standing on a rock at the edge of the pond, performing the characteristic dipping motion for which the species is named. He then left the rock, and began paddling clumsily around a small area of the pond, ducking his head under the water as though searching for something. He then disappeared beneath the surface leaving only a trail of bubbles to mark his progress under the water. When he returned to the surface, he was gripping a small fish sideways in his beak.

He returned to his rock, and proceeded to turn the fish to swallow it head-first. He accomplished this by banging the

head of the fish against the rock, and shifting his grip on the fish each time. After four repetitions, the fish was swallowed whole. He then returned to the water, and began to search again. During the ten minutes I watched him, he dove about once a minute, and was successful one in every three dives.

I was unable to get a close enough look at the fish to determine the species captured, but there were parr marks visible on their sides, so they were likely salmonids. Rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout (*Salmo* sp.) and brook and lake charr (*Salvelinus* sp.) are produced by the hatchery, and mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*) from the river use the pond as a nursery area.

The colder water at the end of the canal may have aided the capture of the fry, if it was cool enough to reduce their activity; or if these were hatchery fry, they may have been less wary of natural predators. Decreased availability of aquatic insects, the major portion of the dipper's summer diet, may have forced him to rely on fish as a food source. I was unable to carry out repeated observations to determine the regularity of this behaviour, or the importance of fish in the dipper's diet.

While the Peterson guide lists small fish as a part of this bird's diet, other references to its diet are scarce. Austin (1961) states that dippers as a group (not distinguishing between American and European forms) are known to eat minnows and small fry, and he considers them pests around fish hatcheries. Though dippers are known to ingest the eggs of salmon (*Oncorhynchus* sp.) in the coastal streams of British Columbia, the bulk of their diet consists of aquatic insect larvae and pupae, and small molluscs gathered from the bottom of the stream. Neither of these references described the behaviours associated with catching and eating fish.

A reference that does describe the feeding behaviours and other aspects of the dippers natural history in wonderful detail is that of Arthur Cleveland Bent (1948). Of the dipper's piscivorous habits he wrote: "Under the overhanging banks, under logs, or under the shelter of rocks and stones, where trout fry or other small fish are hiding, [the dipper] seeks such finny prey. Often fish as much as two or three inches in length are captured, taken ashore, and killed by vigorous beating; some of these escape, and others, too big to swallow, are abandoned."

Bent also relates both sides of the argument regarding the nuisance factor of the dipper, both to the fish culturist and to the concerned sportsman. His conclusions are that the birds are not a significant predator on salmonids in the natural setting, and that the most efficient means of reducing their depredations in

a culture setting is to prevent their access to the fish by screening the ponds, as birds that are shot are soon replaced by others. (I should note that references to the dipper as a pest are from literature only; I am unaware of any dipper problem locally.)

Personally, I enjoy the company of a dipper. I see them most commonly as I fish for steelhead in the Nanaimo and Stamp Rivers. They pause near me as I stand in the river, to search for food stirred up by my wading, or chase each other past me, completely oblivious to my presence. I dislike the tendency of labelling any animal that competes with man as a pest. My feeling is that the dipper has been using naturally-occurring fish populations as a part of its diet for longer than man, and the natural populations have not suffered for it. The dipper only becomes a pest when it preys on "man's fish," in the unnatural setting of a hatchery rearing pond. While I can appreciate the point of view of the fish culturist, I disagree with the anthropocentric opinion that it is the dipper that is in the wrong. I hope, as did Bent, that man can find a way to protect his fish from the dipper, without resorting to shooting the birds.

## References

- Austin, O.L., Jr. 1961. Birds of the World. Golden Press, New York. p. 246.  
Bent, A.C. 1948. Life histories of North American nuthatches, wrens, thrashers, and their allies. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 195: 103-104.  
Peterson, R.T. 1941. A Field Guide to Western Birds. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. pp. 173-4.

Thanks to Wayne Campbell of the Royal British Columbia Museum for his drawing of an American Dipper.

## The Summer Song of the Anna's Hummingbird

by Morgan Warren

*Through winter's dark blasts I sat  
Hoarding my life's tiny flame  
In the half-death of torpor;  
Creeping to feeders  
Frozen, fighting the ice  
for this:*

*Summer's glorious blaze--  
Days of soaring, loving, nectar and light.*

*Now I dart away the hours,  
A living tourmaline  
In green and rose,  
Jousting with my fellows for the flowers  
And carving the air with curves  
To dazzle my love.*

## You Can Help Us ...

As this magazine is put together through the efforts of member-volunteers, we ask the help of contributors to the magazine to ease the workload by making their submissions as ready as possible for publishing prior to submission to the editor. Here are a few tips.

**If your contribution is handwritten...** Please print or write clearly. Leave a line open between each line of text (double space).

**If type written...** Please double space, leaving wide margins all around.

**If your contribution has been prepared on a computer...** We would dearly love to have a copy given to us on computer disk. This will greatly ease our workload. Your disk will be returned. Include a double-spaced printed copy, just in case some electronic gremlin plays havoc with the file. We can handle either PC or MacIntosh formats for

most writing programs, though Microsoft Word (for the PC) is the program used by *The Naturalist*, hence the preferred format. If you have a modem attached to your computer, we can also accept your submission by phone. If at all possible, save your document to disk in "text" or "unformatted" form unless you are sure we can "read" the program used on your computer. Finally, be sure to include a note indicating the file name for the document and the **type of software used**, and **write your name and phone number** on the diskette label.

**Most important...** Your submissions are welcome in whatever form you can manage, and they need not be flawless or "scholarly." We especially welcome contributions from members who have personal experiences, sightings, etc. to share with other society members. It is always greatly appreciated if you can do some of the leg work in tracking down appropriate illustrations. If you have any questions about the best way to prepare your article, don't hesitate to call Brenda at 477-3081.

**We would welcome volunteers** interested in helping with any aspect of the magazine's production (see page 10).



## Carmanah Visited

by Vera Guernsey

On Sunday, June 4, I accompanied a small group of local veterinarians and their friends and families on a day-long excursion to the west coast to visit Carmanah Valley. Our group consisted of 14 adults and seven children travelling in four cars. We left Victoria at 6 a.m., enjoying perfect weather. We drove to Youbou on pavement, then began a two-hour dusty drive on a good logging road to the start of the trail. The scenery on the drive was beautiful, but we found the beauty of the country and the lakes was frequently marred by the devastation of clear-cut logging.

As we neared our destination, we were able to get a brief glimpse of the ocean and the West Coast Trail. The trail is rough and descends steeply to the valley floor. Allow one hour for this descent.

Many tents were set up along the creek, as there were approximately 70 artists at work there that weekend as part of

an art project organized by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

We bathed our feet in the cold, crystal-clear creek, and during lunch identified the songs of Swainson's Thrush, Varied Thrush, and Winter Wrens, which were in abundance. Although we did not hike the whole Valley, we did feel the magnificence of this giant spruce forest. We were held in awe by the sheer grandeur of these giants--reputedly the largest Sitka spruce in the world.

The hike back up the trail was naturally the hardest, though it was no problem for the children. We all left the valley feeling that the steep, forested hillsides of Carmanah must be preserved to ensure the existence of the giant spruce for future generations to enjoy as we did.

## Happenings at Swan Lake this Summer

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary offers extended summer hours and a variety of new programs. Come to visit the Nature House Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:00; Saturday-Sunday, 9:30-4:00; 3873 Swan Lake Road. Phone: 479-0211.

**Saturday, July 22:** Liven up your child's summer by coming to **Kid's Day** at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. A wide range of non-competitive activities are offered, including a snake talk, feeding the ducks, nature walk, and creating prints and sculptures.

**Thursday, July 27:** Friends of the Nature Sanctuary Lecture Series. Lecture #4, 8 p.m. Carol McGraw will lead a herb walk focussing on medicinal and edible herbs.

**Saturday, August 19:** **Old Fashioned Day** takes you "back to the basics" at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. Dress in a historical costume and participate in the ever-elusive apple dunking contest, try your luck at horsehoe tossing and see soap making, spinning, weaving, and more! Prizes for best costume.

**Thursday, August 24:** Friends of the Nature Sanctuary Lecture Series. Lecture #5. Dave Fraser: "Reclaiming a Coal Mine: Tips for the Home Gardener." Dave will speak about his experiences reclaiming coal mines for wildlife use, and many tips apply to home gardeners who wish to attract wildlife. 8 p.m. \$1 (free to Friends of the Nature Sanctuary).

We are also offering summer public nature walks every Sunday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. with our enthusiastic naturalist. Drop by for an informative look around our 2.5 km loop trail. **Group tours** are available Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:30-12:00; 1:00-2:30.

**Thursday Special Events:** Free drop-in programs on topics ranging from archaeology to native plants, kid's crafts to herb and bird walks. Phone for details (479-0211).

