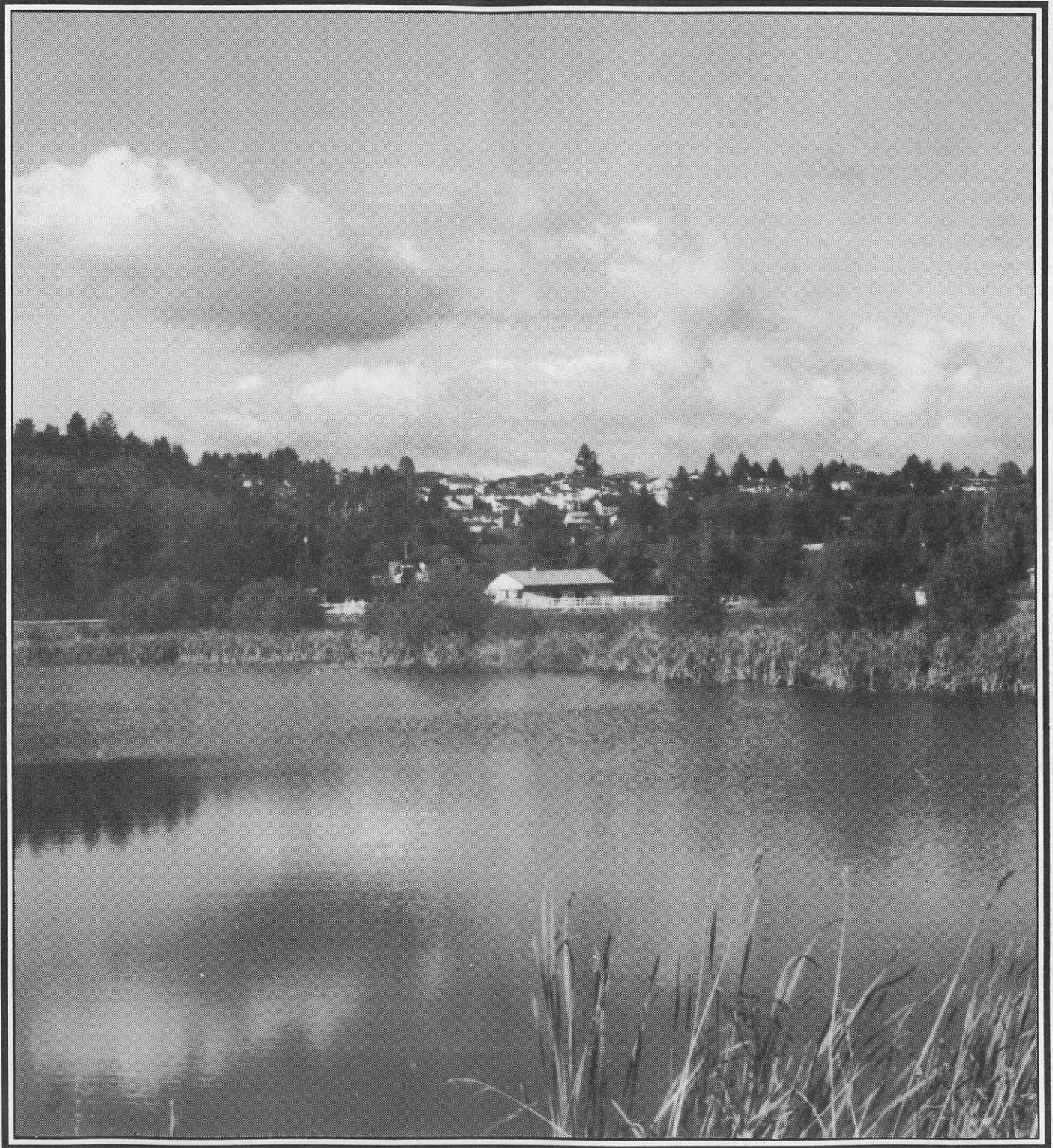




# The Victoria NATURALIST

SEPTEMBER  
OCTOBER  
1991  
VOL 48.2

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



# The Victoria NATURALIST

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Members are encouraged to submit articles, field trip reports, birding and botany notes, and book reviews with photographs or illustrations if possible. Photographs of natural history are appreciated along with documentation of location, species names and a date. Please label your submission with your name, address, and phone number and provide a title. We will accept and use copy in almost any legible form but we encourage submission of typed, double-spaced copy or an IBM compatible word processing file on a 360K 5.25" diskette plus printed output. Having copy submitted on diskette saves a lot of time and work for the publications group and we really appreciate the help. If you have an obscure or very old word processing program, call the editor, **Warren Drinnan**, at 598-0471 or 652-9618, or save the text in ASCII format. Blank diskettes may be obtained from the editor and we will return any of your own diskettes submitted. Photos and slides submitted may be picked up at the Field-Naturalist, 1241 Broad Street, or will be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included with the material.

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For membership information and renewal, please contact Tom Gillespie at 361-1694, or write to Membership Committee % The Victoria Natural History Society, Box 5220, Victoria, B.C., V8R 6N4.

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The deadline for advertising submissions is the first of the month preceding publication. Please contact Jennifer Emms at 479-6323 regarding advertising which requires typesetting.

Ad Size	Price	Dimensions
Back Page	\$120	7.25 x 8 in.
1/2 Page	\$80	7.25 x 5 in.
1/3 Page	\$50	7.25 x 3.25 in.
1/4 Page	\$40	3.25 x 4.675 in.
1/8 Page	\$25	3.25 x 2.25 in.

### Guidelines

1. Ad copy should be typeset and camera ready, not just sketched or typed on a typewriter.
2. Minor alterations to existing advertisements will cost \$10. Typesetting of ads is charged at \$20 per hour.
3. Add \$9 per photo for PMT (at Island Blueprint).
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## Our Cover

By Tony Embleton

This month's cover photo of the L. Reservoir at Martindale Flats was taken by Tony Embleton. Tony is the Chair of the Parks and Conservation Committee of the Victoria Natural History Society. His summary of Sensitive Shoreline and Adjacent Wetland Areas of the VNHS, which was co-written with former VNHS Publications Chair Dannie Carsen, appears on pages 8-10. The hedgerows and reservoirs of Martindale Flats attract many small mammals as well as a wide variety of birds—passerines, raptors and waterfowl.

## This Issue

It's summertime, and several of our regular contributors and faithful members of the editorial team are not in this edition for a variety of reasons. The Publications Committee is also operating a skeleton crew at this time, but we managed to put forth some interesting articles. We look forward to everyone's return and hope you will be encouraged to submit articles, photos, illustrations and field trip reports not only from members, but also from others interested in sharing their explorations in the field of natural history.

Michelle Choma,  
 Chair, Publications Committee

## Book of the Month...

## The Nature of B.C.

This book is required reading for anyone with an ounce of curiosity about their environment. Nearly every species discussed is presented visually in one of the 321 excellent colour photographs in "Plants and Animals" by Eugene N. Kozloff.

Other books of interest include: "Indicator Plants of B.C."; "Discovering Wild Plants of B.C."; and "Naturalists Guide to the Victoria Region".

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## Parks, Art and Diversity—Nature-Inspired Art Work at the Goldstream Park Visitor Centre—September 7 to 22

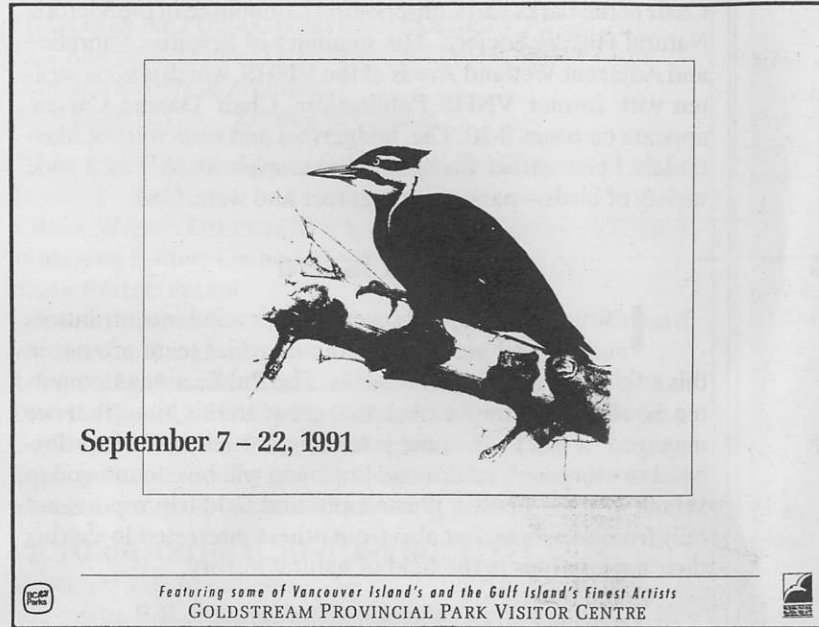
The Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS) is sponsoring a nature-inspired art show at Goldstream Provincial

Park from September 7 to 22, inclusive. Over 60 artists from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands will be participating. Many are VNHS members.

The purpose of the show is to raise the public's awareness of the role that parks play in preserving diversity while at the same time showcasing some of the finest artists in Canada. Money raised from the donation box, poster sales and commission on art work will be used for the VNHS scholarship fund and the construction of a wildlife viewing platform on the Goldstream estuary. Members are still needed to help with the show. Call Anne Adamson at 598-1623 or Victor and Elizabeth Chatwin at 592-5346.

Limited quantities of the full colour poster of the Pileated Woodpecker by Mark Nyhof will be available at the show for \$5.00 (including taxes). Mark is also producing a limited edition print of this work — which will be raffled off during the show.

There will be a special Wine and Cheese Gallery Opening for VNHS members staffing the display, the artists and BC Parks people on Friday, September 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (Bring a pocket flashlight for the stroll back to the parking



Poster for the Art, Parks and Diversity Show. (Mark Nyhof)

### EXPLORATION OF THE SEA & SHORE AT THE BAMFIELD MARINE STATION

The Bamfield Marine Station, a modern university-sponsored research facility, is located on the south side of Barkley Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The town of Bamfield is a picturesque fishing village located on two inlets. Water connects the community making boats the only means of transportation. The great diversity of marine and terrestrial habitats and local history make it an ideal location for a variety of natural history field trips.