## Interactions Between Seabirds and Marine Mammals

by Pam J. Stacey and Robin W. Baird

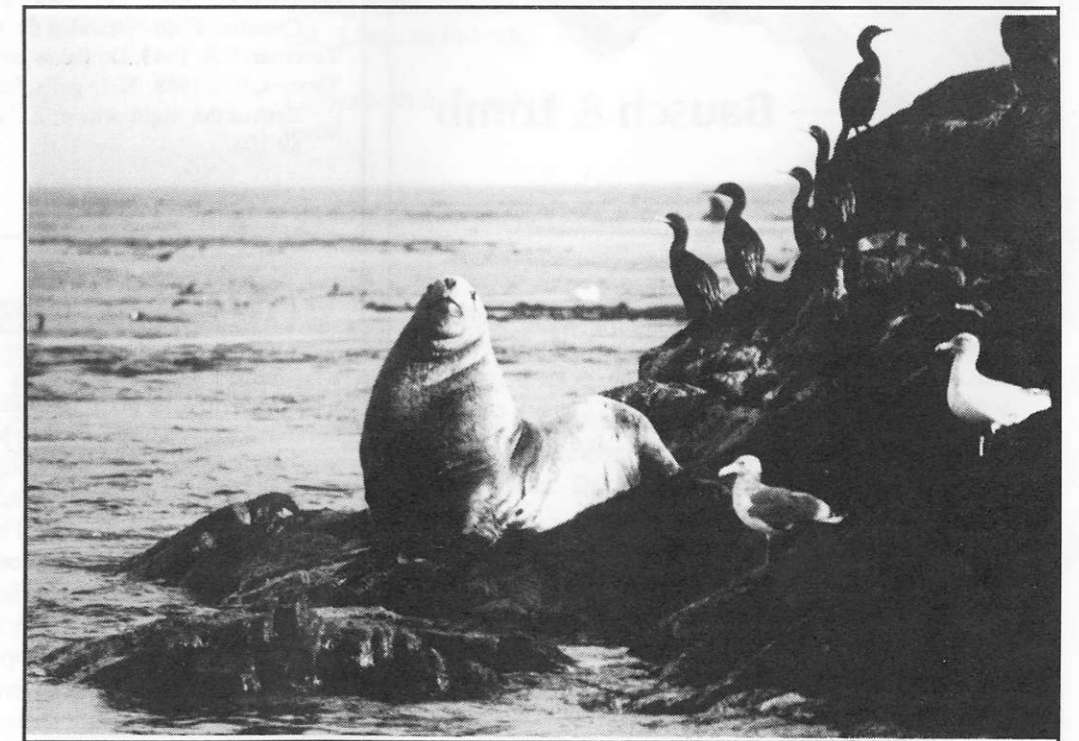
In this article we look at some of the contexts of association between seabirds and marine mammals, with notes on some interactions we have observed in local waters. In recent years several reviews and original research papers dealing with seabird/marine mammal interactions have been published (see Evans 1982; Burger 1988). Off Argentina one researcher recently described a parasitic relationship between Kelp Gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) and right whales (*Eubalaena australis*), where the gulls regularly ate live flesh off the whales' backs as they rested at the surface of the water (Thomas 1988). This feeding disrupted the normal behaviour of the whales. Many associations between whales, dolphins and seabirds occur because they are exploiting a common patch of food. In these circumstances it has been noted that humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), have apparently accidentally ingested Cassin's Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) while both species were feeding in close association at the same depth on euphausiids (*Euphausia pacifica*) (Dolphin and McSweeney 1983).

In the area around southern Vancouver Island, we have seen two types of associations between seabirds and marine mammals. When transient killer whales are feeding on other marine mammals such as harbour seals (*Phoca vitulina*) or elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*), they often tear up the prey, with many small pieces floating up to the surface. We have seen two species of gulls, Glaucous-winged (*Larus glaucescens*) and Heermann's (*Larus heermanni*), scavenging pieces of food off the surface of the water, and even following the whales for up to 20 minutes after a kill, apparently hoping for more. In some cases the birds following the whales could actually be detrimental to the whales, which use stealth to capture seals. A flock of wheeling crying gulls might alert seals on or around rocks to the whales' presence.

Sea lions often bring their food, especially larger fish, to the surface to eat, and in the process of devouring them often tear them up, attracting flocks of gulls to scavenge on the pieces. This is a common occurrence during the winter around Race Rocks.

The other type of association between seabirds and killer whales is not quite as beneficial to the birds. Several authors have reported killer whales feeding on seabirds in British Columbia. In 1943, P.A. Taverner reported the consumption of a Brant Goose (*Branta bernicla*) by killer whales off Comox. Odlum (1948) reported a group of six killer whales feeding on White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta fusca*) off Triple Island light station near Prince Rupert. In 1979, a cormorant (*Phalacrocorax* sp.) was found in the stomach of a dead transient killer whale, O1, washed ashore in Boundary Bay, B.C. (Ford and Ford 1981).

On several occasions we have seen transient killer whales attacking seabirds. Although researchers have observed resident killer whales considerably more often than transients, residents have not been observed attacking seabirds. The



Steller sea lion, cormorants and gulls--Race Rocks

P. Stacey /R. Baird



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transients' attacks have had one thing in common; the birds were all moulting at the time and appeared unable to fly.

One of the attacks we witnessed involved an adult female killer whale, M2, no stranger to this area; she and her pod were held captive in Pedder Bay in 1970, very near to where this incident took place. M2 surfaced towards a Rhinoceros Auklet (*Cerorhinca monocerata*). The bird flapped across the water and settled down, only to have M2 again surface, nearly under it. M2 continued to follow the auklet around in this manner for about a minute, while the rest of her pod, including the well-known "Charlie Chin" (M1) continued feeding on an elephant seal they had killed earlier that afternoon. Anyone aware of the enormous size of an adult male elephant seal would question the idea that perhaps there wasn't enough food already available for M2. However, in this case, the whale abandoned the chase, and returned to the task of finishing off the seal.

Two of the attacks witnessed resulted in the death of the birds involved, a Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) and an Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*), both in Cordova Bay off the Saanich Peninsula. The birds were killed but not eaten; they were just left floating on the surface while the killer whales travelled on. An autopsy performed on the grebes by veterinarian Ken Langelier in Nanaimo revealed no puncture wounds or

broken bones, but showed that the birds were extremely bruised and had died from trauma. The whales "played" with the birds much in the same way they often behave with harbour seals.

The reasons behind these attacks on marine birds are not clear. The energetic intake from spending time capturing seabirds seems minimal. It could be "play" behaviour, or it could function in teaching young whales. Our observations were all of adult whales, and the behaviour seems to be more similar to "surplus killing" or "aggressive killing," as described by Kruuk (1972) and Mueller and Hastings (1977). Another possibility is that at other times of the year (these observations were in September and October), other prey are less abundant or more difficult to catch, and feeding on seabirds may be an important part of the killer whales' diet. Regardless of the underlying reasons for these interactions, they are obviously complex, and may have important consequences for all species involved.

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## Volunteer(s) Needed

The *Victoria Naturalist* is looking for a volunteer with a home computer to type articles using Microsoft Word. Some familiarity with word processing would be desirable, but--fear not!--if you've never tried it and would like to learn, we'll be happy to get you started. You would have to be available for several hours of typing during the weeks prior to publication (every second month), and should, ideally, be willing to pick up and deliver material some of the time (editor's residence is in Gordon Head). If you don't type but have other skills to offer, please call us! We'd like to involve you in the production of your magazine, in whatever way best suits you. Please call Bruce Whittington (388-4174, days) or Brenda Robson (477-3081, evenings).

## "Name the Bird" Contest

Description	Peculiarity	Name of Bird
1. White cheeks under dark cap; long, uptilted stiff tail.	Legs so far back on its body that it can't walk upright on land.	_____
2. Cinnamon throat and blue crown.	Frequent parasite of other birds' nests.	_____
3. Orange tail and long legs.	Sings with its tail.	_____
4. Duck; yodel-like whistle.	Male has two distinct plumages --one in summer breeding season, the other in winter.	_____
5. Streaked throat; tail is dark with white edges.	Nonmigratory resident of Canada and U.S.	_____
6. Male has white wing bars and an orange breast.	Call sounds like a robin on amphetamines.	_____
7. Solid black plumage; heavy bill; wedge-shaped tail.	Develops its own vocabulary with its mate.	_____
8. Yellow rump and black bill. Eggs are blue, marked with brown.	Call sounds like a robin on tranquilizers.	_____
9. Greenish legs.	Young of this species must see red. Lionized in Utah.	_____
10. Rag-topped female is very patriotic (U.S.).	Enjoys both fresh and salt water.	_____

### Rules of Contest

1. Submit a photocopy of this page with the bird names written in ink, along with your name, address and phone number, to: #205 - 429 Linden Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8V 4G2, or deliver to The Field-Naturalist at 1241 Broad Street, by August 1, 1989.
2. The entrant with the greatest number of correct answers will win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at The Field-Naturalist. The ten best entrants will be announced in the September/October *Naturalist*.
3. Ties will be resolved, if necessary, by a series of skill testing questions. Decisions of the contest coordinator will be final.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



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# Seeking Natural Solutions to a Human Park Use Problem

by Bob Nixon and Reuben Ware

The City of Victoria recently considered a plan to clear extensive areas of trees, bushes, and plants from the Southeast Woods ("Lovers' Lane") of Beacon Hill Park. The plan resulted from concerns about offensive uses of this area of the park (for late night drinking parties, illicit sex trade, etc.) and possible threats to personal security. To preserve the woods as Victoria's last natural area, the **Friends of the Southeast Woods** was formed. This group is led by Anne Fletcher and Helen Oldershaw, who put together the presentation to City Council that is partially summarized here.