The program cost includes accommodation, meals and instruction. For further information and registration please call the Bamfield Marine Station at (604) 728-3301 during office hours (08:30 - 16:30).

#### BIRDS OF THE SEA AND SHORE (Sept. 13-15, 1991)

Experience the fall migration of seabirds and shorebirds on the outer edge of Vancouver Island. Dr. Alan Burger, your instructor, has spent several years conducting seabird research at the Bamfield Marine Station. The program will include field trips as well as lectures and laboratory projects. An offshore trip on the M/V Alta to view pelagic species is planned. Cost: \$220 (2 nights)

#### ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE WEST COAST PEOPLES (October 11-14, 1991)

This field trip is designed to introduce participants to the history and prehistory of Bamfield and the Broken Group Islands. The program includes exploration of many sites of historical and biological significance. Discussions and seminars will reveal the fascinating stories behind what is seen. Denis St. Clair, author of a number of works on the prehistory of the Barkley Sound area, will lead the group. Cost: \$330 (3 nights)

#### BAMFIELD MUSHROOM WORKSHOP (October 18-20, 1991)

"What morsels they be," but what morsels are they? Dr. Brenda Callan, research mycologist and John Dennis, technical mycologist, from Forestry Canada will show you how to find out. We will discuss some of the unique and fascinating features of fungi, what some of their many roles are in the environment, and how to go about identifying the more common and some of the less common forest species. We will go on forays in the Bamfield area, and then examine some of our collections in the lab to prove our field identifications. No background knowledge is necessary, just bring your enthusiasm and any mushroom books that you may have. Cost: \$220 (2 nights)

#### FORESTRY AND FISHERIES INTERACTIONS (October 25-27, 1991)

This weekend course introduces participants to the ecology of west coast streams and native fish species. Your instructor, Dr. Gordon Hartman, will discuss how the systems function as a whole and how they are affected by forest management practices. A field trip to Carnation Creek will be part of this weekend course. Cost \$220 (2 nights)

#### MARINE BIOLOGY FOR EDUCATORS (November 8-10, 1991)

A course for teachers, interpreters, outdoor-trip guides - or anyone who might want to know more about the marine environment. This course will cover biology and ecology of marine organisms through field trips, labs and lectures. Ideas for activities, field trips, labs and resources will be an integral part of the course. Your instructor will be marine educator and Public Education Coordinator for the Bamfield Marine Station, Adrienne Mason. Cost: \$220 (2 nights)

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Station**  
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## Dolphin and Whale Research and Education Trips

By Nancy Black

Oceanic Society Expeditions is offering the chance for individuals to participate in an on-going dolphin and whale research project in Monterey Bay, California. The project's focus is on the behaviour, ecology, communication and distribution of Pacific white-sided dolphins. These dolphins are often found in groups of over 500 individuals and are one of the most acrobatic dolphins, often engaging in multiple mid-air leaps, flips and somersaults.

The project also involves photo-identifying individual blue and humpback whales, both endangered species, as well as collecting information on other species of whales, dolphins and porpoises encountered. Seven-day trips will be conducted during October and November, 1991. People are needed to help with all aspects of the research and no prior experience is needed.

Oceanic Society Expeditions is a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation and education about the marine environment. Participants in this project will have the opportunity to learn about and observe dolphins, whales, seals, sea lions, sea otters and sea birds while contributing to valuable research. Fee required. Contact Oceanic Society Expeditions, Fort Mason Center, Building E, San Francisco, CA 94123, 1-800-326-7491.



White-sided dolphin. (Photo: Nancy Black, Oceanic Society Expeditions)

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# The Results of the Ninth Annual Manning Park Bird Blitz—June 1991

By Bruce Bennett

The ninth annual bird blitz was a success and included sunny warm weather on Saturday followed by rain and snow (six inches in the alpine), on Sunday morning and a cool Sunday afternoon. This year's turnout was one of the best in the history of the blitz (three times more participants than 1990), ensuring excellent coverage of the park.

Of the 15 birding areas in Manning Park, 13 were covered. Those areas not covered were Mt. Frosty and the Skyline and Memaloose trails. Snow was encountered at low altitudes (4000' on northern slopes 5000' on southern), making it difficult to assess some of the higher areas.

2315 birds of 95 different species were counted, an increase of 16 species and 1068 individuals over the 1990 count and an increase of 26 species and 1585 individuals over the 1989 count.

Some interesting notes from this year's blitz are a large demise of the winter wren population and an increase in observations of pine grosbeaks and mountain bluebirds, all probably due to the high snow pack. Highlights included osprey, northern goshawks, white-winged crossbills, solitary sandpipers and a common nighthawk (that was later found eaten, probably by the goshawk).

Three additional species were seen in the park over the next three days which are not included in the results. The late spottings were of a herring gull, a killdeer and a new record for the park, a pair of American avocets, verified and photographed at Lightning Lakes Day-use Area.

The Tenth Annual Manning Bird Blitz is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of June 19-21, 1992, with the 20th and 21st being the actual birding days. As in previous years, free camping will be provided.