The brief was prepared with the assistance of Dr. Adolf Ceska and Dr. Robert Ogilvie, Curators of Botany at the Royal British Columbia Museum, and Mr. Fred Sharpe, a visiting botanist and ornithologist from Port Angeles.

City Council has agreed to postpone the clearing of the woods and to consider the proposals put forward by the Friends. The VNHS Parks and Conservation Committee is assisting the Friends, city parks officials, and Alderman Pieta Van Dyke in the development of a plan to change the use pattern of the area. This plan includes closing some of the pathways, establishing a nature trail, new signage, restricting access to parking, and offering nature programs. If you are interested in helping in this effort, please call Anne Fletcher (389-0938) or Helen Oldershaw (592-6659). **Volunteers are urgently needed to lead field trips in the park this summer.**

## The Current Proposal

There are two significant issues to keep in mind as we discuss the future of this area:

- This is the last remaining wooded area of its kind in the park and the surrounding area.
- This is not the first encroachment on the Wood in recent years. Quite a large section was cleared in the centre of the Wood a few years ago, and is now barely large enough to support a representative sample of plants.

The Wood can be described as a dense coastal shrub thicket. In spite of its relatively small size, it contains a real diversity of native plants. In this survey (of the area proposed for clearing), 28 different species of native shrubs and herbaceous plants, and nine species of native trees were found (see list at the end of this article). There are more than twice as many species of native plants as there are introduced (non-native) species.

**Birds identified were:** Orange crowned Warbler, \*Wilson's Warbler, Starling, Golden Crowned Kinglet, \*Bushtit, \*Winter

Wren, Nuthatch, Robin, \*Bewick's Wren, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Northern Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Cooper's Hawk. \*All brush-inhabiting, and clearing more underbrush would be detrimental to their food base.

Botanist Dr. Chris Brayshaw has observed Bald Eagles perching in the area, and noted that the presence of the Cooper's Hawk is an indication that the wood is at present a good habitat. The hawk is at the top of the food chain and feeds on the birds and small mammals that live in the underbrush.

The area proposed for clearing acts as a buffer zone to protect the Wood from the prevailing, and often salty, south east winds in the winter.

At present there are numerous little (and some dead-end) trails in the Wood. This is where most of the offensive activity takes place. It is suggested, in place of clearing, that these trails be dug up and replanted with native plants, then blocked off with wire screening or fencing until the plants have taken hold and filled out. Similar procedures are used in other parks to prevent unwanted trails from developing.

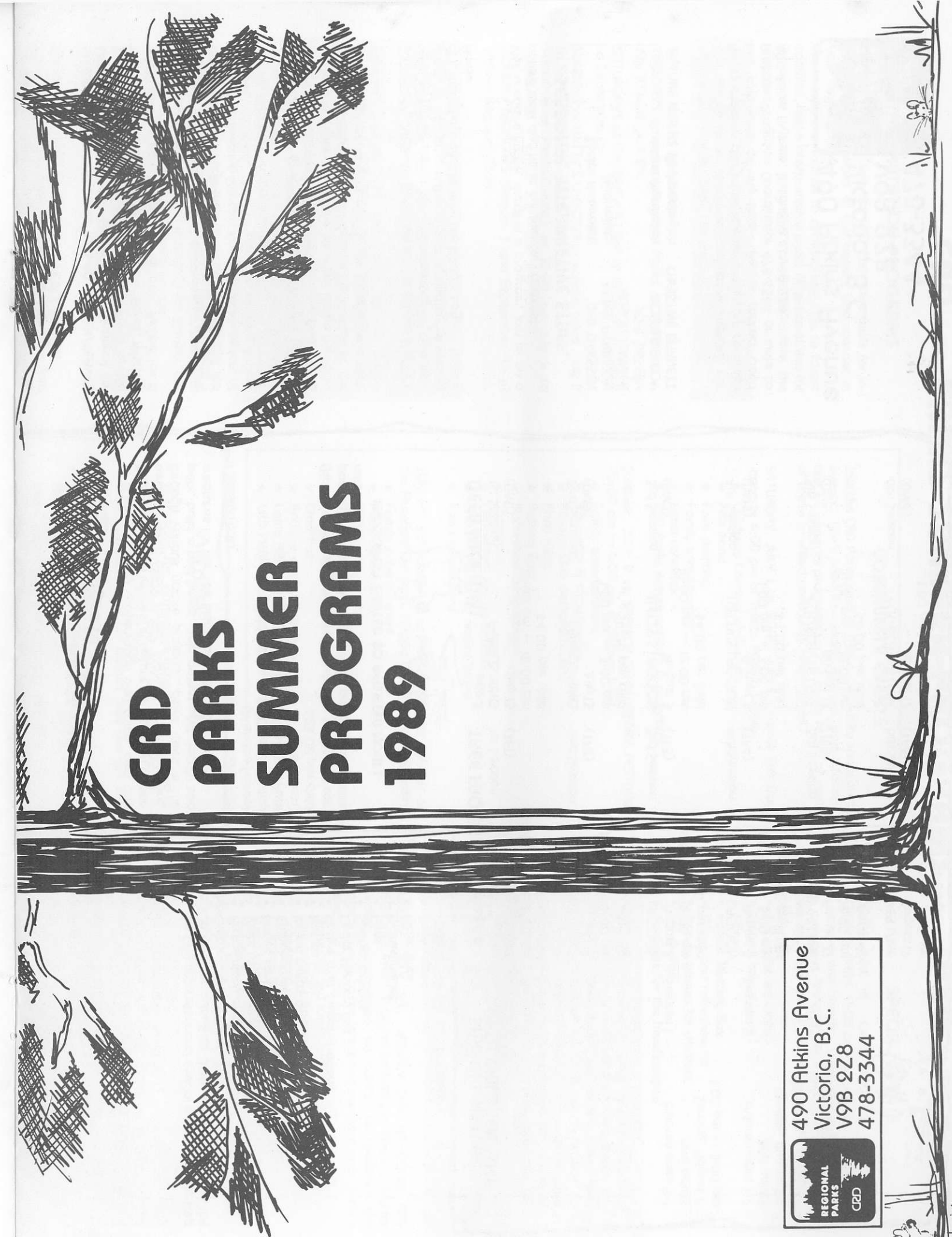
## Establishing a presence in the Wood

Signs should be placed at the entrance to the Wood to give visitors information on the type of habitat that the area represents and perhaps the names of native plants and also birds that frequent the area. The Parks Department would decide, in consultation with botanists and naturalist groups, which of the larger trails should be kept and perhaps upgraded. Several years ago quite a large area of native undergrowth was removed from the middle section of the Wood. Unfortunately, this area has now been taken over by non-native plants such as dandelions and ivy. It should be replanted with native species after consultation with botanists and naturalist groups. This would enhance nature walks through the area.

Various nature walks could be conducted from spring through fall. Some could begin at the top of Beacon Hill at the old Checkers Pavilion and would wind down through the Indian Burial Rings to the west entrance of the Wood and then on through to the Cook Street entrance. Other walks could be confined to learning to identify the native shrubs and herbs of the Wood.

## Special Status for Wild Areas

The wild, uncultivated areas of the entire park should have special status so that they are permanently protected. The idea



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# CRD — PARKS SUMMER PROGRAMS — 1989

## INTERPRETATION PROGRAMS

**NATURE WALKS** - Join the CRD Park Naturalists for interesting explorations of the beauty and wonder in your Regional Parks.

From seashore snoops to archaeology digs to forest rambles, these interpretative walks offer something for everyone. Some programs can accommodate the disabled.

Call the 24-hour recorded information line at 474-PARK for weekly details on topics and meeting places. No charge or pre-registration required.

### NATURE WALKS ARE HELD:

**TUESDAYS** at various Regional Parks at 10:00 am — July 10 to August 29.

**SATURDAYS** at ELK/BEAVER LAKE at 10:00 am — July 8 to September 2.

**SUNDAYS** at WITTY'S LAGOON at various times, July 2 to September 3 (except July 9)

**SUNDAYS** at FRANCIS/KING at 10:00 am July 2 to -September 3 (except July 9 and July 30)

**HOLIDAY MONDAYS** (August 7 and September 4): at various Regional Parks.

**SUNRISE SEEKERS — FAMILY CANOEING** - Canoe through the early morning mist with our Park Naturalists searching for elusive birds and other lakeshore life.

**SATURDAYS** from 6:00 am - 8:30 am July 8 to September 2 at ELK/BEAVER LAKE REGIONAL PARK.

**SUNDAYS** (July 16, August 6, September 3) 6:00 am - 8:00am.

All equipment is provided. Pre-registration and pre-payment of fees required. \$6.00 for adults and teens and \$2.00 for children under twelve. Meet at Hamsterly Beach on Elk Lake.

**GROUP NATURE PROGRAMS** - The CRD Parks Department has limited openings for group nature walks and special programs designed especially for seniors, the handicapped and other community groups.

If you and your group would like to spend an hour or two exploring one of your Regional Parks with a CRD Naturalist give us a call. Pre-registration required. For additional information call 478-3344.

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK JUNE 4 - JUNE 10

To mark this week special nature programs will be offered. Come out and explore the natural world of your Regional Parks!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4 - 11:00am to 3:00 pm** ELK/BEAVER LAKE REGIONAL PARK — Beaver Lake. National Environment Week begins today. Join CRD Parks Roving Naturalists for live nature displays, the "Forest Mystery Box", and an entertaining look at the "Recipe for a Lake".

**MONDAY, JUNE 5 - 10:00 am** FRANCIS KING REGIONAL PARK. "Walk Through the Tall Trees" - a naturalist led tour to the towering Douglas firs and stately cedars of this beautiful park. Meet at the Francis/King Nature House, 1710 Munn Road in Saanich.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm** WITTY'S LAGOON REGIONAL PARK. "Life on the Rocks" - a fascinating exploration of the intertidal life on the rocky shores of Witty's Lagoon Regional Park. Meet at the Tower Point parking lot off Olympic View Drive in Metchosin.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 10:00 am and 2:00 pm** WITTY'S LAGOON REGIONAL PARK. "Discovery Hike" - a program for children and their adults exploring the secrets of Witty's Lagoon. Meet at the Witty's Lagoon Nature House.

Visit a nature house, enroll in a program, join us on a nature walk and meet our friendly naturalists.

### SEASONAL INTERPRETIVE STAFF:

**Senior Naturalist:** DEB THIESSEN  
**Naturalists:** PETER ATKINSON  
ALISON RIMMER  
JOEL USSERY  
**Assistant Naturalist:** ROSALIND COY  
**Archaeologist:** CHRISTINE BARNETT

To help us in our effort to continually improve our Regional Parks programs, we welcome your constructive comments at any time. Please contact Lloyd Rushton, Programs Coordinator 478-3344 or write to 490 Atkins Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V9B 2Z8.



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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Join the CRD Parks staff at these community sponsored events. We'll have interesting displays, park information and special programs for the entire family at each of these fun-filled community celebrations.

**SATURDAY, JULY 1 at SIDNEY DAYS** - Family Fun Day -noon to 4:00 pm at Tulista Park in Sidney.

- ★ Childrens Carnival of Games
- ★ Fish pond
- ★ Face painting
- ★ Family entertainment
- ★ Food concessions
- ★ CRD Parks nature exhibits & programs

**SUNDAY, JULY 9 at SAANICH STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL** -10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Beaver Lake.

- ★ Family entertainment
- ★ Ice cream & strawberries
- ★ Rowing Club demonstrations
- ★ Pony rides
- ★ Petting Zoo
- ★ Horseshoe competition
- ★ Jazzercise
- ★ CRD PARKS nature exhibits
- ★ CRD PARKS family nature walks
- ★ Food concessions

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 at METCHOSIN DAY** - all day -at the Municipal Grounds, Happy Valley Road, Metchosin.

- ★ Family entertainment
- ★ Food concessions
- ★ Hay & pony rides
- ★ Childrens games
- ★ Farmers Market
- ★ Craft Fair
- ★ Antique equipment displays
- ★ Lamb BBQ
- ★ CRD PARKS nature exhibits

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- interesting, fun, informative experiences intended to develop awareness and appreciation of nature.
- occur outdoors, rain or shine
- children should wear old clothes they can get wet and dirty
- for information and pre-registration call 478-3344
- pre-registration including the appropriate program fee is required; make cheques payable to: CRD PARKS DEPARTMENT — NATURE PROGRAMS and send or bring to the CRD Parks Department, 490 Atkins Ave., Victoria, B.C. V9B 2Z8. Open 8:30 - 4:30 Monday to Friday.

### JUNIOR NATURALISTS (JN) ages 10 — 12

In a special 5-day conservation day camp, girls and boys with a keen interest in nature will have an opportunity to learn about forest, saltmarsh and seashore, through various nature projects...plant trees in the park, build a bird house, help gather and classify sea creatures for our salt water aquarium, and more.

1 Session only  
July 17-21  
(Monday-Friday)  
10:00 am — 2:00 pm each day  
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park  
(Metchosin)  
\$25.00 per child

(Note: for this program we will endeavor to assist in car-pooling through exchange of participant phone numbers.)

**ENROLMENT LIMITED SO REGISTER NOW !**



### DEER MICE (DM)

1st Session (DM1)  
age 5  
FRANCIS/KING  
July 13  
10:00 am — 12:00 am  
\$4.00 per child

2nd Session (DM2)  
FRANCIS/KING  
July 13  
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm  
\$4.00 per child

3rd Session (DM3)  
WITTY'S LAGOON  
August 3  
10:00 am — 12:00 am  
\$4.00 per child

4th Session (DM4)  
WITTY'S LAGOON  
August 3  
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm  
\$4.00 per child

5th Session (DM5)  
ELK/BEAVER LAKE  
August 17  
10:00 am — 12:00 am  
\$4.00 per child

6th Session (DM6)  
ELK/BEAVER LAKE  
August 17  
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm  
\$4.00 per child

### TREE FROGS (TF)

1st Session (TF1)  
ages 6 & 7  
FRANCIS/KING  
July 13  
10:00 am — 12:00 am  
\$4.00 per child

2nd Session (TF2)  
FRANCIS/KING  
July 13  
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm  
\$4.00 per child

3rd Session (TF3)  
WITTY'S LAGOON  
August 3  
10:00 am — 12:00 am  
\$4.00 per child

4th Session (TF4)  
WITTY'S LAGOON  
August 3  
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm  
\$4.00 per child

5th Session (TF5)  
ELK/BEAVER LAKE  
August 17  
10:00 am — 12:00 am  
\$4.00 per child

6th Session (TF6)  
ELK/BEAVER LAKE  
August 17  
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm  
\$4.00 per child

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18 - OPEN HOUSE** at FRANCIS/KING REGIONAL PARK, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. A special day for families and friends. Discover the stately cedars, the enormous firs and the many other wonders that make this park one of the true gems of the CRD Parks System.

- Naturalist led walks
- Nature house tours
- Films
- Forest Mystery Box
- Prizes and refreshments
- Nature games for children
- No charge
- **Facilities for the handicapped**

**SUNDAY JUNE 25, - OPEN HOUSE** at WITTY'S LAGOON REGIONAL PARK, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Bring a picnic and join us for an exciting day at Witty's!

- Nature house tours
- Visits to archaeology sites
- Walks with a Naturalist
- Special entertainment
- West Coast Mystery Box
- Childrens Nature Games
- Films
- Prizes and refreshments
- No charge
- **Facilities for the handicapped**

**SUNDAY, JULY 30 - FAMILY DAY AT COLES BAY REGIONAL PARK.** 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a day for children accompanied by adults, to celebrate the natural beauty of this forest and seashore park. Bring a picnic and join the fun!

- Naturalist led family walks
- Live animal displays
- Storytelling
- Childrens Nature Games
- West Coast Mystery Box
- Mini-hikes for children
- Book Prize
- Refreshments
- No charge

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 - FAMILY DAY AT MILL HILL REGIONAL PARK.** 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you missed our Coles Bay Day, or had so much fun you want to do it again, come to this lovely hill top park for a day of family fun for children accompanied by adults. Bring a picnic, your hiking shoes and your love of nature.

- Family nature walks
- Live displays
- Children's Nature Games
- Storytelling
- Forest Mystery Box
- Mini-hikes for children
- Book Prize
- Refreshments
- No charge

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 - STEP BACK IN TIME** at WITTY'S LAGOON REGIONAL PARK, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. A Western Communities Heritage Fair event.

Join the CRD naturalists and special guests as they step back in time for a look at Witty's Lagoon before the white settlers arrived.

- Archaeology displays
- Visits to pre-historic native sites
- Native tool display
- Ethnobotany walks
- Indian myths and legends
- Nature walks
- Native craft demonstrations
- Cedar Mystery Box
- Special exhibits
- Films
- Refreshments
- Picnic sites
- Book prizes
- **facilities for the handicapped**

### SHARING NATURE WITH CHILDREN (SN)

An exciting two-hour program for children and their adults. Including nature games, explorations and stories, this program will provide an opportunity for children and their adults to share nature-oriented experiences. Held at Witty's Lagoon Regional Park in Metchosin.