### The results were as follows:

Common Loon	1
Canada Goose	7
Harlequin Duck	1
Mallard	31
Barrow's Goldeneye	36
Common Merganser	4
Hooded Merganser	1

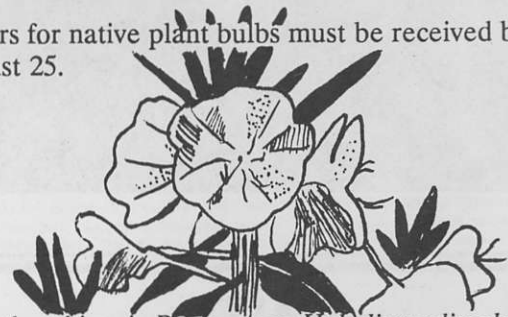
Cooper's Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	6
Osprey	1
N. Goshawk	2
American Kestrel	1
Spruce Grouse	3
Blue Grouse	32
Ruffed Grouse	1
Spotted Sandpiper	16
Solitary Sandpiper	2
Band-tailed Pigeon	2
Sora	1
Common Nighthawk	1
Black Swift	2
Vaux's Swift	3
Rufous Hummingbird	38
Calliope Hummingbird	3
Hummingbird sp	1
Belted Kingfisher	2
Red-naped Sapsucker	9
Hairy Woodpecker	17
Downy Woodpecker	3
Northern Flicker	22
Pileated Woodpecker	5
Olive-sided Flycatcher	26
Dusky Flycatcher	4
Willow Flycatcher	5
Hammond's Flycatcher	11
Western Wood Peewee	10
Tree Swallow	13
Violet-green Swallow	35
N. Rough-winged Swallow	35
Cliff Swallow	142
Barn Swallow	79
Gray Jay	105
Steller's Jay	7
Clark's Nutcracker	16
American Crow	45
Common Raven	38
Chickadee sp	4
Black-capped Chickadee	9
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	5
Mountain Chickadee	25
Boreal Chickadee	8
Red-breasted Nuthatch	43
American Dipper	4
Winter Wren	12
Golden-crowned Kinglet	103
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	23
Mountain Bluebird	9
Townsend's Solitaire	13
Swainson's Thrush	25
Hermit Thrush	47
American Robin	154
Varied Thrush	78
Water Pipit	1
European Starling	4
Solitary Vireo	4
Warbling Vireo	13
Orange-crowned Warbler	6

Yellow Warbler	29
Yellow-rumped Warbler	125
Black-throated Gray Warbler	8
MacGillivray's Warbler	4
Townsend's Warbler	145
Common Yellowthroat	11
Wilson's Warbler	41
Western Tanager	3
Red-winged Blackbird	10
Brewer's Blackbird	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	24
Rufous-sided Towhee	2
Chipping Sparrow	59
Savannah Sparrow	4
Fox Sparrow	7
Song Sparrow	42
White-crowned Sparrow	7
Lincoln's Sparrow	2
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	178
Evening Grosbeak	13
Pine Grosbeak	27
Cassin's Finch	28
Pine Siskin	128
American Goldfinch	1
White-winged Crossbill	1 (5?)

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# Sensitive Shoreline and Adjacent Wetland Areas of the VNHS—Mill Bay to Port San Juan

By Tony Embleton and Dannie Carsen

Our conservation committee brought forward a list of sensitive shoreline areas for discussion at the shorelines workshop held March 23, 1991. This is the formal report of the VNHS from the shorelines workshop including a tables with site recommendations.

## Martindale Flats

The flats include a large area of low-lying land, currently in the Agricultural Land Reserve, which floods and attracts migratory wintering shorebirds and waterfowl from November to March. Here, in the flooded fields, existing agriculture greatly benefits ducks, geese, and swans, due to crop spillage and unharvested vegetables. Hedgerows and reservoirs attract a wide variety of passerine birds, raptors, and small mammals.

The Victoria Natural History Society has contracted with David Fraser of Arenaria Research to do a species inventory, level of usage by wildlife, and rationale and recommendations for protection of this significant wetland habitat. This research has relied heavily on a large volume of data collected by volunteer observers involved in weekly observations over the winter of 1990-91. The threats to the area are the possible sale of two of the key parcels and the potential draining of the flooded area by the municipality to increase agricultural production. Draining the land will have an extremely detrimental effect on the usage of the areas by waterfowl.

## Esquimalt Lagoon

This is a key lagoon in the Victoria area, as it is a resting place for migrating birds and an important overwintering area

for seabirds. The lagoon habitat attracts a wide variety of plant life, shellfish, and intertidal invertebrates which provide a source of food for fish, shorebirds and waterfowl. There are excellent opportunities for observing birds and other marine life in both protected lagoon and sandy beachfront habitats. Esquimalt Lagoon is protected to some extent by the Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary designation, but immediate threats are development of the Sanctuary and increasing enrichment from septic tank and surface runoff. Last year, there was increased mortality of marine invertebrates, such as crabs, due to depletion of oxygen from an overabundance of red algae. This algal bloom was possibly exacerbated by septic tank and surface runoff which enriches the shallow lagoon ecosystem. Proposed housing developments above the lagoon may aggravate this problem. There are plans for a sewer system, but the City of Colwood may give permits for more building in the area before sewer lines have been installed.