Session 1  
children ages 5-7 and adults  
Sunday, August 6  
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm

Session 2  
children ages 5-7 and adults  
Sunday, August 20  
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm

FEE FOR EACH SESSION  
Adults \$2 Children \$1





*Prunus emarginata*, bitter cherry; *Rosa nutkana*, Nootka rose; *Rubus parviflorus*, thimbleberry; *Tubus spectabilis*, salmonberry; *Rubus ursinus*, trailing blackberry; *Sambucus pubens*, red elderberry; *Symphoricarpus albus*, common snowberry.

**Introduced Shrubs:** *Daphne laureola*, false laurel; *Hedera helix*, ivy; *Illex aquifolium*, holly.

**Native herbaceous species:** *Adenocaulon bicolor*, pathfinder; *Bromus pacificus*, Pacific brome; *Carex deweyana*, Dewey's sedge; *Claytonia perfoliata*, miner's-lettuce; *Claytonia sibirica*, Siberian miner's-lettuce; *Disporum smithii*, Smith's fairybells; *Geum macrophyllum*, large-leaved avens; *Heracleum lanatum*, cow-parsnip; *Maianthemum dilatatum*, false lilly-of-the-valley; *Melica subulata*, Alaska oniongrass; *Osmorhiza shilensis*, sweet-cicely; *Polystichum munitum*, sword fern; *Pteridium aquilinum*, bracken; *Tellima grandiflora*, tall fringecup; *Urtica lyallii*, stinging nettle.

**Introduced herbaceous species:** *Alliaria officinalis*, garlic mustard; *Bellis perennis*, daisy; *Dactylis glomerata*, orchard grass; *Lactuca muralis*, wall lettuce; *Poa pratensis*, Kentucky blue grass; *Ranunculus repens*, creeping buttercup; *Scilla* sp., English bluebells; *Stellaria media*, chickweed; *Taraxacum officinalis*, dandelion.

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of having to fight every few years to protect these areas does not appeal. Within a five minute walk of this wood there are, according to Dr. Ceska and Dr. Ogilvie, five plants that are on the rare plants list. Three of these are Camas plants. One is a very rare plant called Coastal Balsam Root. The other is an even rarer plant called Golden Paint Brush. Such areas should also be protected.

*We do not want to arrive at a rare plant area one day only to discover that it has been replaced by a play area, golf green, or converted for some other recreational purpose.*

In the present Parks Department planning process, clearing of native plants and woods can occur without any public announcement. The only reason the current plan to clear the Wood came to light was because an expenditure of \$13,000 was required which had to be voted on by City Council.

We do not want to arrive at a rare plant area one day only to discover that it has been replaced by a play area, golf green, or converted for some other recreational purpose. Recreation areas have an important place in the park, but they should not encroach on the few remaining wild areas.

We would like Emily Carr to have the last word on this issue. In her younger years Emily Carr had spent most of her time exploring and painting "big tree" rainforests in the Queen Charlotte Islands and other coastal areas. When she wrote the following, however, she was well on in years and could no longer get to these more remote areas. She turned increasingly to the wild areas of Beacon Hill Park.

"... I could no longer scramble over great logs nor break my way through networks of brambles, creep under brush and drown myself crown high in lush young growth. I had to be taken out, sat down and called for, which was a nuisance. But I got immense delight in just being there in the quiet wood, nobody for company but Spring." --Emily Carr Notes (undated)

**Plants identified by Drs. Ceska and Ogilvie:**

**Native trees:** *Abies grandis*, grand fir; *Acer macrophyllum*, bigleaf maple; *Alnus rubra*, red alder; *Malus fusca*, Pacific crab apple; *Populus tremuloides* var. *vancouveriana*, trembling aspen; *Quercus garryana*, Garry oak; *Salix sitchensis*, Sitka willow; *Taxus brevifolia*, western yew; *Tsuga heterophylla*, western hemlock.

**Introduced trees:** *Fraxinus* sp., ash; *Hypocastanea* sp., horse chestnut; *Larix* sp., larch; *Pinus austriaca*, Austrian pine; *Pinus silvestris*, Scotch pine; *Sorbus aucuparia*, mountain ash.

**Native shrubs:** *Cornus stolonifera*, red osier dogwood; *Holodiscus discolor*, ocean spray; *Lonicera ciliosa*, western trumpet honeysuckle; *Mahonia aquifolium*, tall Oregon-grape; *Oemleria cerasiformis*, Indian-plum; *Philadelphus lewisii*, mock-orange;

**ENJOY YOUR REGIONAL PARKS!**

Hiking, swimming, nature study, picnicking, fishing, horseback riding, bird watching, beachcombing and photography — the CRD Parks offer these and more....



**VISIT YOUR REGIONAL PARKS**

- ALBERT HEAD LAGOON
- BEAR HILL
- COLES BAY
- DEVONIAN
- EAST SOOKE
- ELK/BEAVER LAKE
- FRANCIS/KING
- GALLOPING GOOSE CORRIDOR
- HORTH HILL
- ISLAND VIEW BEACH
- LONE TREE HILL
- MILL HILL
- MT. NORMAN (not yet open to public)
- MOUNT WORK
- PORTAGE
- REESON
- ROCHE COVE
- WITTY'S LAGOON

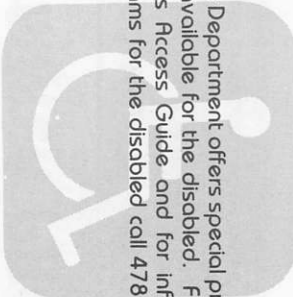
**FACILITIES RESERVATIONS**

Group picnic sites in some Regional Parks are available for reservation by your group. Booking of these sites requires a permit. For information contact the CRD Parks office.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CRD PARKS?**  
By dialing 474-PARK (474-7275) you have 24-hour access to details on nature house hours, dates and times of nature walks, special park events, recent natural history sightings of interest and Elk/Beaver Lake boating closures.



The CRD Parks Department offers special programs and has facilities available for the disabled. For a copy of the CRD Parks Access Guide and for information on nature programs for the disabled call 478-3344.



**THANKS FOR HELPING US!**

Over the years individuals, businesses and organizations have made donations to help improve your Regional Parks and Programs.

Generous donations have helped in everything from purchasing a new aquarium to acquiring new parkland.

Anyone wishing to make a tax deductible donation is invited to contact Ramona Herrick, Parks Administrator, 490 Rhins Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V9B 2Z8 (478-3344) to personally discuss your gift or donation.

Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated. Thank-you!



**NATURE HOUSES**

Friendly parks staff and volunteers await your visit to our interesting and informative nature houses. See, touch and smell the live exhibits, view the interpretive displays, watch a film or talk to a naturalist.

The nature houses are located in FRANCIS/KING REGIONAL PARK on Munn Road in Soanich and in WITTY'S LAGOON REGIONAL PARK in Metchosin. No admission charge.

Both nature houses are wheelchair accessible.

**Summer Hours**

- FRANCIS/KING..... Noon - 4:00 pm  
Friday - Sunday  
and holiday Mondays  
June 24 - September 4
- WITTY'S LAGOON..... 11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Wednesday - Friday  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Saturday - Sunday  
and holiday Mondays  
June 25 - September 4



# Focussing on Crossbills

by Wayne Osborne

Anybody interested in crossbills? The Ministry of Forests, Fletcher Challenge Canada, the Royal B.C. Museum, and the University of Victoria all are. The government and logging companies have seed orchards set up to produce conifer seeds for reforestation. From about July to October, Red Crossbills flock together and attack these orchards, causing thousands of dollars in damage yearly. I have been hired this summer by the Ministry of Forests (Silviculture Branch) to explore the habits of this bird and to find an acceptable method of discouraging its entry into these orchards. Fletcher Challenge is paying expenses for the study, and staff at the Royal B.C. Museum are providing guidance and expertise.

I will be testing a few methods of controlling crossbills this summer. Crossbills are quite lazy and tend to feed on the most readily available food source. I will be setting up bird feeders in one orchard to provide a more efficient alternative food source. Hawks and falcons are natural predators of crossbills, and I will be suspending models of these raptors over another orchard. Tin plates will be attached to trees in another orchard to frighten the crossbills off. Orchard pistols are simply pistols that fire something resembling a fire cracker and do not harm the birds. The cost-effectiveness of these will be explored. I will also be looking



into the costs of placing netting around the trees. The most promising method of control to be examined will be the broadcasting of crossbill distress calls in the orchards.

The Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) is a member of the finch family (Order Passeriformes, Family Fringillidae). Crossbills differ from other birds in the formation of their beak. The underjaw curves sometimes right and sometimes left (see crossbill article by Barbara Begg in the March/April 1988 issue of *The Naturalist*). Their head is proportionally larger than other finches and the body shorter. They are 6-6 1/2" long, with a wingspan of 10-11". The prevailing colour in the plumage of the adult male is either a dark or light red; the wing and tail covers are greyish black, edged with greyish red; the belly is greyish white. The young male is recognized by its light-reddish tints, which upon the back are mingled with greenish yellow, and upon the rump with yellow. The female is dark grey on the upper part of the body, and the feathers have a more-or-less clearly defined edge of green or yellowish green. The under part of the body is light grey, the feathers being edged with greenish yellow; the wing and tail feathers are greyish black, dotted with greenish grey.