## Patricia Bay

Extensive mudflats and some protected deep water shoreline on northwest Saanich Peninsula provide habitat to waterfowl and shorebirds. Uncommon species such as black scoters (*Melanitta nigra*), Barrow's goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*), the yellow-billed loon (*Gavia adamsii*) and numerous other birds are seen during the winter months. Threats to Patricia Bay include increased seaplane and helicopter traffic, extension of the wharf to accommodate navy ships, and a proposal to put in an additional boat ramp in the area.

## Finlayson Arm, Squally Reach, Tod Inlet and Goldstream Estuary

These four locations are part of the largest fiord on the east coast of Vancouver Island—Saanich Inlet. In "Marine

Birds of Saanich Inlet...", a survey done in 1986, Ken H. Morgan identified 48 species of marine birds, the highest numbers of species and density occurring during late fall and spring migration periods. Finlayson Arm and Squally Reach (from Goldstream Estuary to Mackenzie Bight) are the last relatively wild stretches of steep shoreline near Victoria, and merit some form of protection. In addition, Tod Inlet is undeveloped on the shoreline opposite Butchart Gardens and, at low tide, provides a significant expanse of mudflats with abundant marine life. There is the threat of a proposed golf course development at Tod Inlet, and the Bamberton Village development proposed by South Island Cooperative could have an impact on this area as well. Goldstream Estuary is also an important area, with increased human uses and effects of development being the principal threats. However, Goldstream Park does protect a good portion of the estuary.

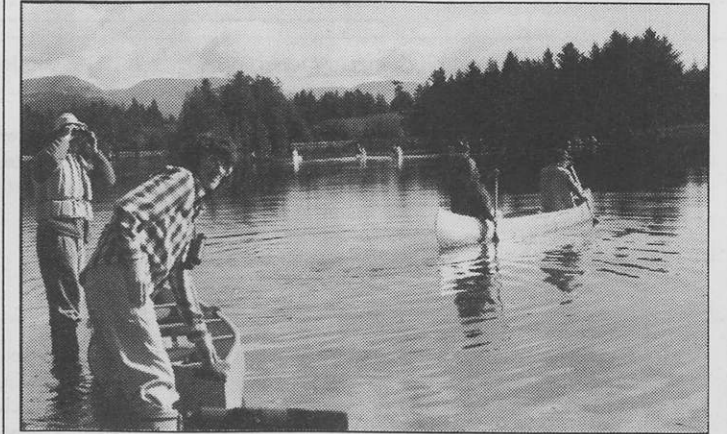
## Gorge Waterway to Portage Inlet

The waterways from the Victoria Inner Harbour to Portage Inlet have been largely degraded by industrial waste, pollution, and storm drain runoff. The area is important for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and a variety of invertebrate species which use the Craigflower and Colquitz estuaries and the extensive mudflats in Portage Inlet. The eastern end of the Gorge is changing from heavy industrial to light industrial, commercial, and residential usage, and water quality has improved. However, further commercial and residential development is a threat, and planning should be sensitive to the needs of local wildlife.

## San Juan River and Estuary

The San Juan River and its estuary are very important for waterfowl, shorebirds, and as a fish spawning ground and nursery. Local residents have expressed concern about the greatly increased silting in the river, possibly due to erosion from logging clearcuts. Silting affects salmon spawning beds and changes the shorelines in the area. Other threats include pos-

sible marina developments and further residential development.



Canoeing on the San Juan Estuary. (Photo: Phoebe Dunbar)

## Sooke Basin

This protected basin is a critical nursing ground for juvenile finfish and attracts a wide variety of shorebirds and waterfowl. Threats exist from fish farms in the area which increase the nitrogenous waste in the basin. Shellfish harvesting has been closed due to high fecal coliform counts, possibly from failing septic fields and livestock. The basin should continue to be monitored to determine the need for protective measures.

(SEE ALSO: Chart following page)



L. Reservoir at Martindale Flats—a panoramic view. (Composite Photo: Tony Embleton)

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PRIORITY LIST – SENSITIVE SHORELINE AND ADJACENT WETLANDS  
Victoria Natural History Society (Mill Bay to Port San Juan)

No:	Name	Location/Owner(s)/Jurisdiction	Rationale for protection	Threats	Recommendations
1	Martindale Flats	Saanich Peninsula, Central Saanich. Private farmland, <i>Ministry of Agriculture/ Fisheries, Ducks Unlimited, Ministry of Environment, The Nature Trust of B.C.†</i>	Important winter wetland habitat for ducks and trumpeter swans.	Two critical areas are for sale, and this area could be drained and the wetland lost to waterfowl.	Negotiate with Department of Highways in terms of the new intersection. Address local government. Get support of farmers.
2	Esquimalt Lagoon.	West of Victoria. Designated by CWS. City of Colwood, Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of National Defence.	Important resting place for migrating birds, lagoon/beach ecosystem, unique plant and animal community.	Urban waste, increased human traffic from local development.	Municipal government must become involved. DFO needs to become involved. Work with DND?
3	Patricia Bay	Saanich Inlet. Federal Government Seaplane Base, Institute of Ocean Sciences, Union Bay Indian Reserve, and private land. Ministry of Environment, Crown Lands, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.	Well-known area for wintering migratory birds, particularly ducks.	Increased seaplane traffic and proposed boat ramp will greatly increase the disturbance of birds and the potential for oil spills.	Municipal government and DFO need to become involved.
4	Finlayson Arm to include Squally Reach and Tod Inlet	Southern section of Saanich Inlet. Crown Land, private land, and Central Saanich Council.	This is a unique marine ecosystem, a gathering area for chum salmon prior to spawning, and for the young salmon parr, as well as for a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors.	Increased pressures from human presence and wastes. If the proposed housing, hotel and golf course development proceeds, marina and boat spills will increase.	Not discussed.
5	The Gorge Waterway to Victoria Inner Harbour	City of Victoria, and District of Saanich. Some Saanich parkland, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Wildlife Service, Esquimalt, Coast Guard.†	It is a unique corridor to Portage Inlet that, with careful development, could be restored to its former saltwater estuary status of abundant wildlife.	Urban development threatens with its runoff and sewage, industrial wastes and spills.	Not discussed.
6	San Juan River Estuary	Port Renfrew Township, Indian Reserve, Fletcher Challenge, MacMillan Bloedel. Canadian Wildlife Service.	Tidal estuary, saltwater marshes, with all that this type of ecosystem entails.	Potential for housing and/or industrial development.	Not discussed.
7	Sooke Basin	Municipality of Sooke, private, and Crown Land. Min. of Agriculture and Fisheries, Canadian Wildlife Service, Coast Guard.	It is an important waterbird and fish habitat.	Increased development with accompanying industrial and sewage wastes.	Not discussed.

†Italics above indicates an interest

## Unusual Skylark Behaviour

By Barbara Begg

During a Victoria Natural History Society field trip at the Island View/Lochside trail area on July 21, 1991, our small group was treated to an interesting behavioural display that I had never seen before.

From 7:20 a.m., when I was checking out the area before the group arrived, until about 8:30 a.m., when we left, one, possibly two, Eurasian skylarks would fly up from a weedy field with what looked to be a grub or short worm in its bill. It would attain a height of about 20 to 25 feet using the flutter-flight, and then still holding the item in its bill, would drop back into the grass. Each of the dozen or so flights lasted less than one half minute. All originated from the same general location in the field, no point being more than about 75 feet from any other take-off point. The object being carried, whether animal or vegetable, was usually about the same shape and size; full bodied, elongated and about the length of the bird's bill. Once it appeared more spherical in shape.

The sky was overcast, making viewing conditions excellent. The white outer-tail feathers and the pale trailing edges of the secondaries were very evident. The birds were performing from as close as 20 feet over our heads and up to 150 feet away. We saw no interaction between birds when the food items were being carried, although at other times during our stay we saw

and heard at least two individual skylarks singing, three flying together low over the field and two others flying northwest out of the area, for a total of seven. No attempt was made to flush birds up from the field.

The following day, July 22, I spent about one hour at the same location, within the same time period, but under sunny skies. Although there were skylarks present and singing, I saw no birds carrying items in their bills.

Could this behaviour be territorial display, or pair-bond renewal, or maybe a parent coaxing a reluctant youngster to fly?

If anyone has seen similar skylark behaviour, I would appreciate hearing from you (604) 656-5296.

## Notice

Thank you to all the volunteers participating in the Observer Programme of the Parks and Conservation Committee. The Observer Programme aids in the protection of endangered habitats in and around Victoria by having volunteers observe and report to the Committee any potential hazards to the area.

An article describing the project was featured in the last issue of the *Victoria Naturalist* (Vol. 48.1). However, more observers are required. If you are interested in volunteering call the coordinator of volunteers, Margaret Wainwright, at 592-1310. The success of the program is largely due to Margaret's organization of the volunteers and project.



Female skylark. (Photo: T. Sowerby)

## Two Saanich Immigrants

By Kathleen M. Russell

Someone brought a poet's charmer here  
about a century ago -  
But like the end of a cadence  
it's coming to a close -  
The little joyful Skylark on the wing is on the wane,  
as it sings as it flies over its Peninsula domain -

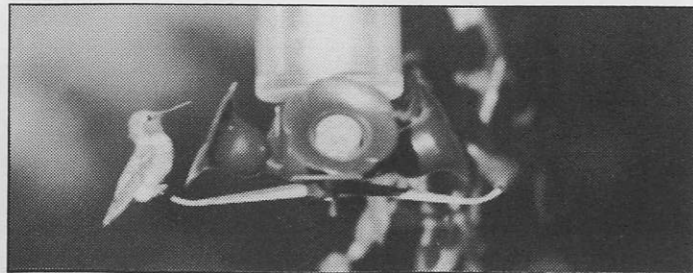
Did they think a hundred years ago,  
no rapture would caress?  
no soaring bird of gladness,  
their resting place would bless?

Un-like the en-grassèd daisy,  
with prolific, persistent might,  
hugging the ground in thousands:  
Cheey urchins fashioned in white!