I am interested in any information on the local variety of crossbill. This includes any sightings with information on date, time, location, and what they were eating. Information on numbers, sex, and maturity would also be helpful. Anyone with questions or information is encouraged to contact me (work 652-4211; home 385-7399; #205-435 Lampson St., Victoria, V9A 5Y9).

*Editor's note: Wayne is a University of Victoria student working under the Biology Co-op program. We've asked him to share some of his findings with us when his study is completed.*  
*Red Crossbill photo by Tim Zurowski.*



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# An Annotated List of the Birds of Southwest Vancouver Island

## Part One: Introduction and Non-Passerines

by H. Van der Pol and K. Taylor

The west coast of Vancouver Island is a vast area, with relatively little published information on its birds. The major annotated work from this region is *The Birds of Pacific Rim National Park* by Hatler, Campbell and Dorst (1978). Other annotated publications are by Swarth (1912, Condor 14: 15-21) and Richardson (1971, Murrelet 52: 29-40), and there are other notes on pelagic and inshore seabirds.

In this paper we hope to fill the gap in coverage in the extreme southwest portion of the west coast, between Jordan River and Port Renfrew (see accompanying maps of the study area). The division line between east and west coast, as determined by the biogeoclimatic botanical map available at the Royal British Columbia Museum, is at Jordan River.

Biogeoclimatically, the whole of the west coast is quite similar, with the status of most bird species being homogeneous, and with some seasonal variations occurring from north to south. As Jordan River is where "east" meets "west," some overlap occurs, with such eastern species as Turkey Vulture, California Quail, Violet-green Swallow, Barn Swallow, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Bushtit, Bewick's Wren, Western Tanager and Lincoln's Sparrow.

### Study Area and Methods

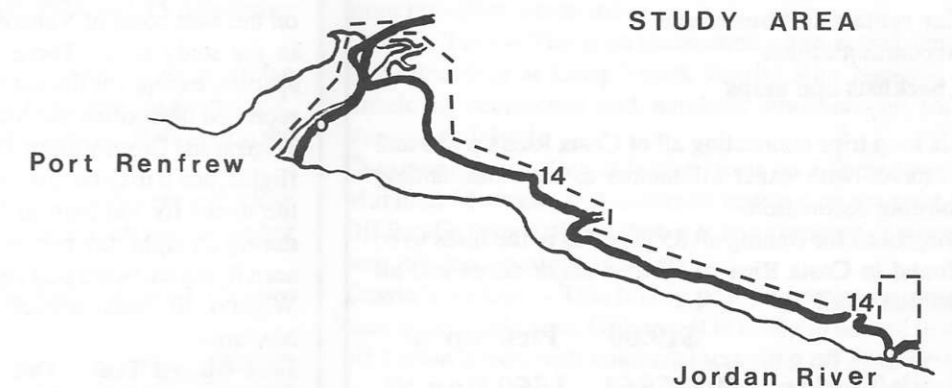
This report covers the region between Jordan River and Port Renfrew, with the greatest coverage made around Jordan River. The bar graphs that follow show the status of the birds over the entire study area. Breeding bird surveys (BBS) were done annually, in the second week of June, from 1980 through 1988, between Jordan River and Port Renfrew along highway 14. On the pre-determined 25 km route, stops of three minutes were made every 0.5 mile, and all birds recorded. Other records came from weekly visits to Jordan River in 1988, and from other visits between 1983 and 1988, for a total of more than 85 person-days. Observations from sight-record cards at the Royal

British Columbia Museum, many made by Vic and Peggy Goodwill, were also used to establish the status of birds.

The land-mass along this coast rises abruptly from the shoreline to the San Juan Ridge at over 3000 feet. This creates few areas for slow-moving streams or estuaries. The shoreline is a combination of rocky headlands and large stony beaches, with occasional sandy stretches. There are no offshore islets for seabirds to nest on. The sheltered bay and estuarine area at Port Renfrew comprised only a small portion of our study area. The bar graphs presented for the entire region do not reflect the local status of birds that are common only in these estuarine regions, including Pied-billed Grebe, Trumpeter Swan, Mallard and Black Turnstone. The estuary has also produced such rarities as Blue-winged Teal, the only west coast record of the Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Lesser Yellowlegs and recent records of wintering Marsh Wrens.

On land, the west coast conifer rainforest predominates, with intermediate areas of alder, and roadways fringed with alder. Isolated disturbed areas, especially slash of various stages of regeneration, add variety to birdlife, particularly at lower elevations. The few available bogs offer habitat for Common Yellowthroats, and bogs and damp brushy areas support Yellow Warblers and Willow Flycatchers.

As one progresses inland at higher elevations the number of species decreases, and in winter inland areas are quite sterile. The Gray Jay is the only "specialty" species found in these higher areas, usually above 2,500 feet. The arrivals of spring





migrants in the study area are usually later than in Victoria, even though it is not far away, and usually match arrivals at Pacific Rim National Park. Fall migration dates are later than at the park, especially for Barn Swallows, Townsend's, Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers, American Goldfinch and wintering 'crowned' sparrows. Wintering Rufous-sided Towhees and Ruby-crowned Kinglets are more numerous at Jordan River than elsewhere on the west coast.

### Birds Recorded

There are now 291 species reported for the west coast of Vancouver Island, with 197 reported for the southwest area. The totals should increase with further coverage and discovery of more rarities. On the west coast, the California Quail has only been reported at Jordan River and the Ruddy Duck only at Port Renfrew. Four exceptional rarities, the White-winged Dove, Tropical Kingbird, an immature White- or Black-backed Wagtail, and the Rustic Bunting add excitement to the list.

The status of birds is shown with bar-graphs on the checklist, with species recorded within the study area indicated with an asterisk (\*). A second bar-graph was added for species whose status differs from that of the Pacific Rim National Park. These are marked with -SW- if the status applies to the entire southwest coast study area, or -JR- if it applies only to Jordan River.



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Notes on the birds in the checklist and additional rare species are given in the text, and include data from breeding bird surveys. We hope the publication of these bar-graphs will encourage the reporting of rarities, especially since many birds common on the eastern side of Vancouver Island are absent or rare on the western side.

### Non-Passerines

**Red-throated Loon** -- This loon is seen less frequently in summer than at Pacific Rim National Park, but more often than on the east coast of Vancouver Island. Common in winter.

**Pacific Loon** -- Rare in summer but a common transient and winter visitor.

**Pied-billed Grebe** -- Rare over most of the study area, but is a common resident where suitable habitat occurs in the form of protected bays and estuaries (Port Renfrew) or lakes (Fairy Lake).

**Tubenoses (Procellariiformes)** -- The status for most tubenoses is similar to that off Victoria. Numbers and species increase westward toward the open ocean and the entrance to the Straits of Juan de Fuca, near Port Renfrew. Sooty Shearwaters were seen from the shore during the El Nino year, 1983. Fork-tailed Storm-petrels (22 February) and Northern Fulmar (8 December) were recorded offshore near Jordan River.

**Brown Pelican** -- Single birds were seen at Jordan River (29 October 1983 and 21 November 1983) and 16 were seen at Port Renfrew on 3 August 1985.

**Brandt's Cormorant** -- Uncommon in summer, but fairly common in winter. It breeds in Pacific Rim National Park.

**Cattle Egret** -- Eleven seen on 8 December 1984 at Port Renfrew.

**Green-backed Heron** -- One at Jordan River on 16 July 1988.

**Trumpeter Swan** -- Rare over most of the study area, but locally common in winter at Port Renfrew's estuary and occasionally at Fairy Lake.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** -- A rare transient on the southwest coast.

**Snow Goose** -- Three seen at Jordan River on 31 May 1941.

**Brant** -- An uncommon spring transient. Most spring migrants heading up the inside straits follow the shoreline of the Olympic Peninsula further east before crossing the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

**Canada Goose** -- An uncommon transient in the study area.

**Dabbling ducks** -- All dabbling ducks, including those common on the west coast of Vancouver Island, are rare or uncommon in the study area. There is little suitable habitat for these species, except for the estuary at Port Renfrew. The species recorded most often are Mallard, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal. Few ducks are seen on migration flights, and it may be that the area lies between flyways, or that the ducks fly too high to be detected. On 7 October 1988, during an eight day period of heavy fog, several flocks were seen flying eastward past Jordan River, including 85 American Wigeon, 30 Green-winged Teal, 10 Northern Pintails and 10 Mallards.

**Blue-winged Teal** -- One seen on 24 May 1980, two miles southeast of Port Renfrew.

**Cinnamon Teal** -- A pair flew by Jordan River on 10 April 1988.

**Black Scoter** -- Rare in winter along the southwest coast.

**Hooded Merganser** -- Rare to uncommon resident, but locally common at Port Renfrew.

**Ruddy Duck** -- One seen at Port Renfrew on 18 April 1974.

**Turkey Vulture** -- This species is seen casually at Jordan River (five sightings in 1988), especially when migrating in September. Very rare elsewhere on the west coast.