(While listening to her car radio, Mrs. Russell heard on CBC Vancouver, an interview with Barbara Begg about the skylarks of the Saanich Peninsula. She was so moved by the conversation that upon returning home she wrote this poem.)

## Welcome to New Members

- June 1 Monica McGarrigle,  
of Gorge Road.
- June 1 L. and R. Walters,  
of Dignan Road;  
interested in birds and botany.
- June 1 Holly Clermont,  
of Jedburgh Road.
- June 13 Margaret Birkenhead,  
of Seaview Road;  
interested in birds.
- June 13 Liz Baxter,  
of Shore Acres Road.  
Interests include ecology and animal behaviour.
- June 13 Pat Baker,  
of Metchosin Road;  
likes birding and aquatic animals.
- June 13 Jane Bucior,  
of Wilhemina Way.  
A gift from Pat Baker.
- June 13 Mrs. Isabel Craig,  
of Musgrave Street.
- June 13 Mrs. D. M. Trew,  
of Newport Avenue.
- June 20 Shirley Embra,  
of Faircliff Lane.  
Shirley's interests are birdwatching, hiking,



Hummingbird at feeder. (Photo: Les Waye)

- wildflowers and conservation.
- June 20 Nancy Crowe,  
of Coleos Place.
- June 24 David and Moya Cawood,  
of Midgard Avenue;  
interested in all aspects of natural history.
- June 26 Anne Sheridan,  
of Dallas Road;  
likes birds and photography.
- June 26 David Person and Elaine Hanson,  
of Florence Lake Road;  
interested in nature photography and wildflowers.
- June 28 Mr. Will Spaulding,  
of Highview Street;  
enjoys birdwatching and day hikes.
- July 24 Lorraine Dupuis,  
of Michigan Street;  
likes birding and trees.



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## Waiting... Waiting... for the Peregrine

By Bev Glover

We sat patiently on the cliff's edge overlooking the Gulf Islands in the very early morning of a late July day. The motor voices of the many pleasure boaters had not yet begun. This made Galiano Island seem a lot further away from civilization than it really was. I had perched that morning near this incredible cliff in the hopes of seeing a family of peregrine falcons that had nested on a ledge below. In 1988, I had helped in a project to raise and release young peregrines in Ontario where they had been extirpated. Now, I was eager to see my first wild family. I was always amazed at how much time and people power it had taken to raise our brood; a job normally completed by *only* two parent falcons. So, there we sat waiting... waiting...

At this point in late July, the young have fledged. In fact, my friend, Dawne told me that the young of this clutch had been out of the nest for at least two weeks, maybe more. They would be strong fliers by now, venturing long distances from the site. However, until they dispersed, they would likely roost somewhere near the nest on most nights. The best time to see them was in the early morning. I counted on this, as we sat in the stillness waiting... waiting.

We watched the activities of other birdlife. Pigeon guillemots bobbed on the water near the base of the cliff. It was obvious that they were nesting on the ledges. They were likely the falcons' main food source. Woodland birds became active behind us. Cormorants came into our view as they flew away from nests on the cliff. I had not given them much attention until I noticed they did not fish. In fact, they did not venture far until they began wide circles back to the cliff. Up came binoculars and, yes, they were young cormorants. Lots of them practising to fly in short trips out over the water then back to the safety of the ledge. Perhaps some were on maiden flights. I remember thinking it would be great to see their gawky landings. However this was obscured from our view as we watched and waited... waited...

I had begun to think that this time the falcons may have roosted somewhere else, when a bald eagle flew into view. Out went the gulls, screaming and harassing the big bird. Then, from a ledge almost immediately before us came a familiar "ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-ka". The peregrine came out to investigate as peregrines often do when other birds of prey enter their territory. Another called from a tree to the north and took to the air. This was an adult male. After a flurry of activity they

settled in trees. Although we could not get a good view of the male, the other was perched on a nearby snap on the cliff's edge. It was a beautiful, large female fledgling. She was brown with heavy vertical streaking on the breast and belly. She eyed us as intently as we did her. Later, as her curiosity was satiated, she flew off to join the parent on an inland tree. We could only confirm the one young that morning, which is all Dawne had noted in the past. It was a thrill. The wait was over.

## — LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

Editor,  
Victoria Naturalist

For many years green-backed swallows have nested in the eaves of our house. This year house sparrows have gone right into the swallows' house under the eaves, while the swallows were nesting, and pecked the swallows to death. After finding the second swallow dead inside the birdhouse we took the birdhouse down. Has anyone else come across this problem of house sparrows being so vicious?

The swallows have been a great joy to us each year and we love to have them about. It is sad we can not have them on our property anymore.

Although we made the hole to the birdhouse smaller, the house sparrow still got in. Eventually the swallow was not able to get in, so the house came down. It has been very sad to see the male swallow sitting alone after losing two companions.

Any suggestions readers?