**Osprey** -- An uncommon to rare transient and rare summer resident along the southwest coast, where there are few sheltered bays suitable for this raptor. One pair nests near Port Renfrew.

**Cooper's Hawk** -- One recorded on 22 September 1984 at Port Renfrew. Extreme caution should be exercised in the identification of this raptor on the west coast.

**California Quail** -- This quail occurs on the west coast only at Jordan River, and is found most readily in the slash on the east side of the town. Three small coveys, numbering 6, 15 and 12 birds, are resident. According to a long-time resident of Jordan River, this species was once numerous in 1954, with flocks of 40-60 birds. Numbers decreased to their present levels in 1970, probably due to the re-growth of vegetation on disturbed areas.

**American Coot** -- One bird seen on 1 May 1974 at Port Renfrew.

**Shorebirds** -- As with the dabbling ducks, most species of shorebird that are common on the west coast of Vancouver Island are rare to uncommon in the study area. It is possible that the southwest coast is between flyways, as their appear to be suitable rocky habitats and sandy beaches. Black Turnstones commonly winter at the Port of San Juan. The only record of the Lesser Yellowlegs was in this estuary in August. A flock of 60 Surf-birds has been recorded (18 April), but this species is not typical of this area.

**Killdeer** -- The Killdeer is an uncommon resident in the study area, where there are few suitable nesting areas. It is most prevalent as a fall and spring transient and in early winter.

**Spotted Sandpiper** -- Occurs in small groups (2-6 birds) as a transient. There is only one summer record (23 July) and no winter records.

**Western and Least Sandpipers** -- These are the most common shorebirds in the study area, with mixed flocks of 20-40 birds, mostly Westerns, in the fall. The majority of the birds have left by mid-September, unlike those at Pacific Rim National Park and on the east coast.

**Baird's Sandpiper** -- Sightings of single birds at Jordan River on 30 August through 1 September 1974 and 15 September 1977.

**Red-necked and Red Phalaropes** -- Their status at Jordan River is similar to that off Victoria. Both species are pelagic, the Red more so. Their status off Port Renfrew is shown on the bar graphs.

**Jaegers** -- Both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen close to Port Renfrew on 5 October. Their status is shown on the bar graphs.

**Franklin's Gull** -- One first-winter bird seen on 1 October 1988 at Jordan River.

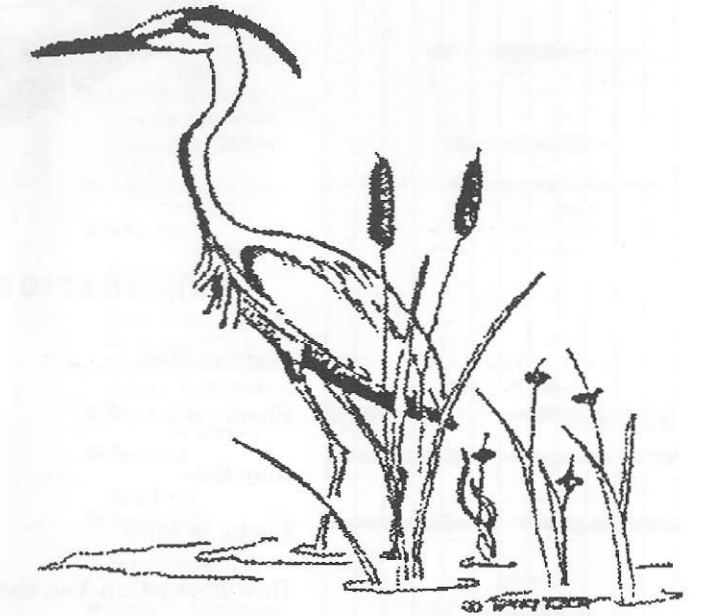
**Bonaparte's Gull** -- Rare in spring and winter, but a common fall transient. In spring this gull may follow the Olympic

Peninsula further east before crossing the straits to reach Active Pass, where it is sometimes abundant in spring.

**Mew Gull** -- Unlike at Pacific Rim National Park, this gull is rare in the summer months, but common in winter.

**Ring-billed Gull** -- One seen on 16 July at Jordan River. It is a mystery why this gull is such a rare migrant along this coast.

**California Gull** -- This gull is locally abundant, especially at Jordan River, where large numbers may be seen (150+) throughout most of the year (1 March through 15 November). Rare in winter.



Gary Koch

**Herring Gull** -- Fairly common only in the winter, and 25 or more may be seen daily between September and October.

**Western Gull** -- Rare in summer and fairly common in winter. Large numbers of juveniles (25+ daily) are possible during the post-breeding dispersal in August.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** -- This pelagic gull is seen quite regularly at Long Beach. At Jordan River it is found occasionally throughout the winter and most often from mid-October through early December.

**Sabine's Gull** -- A wintering adult with a partial black head was seen on 12 February 1985 at Jordan River. The status of the species at Jordan River is similar to that at Victoria, but it is more prevalent westwards.

**Caspian Tern** -- This is an uncommon summer transient, seen less often than at Long Beach, Pacific Rim National Park. Erratic in occurrence and numbers anywhere on southern Vancouver Island.

**Common Tern** -- One at Jordan River on 1 September 1974.

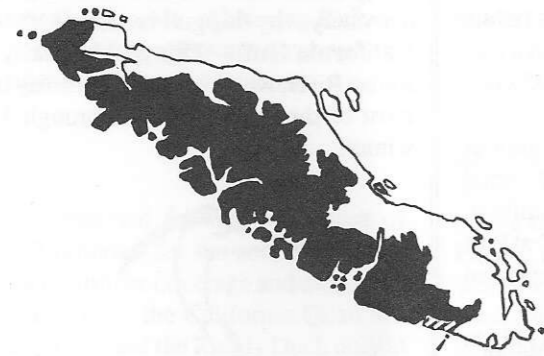
**Marbled Murrelet** -- A common resident on the west coast. Off Pacific Rim National Park it is less common in winter, but here it is less common in summer.

**Cassin's Auklet** -- This highly pelagic species has not been seen in the study area. Offshore it is likely to be rare in winter off Jordan River, with numbers increasing off Port Renfrew.

(continued on page 20)



CHECKLIST OF WESTERN VANCOUVER ISLAND BIRDS



Area Covered:  
Jordan River north to  
Cape Scott. The status  
centered at Long Beach.

- West Coast
- ▨ South-West Coast (-sw)\*
- ! Jordan River (-JR-)

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

- Hard to Miss
- Should See
- May See
- Lucky to Find
- How Lucky Can You Get

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
* Red-throated Loon	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Pacific Loon	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Common Loon	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Yellow-billed Loon	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Pied-billed Grebe	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Horned Grebe	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Red-necked Grebe	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Eared Grebe	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Western Grebe	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Short-tailed Albatross	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Black-footed Albatross	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Laysan Albatross	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Northern Fulmar	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Mottled Petrel	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pink-footed Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Flesh-footed Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Buller's Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Sooty Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Short-tailed Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Black-vented Shearwater	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Leach's Storm-Petrel	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Brown Pelican	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Double-crested Cormorant	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Brandt's Cormorant	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Pelagic Cormorant	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Magnificent Frigatebird	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Great Blue Heron	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Cattle Egret	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Green-backed Heron	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Tundra Swan	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Trumpeter Swan	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Greater White-fronted Goose	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Snow Goose	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Emperor Goose	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Brant	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

* Canada Goose	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Wood Duck	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Green-winged Teal	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Mallard	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Northern Pintail	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Blue-winged Teal	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Cinnamon Teal	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Northern Shoveler	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Gadwall	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Eurasian Wigeon	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* American Wigeon	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Canvasback	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Redhead	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Ring-necked Duck	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Greater Scaup	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Lesser Scaup	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Harlequin Duck	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Oldsquaw	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Black Scoter	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Surf Scoter	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* White-winged Scoter	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Common Goldeneye	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Barrow's Goldeneye	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Bufflehead	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Hooded Merganser	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Common Merganser	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Red-breasted Merganser	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Ruddy Duck	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Turkey Vulture	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Osprey	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Bald Eagle	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Northern Harrier	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Sharp-shinned Hawk	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Cooper's Hawk	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Northern Goshawk	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Red-tailed Hawk	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Rough-legged Hawk	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Golden Eagle	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* American Kestrel	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Merlin	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Peregrine Falcon	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Blue Grouse	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
White-tailed Ptarmigan	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Ruffed Grouse	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* California Quail	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Virginia Rail	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sora	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* American Coot	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Sandhill Crane	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Black-bellied Plover	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Lesser Golden-plover	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Snowy Plover	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
* Semipalmated Plover	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Killdeer	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Black Oystercatcher	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Black-necked Stilt	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
American Avocet	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Greater Yellowlegs	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Lesser Yellowlegs	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Solitary Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Wandering Tattler	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Willet	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Spotted Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Whimbrel	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Bristle-thighed Curlew	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Long-billed Curlew	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Hudsonian Godwit	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Marbled Godwit	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Ruddy Turnstone	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Black Turnstone	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Surf-bird	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Red Knot	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Sanderling	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Semipalmated Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Western Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Least Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Baird's Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Pectoral Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Rock Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Dunlin	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Stilt Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Short-billed Dowitcher	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Long-billed Dowitcher	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Common Snipe	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Red-necked Phalarope	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Red Phalarope	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Pomarine Jaeger	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Parasitic Jaeger	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Long-tailed Jaeger	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
South Polar Skua	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Franklin's Gull	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Bonaparte's Gull	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Heermann's Gull	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
* Mew Gull	■	■	■	■</								



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
* Herring Gull -SW-												
* Thayer's Gull -SW-												
* Western Gull -SW-												
* Glaucous-winged Gull												
* Glaucous Gull												
* Black-legged Kittiwake -jr-												
* Sabine's Gull -SW-												
* Caspian Tern s												
* Common Tern												
Arctic Tern												
Black Tern												
* Common Murre												
Thick-billed Murre												
* Pigeon Guillemot												
* Marbled Murrelet -SW-												
Xantus' Murrelet h												
* Ancient Murrelet												
Cassin's Auklet -SW-												
Parakeet Auklet												
Crested Auklet h												
* Rhinoceros Auklet -SW-												
Tufted Puffin												
Horned Puffin												
Rock Dove												
* Band-tailed Pigeon												
* White-winged Dove												
* Mourning Dove												
* Western Screech-Owl												
* Great Horned Owl												
* Snowy Owl												
* Northern Pygmy-Owl												
Great Gray Owl												
* Short-eared Owl												
Northern Saw-whet Owl												
* Common Nighthawk s												
* Black Swift -SW-												
* Vaux's Swift -SW-												
Anna's Hummingbird												
* Rufous Hummingbird												
* Belted Kingfisher												
* Red-breasted Sapsucker -SW-												
* Downy Woodpecker												
* Hairy Woodpecker												
Three-toed Woodpecker a												
* Northern Flicker												
* Pileated Woodpecker												

**Rhinoceros Auklet** -- Uncommon throughout the summer breeding season. Numbers increase in late August through September with the appearance of immatures, when 1-10 may be seen daily.

**White-winged Dove** -- A specimen was collected in July 1918 at Port Renfrew.

**Mourning Dove** -- Single birds seen at Jordan River on 28 October 1984, 9 September 1985 and 7 May 1988.

**Short-eared Owl** -- One specimen, long dead, was found on 25 February 1989 at Jordan River.

**Black Swift** -- A fairly common transient. In fall this swift is sometimes found in mixed flocks of hundreds, with Vaux's Swift. Seen occasionally in summer during storm fronts.

**Vaux's Swift** -- A summer resident and common fall transient, often in mixed flocks. There is a breeding colony near Port Renfrew, 36 km west of Jordan River. Occurs annually in the fall in the hundreds. Both swifts regularly fly from west to east during fall migration.

**Red-breasted Sapsucker** -- This bird is very rare throughout the year, as at Pacific Rim National Park. Six birds were seen at Jordan River on 2 February 1989, during the advance of an arctic weather front.

Passerine birds will be dealt with in the next issue.

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## Welcome to New Members

- Mar. 30 Barry and Debra Gatten, of Brentwood Bay. Particular interest: bird watching.
- Mar. 31 Sheila Howard, of Academy Close. Likes *The Victoria Naturalist*.
- Mar. 31 Trudi Brown, of Rosario Street.
- Apr. 5 Hector and Kay Topham, of Sidney.
- Apr. 6 Penelope Stockley, of Foul Bay Road.
- Apr. 7 G. Smedley Andrews, of Wellington Avenue. Interested in our periodical and occasional meetings. "Golden Age" -- "a bit tarnished at 85!"
- Apr. 11 Don Chiasson, of Bewdley Avenue.
- Apr. 19 Roma Allen, of Millstream Road. Particular interest: birds.
- Apr. 25 Joan M. Drew, of Carrick Street. Would like to learn about birds and wildflowers.
- Apr. 25 Hennie Marshall, of Farview Road. Interested in bird watching.
- May 1 Dan Cox, of Pickford Road. A participant in our Christmas Bird Count.
- May 1 Mrs. J. Hanne Heintz, of Irma Street. Interests: animal behaviour (especially mammals and birds); conservation biology (including questions on appropriate reserve size); habitat destruction/preservation; effects of global climate change on ecosystems and man; ways of planning for these changes.
- May 3 Judy Beinder, of Ranger Place. Particular interests: birds, plants, trees, reserves, natural parks. She likes *The Victoria Naturalist*.
- May 8 Mrs. Marguerite Hobbs, of Hampshire Road. A returning former member of the VNHS. Welcome back! Her son Arthur, now in Singapore, was a schoolmate of our past editor, Mark Nyhof.

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## Calendar of Events

### Meetings:

Sept. 5 Board of Directors meeting.

Sept. 11 Monthly general meeting.

**Board of Directors meetings** -- First Tuesday of each month, September to May.

**General meetings** -- Second Tuesday of the month, September to May. 8 p.m., Room 159 Begbie Building, University of Victoria.

### Field Trips:

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 VNHS Event Tape (479-2054) before a trip** to obtain full particulars or details about changes (sometimes unavoidable). On VNHS trips participants usually pool vehicles to reduce parking problems and costs. The board suggests that fuel costs be shared with the driver.

If you would like to lead a field trip, or have an idea for a program or club activity, please phone Dannie Carsen (384-4924), or Richard Ring (656-2246).

**Sunday, July 2. Heritage Tree Tour in Ross Bay Cemetery.** Conducted by Gerry Chaster, Consulting Landscape Architect and coauthor of *Trees of Greater Victoria, A Heritage* (available at local bookstores or from Gerry before the tour). Meet at 1 p.m. at Bagga Pasta in Fairfield Plaza.

**Saturday, July 8. Wildflower trip to Deer Park** in Olympic Mountains (second trip due to popular demand). Call Swiftsure Tours at 388-4227 for details.

**Sunday, July 9. Wildflower trip to Hurricane Ridge.** Once again there is a trip planned to the Olympic Mountains to see the alpine flowers. Cost \$48; discount for VNHS members. Call Swiftsure Tours at 388-4227 for information and reservations.

**Saturday, July 15. Insect field trip around UVic.** Explore our hidden micro-environment with Richard Ring as your guide to the world of insects. You will learn identification, pinning and preservation techniques. Meet at UVic, Cunningham Room 254, at 9 a.m.

**Sunday, July 23. Birding on Sidney Spit, Sidney Island,** with leader Harry Davidson. Walk on the tidal flats looking for migrating shorebirds. Catch the 10 a.m. ferry from the wharf at the end of Beacon Avenue, Sidney. (There should be parking by turning left towards the marina.)

**Saturday, July 29. Botany trip to Sidney Island salt marshes.** Sidney Island "Hook" is a locality of several rare plants which

extend into our area from the south (e.g. *Jaumea carnosa*, *Triglochin concinnum*). Birders welcome. Meet at 9:40 a.m. at the Sidney Island ferry dock (the end of Beacon Avenue in Sidney). Ferry costs \$6, but we may get a group discount. Leaders Adolf and Oluna Ceska.

**Saturday, August 12. Birding on Sidney Spit** on Sidney Island. Leader Mike McGrenere. Details same as for July 29 trip (above).

**Sunday, August 20. Birding at Cowichan Bay** with Bryan Gates. Shorebirds in both adult and juvenile plumages should be readily seen, so this is a good opportunity to learn to see the differences with Bryan. Meet at Helmcken Park and Ride at 7:30 a.m. or join the group on the Industrial Dock road. After-lunch destination to be decided.

**Illustrated Lectures and Films:** See Swan Lake happenings (page 8) and insert for CRD Parks Programs.

### Erratum

The following people participated in the 1988 Christmas Bird Count and should have been included in the list of participants in the May/June issue of the *Naturalist*: Peter Bricknell, Trudy Chadwin, Dan Cox, Barbara Hanwell, Robert Robinson, Hank Van Der Pol. We apologize for this omission.

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### Rosemary Partridge - Artist with a sensitive line

The art of Rosemary Partridge reflects her interest in the works of the late C.F. Tunnicliffe. For the past eight years Partridge has pursued her avid interest in birds, being one of a very few gifted wildlife artists who spend most of the time sketching in the field, often at dawn in the Esquimalt Lagoon area or from her studio window overlooking the sea.

Remarkably, she draws directly on to scraperboard in various media demonstrating a masterly skill with silverpoint, ink, conte, coloured chalks and acrylic, producing many elegant pictures depicting the fluid movements of shorebirds and waterfowl as they pursue their birdly occupations.

Rosemary's empathy with birds is matched by her sympathetic pastel portraits of cats and dogs commissioned by their owners.

P.F.W. The Field Mouse Wildlife Gallery