Orval and Joan Oppertshauser  
Victoria

Editor,  
Victoria Naturalist

The photograph of the swallowtail butterfly on page 11 of Volume 48.1 is nice. Unfortunately, the species was misidentified. It is not a (western) tiger swallowtail, *Papilio rutulus*, it is an anise swallowtail, also known as the mountain swallowtail, *Papilio zelicaon*. Tiger swallowtails are larger and yellow, and have black bands all they way across the front and hind wings. Anise swallowtails only have the black bands partly across the wings, except for the black border of the wings. In the Victoria area anise swallowtails are most common in May and early June, but can be found anytime from late April to October. Tiger swallowtails, in contrast, fly only from late May through July.

Tiger swallowtails are common throughout the Victoria area, including the downtown streets, because their caterpillars feed on many of the boulevard trees. Anise swallowtails are common only in "wild" areas because they feed on weedy plants in the family Umbelliferae (including cultivated parsley, parsnip, and carrot leaves), with the best location being Uplands Park because of the large amounts of *Lomatium* (spring gold) which is used as a larval foodplant.

Cris Guppy  
Victoria

### Announcement

10% off all Natural History books to VNHS members. Large selection: birding, plants, etc.

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Date & Time: Sat, Sept 21/91, 9am-5pm  
Fee: \$30 + GST = \$32.10  
Instructor: Cameron Young

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Go for an adventurous walk at McNeill Bay from 1am-3am, which is low tide in the fall. Learn about plant/animal adaptations and observe major species which can only be observed in the dark.

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Date & Time: Sun, Sept 29/91, 1am-3am  
(Sat. night thru Sun. morning)  
Fee: \$14 + GST = \$14.98  
Instructor: Katey Pirquet

REGISTER BETWEEN: Aug. 17th - Sept. 9th



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Fax: 370-3150

## CALENDAR

**REGULAR MEETINGS** are generally held as follows:

Board of Directors meetings the first Tuesday of each month and Birders' Night the fourth Wednesday, of each month. Locations are given in the calendar listings.

**FIELD TRIPS.** Please meet at the location indicated for each trip and BRING A LUNCH. Be equipped for changes in weather, with hat, rain gear and boots, if necessary. Always phone the VNHS Events Tape at 479-2054 before a trip to get further details or find out about changes in plans. On VNHS trips, participants usually pool vehicles to reduce parking problems and costs. The Board suggests that fuel costs be shared with the driver.

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**Tuesday, September 3**

**Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 p.m.** Clifford Carl Reading Room, Cunningham Building, UVIC

**Saturday, September 7**

**Field Trip to Witty's Lagoon.** 8:30 a.m. Helmcken Park'n'Ride or 9:00 a.m. at Witty's Lagoon parking lot. Join Harry Davidson (479-1286) for a morning of birdwatching at this hot spot.

**Tuesday, September 10**

**General Meeting. NOTE NEW TIME!** 7:30 p.m. Begbie 159, UVIC. Alan Burger of the University of Victoria and the Royal B.C. Museum will present "Marion Island: Wildlife in the Subantarctic." Last year we looked at the Arctic and now we head in the opposite direction. Alan's slide talk will focus on seals, whales, penguins and flightless moths found on this island located in the 'roaring forties'. Come out and make the start of our 1991-92 show schedule a success!

**Saturday, September 12**

**Birdwatching trip on the M.V. Coho.** 10:30 a.m. ferry departure (walk-on). Anyone is welcome to meet Hank Vander Pol to bird from the bow. The crossing takes 1 1/2 hours and the return trip is at 12:45 from Port Angeles. There are possibilities of seeing shearwaters, storm-petrels, fulmars or phalaropes. Should weather be bad, the trip will be on Sunday. If still bad, then it will be held on the following Saturday. Contact Hank at 658-1924 for details.

**Saturday, September 14 to Monday October 14**

**Hawk Monitoring Project.** This is co-sponsored by our society and the Western Institute of Global Studies (WIGS). There is now known to be a major movement of raptors on southern Vancouver Island. We need people to help document this in the Metchosin and Sooke areas. Lots of volunteers are needed. No major commitment of time is needed. If interested, call Mary-Anne Montgomery (380-7152). See the workshop

below if you want to get some training.

**Saturday, September 21**

**Hawk Migration Workshop.** This workshop/field trip covers various aspects of the fall raptor migration. Topics include identification, ecology and geography. It will be followed by a trip to a migration hot spot in Metchosin. This event is sponsored by the VNHS and WIGS. To register, call Mary-Anne Montgomery (380-7152). Cost: \$10 WIGS or VNHS members, \$20 non-members.

**Sunday, September 22**

**Canoe trip of San Juan River Estuary.** Meet 7:00 a.m. Helmcken Park'n'Ride or at the Community Centre in Port Renfrew at 10:30 a.m. You provide your own canoes, paddles, life jackets, lunch and drinks. Explore the estuary environment looking for fall shorebirds and early waterfowl. Co-leaders are Phoebe Dunbar (642-4342) of the Sooke Community School, Dannie Carsen (642-6371) and Bev Glover (721-1476).

**Wednesday, September 25**

**Birders' Night.** 7:30 p.m. Begbie 159, UVIC. Bryan Gates will kick off the new 1991-92 Birders' Night series with an illustrated talk about the birds and whales of Baja Mexico and southeast Alaska.

**Sunday, September 29**

**Turkey Vultures of East Sooke Park.** Meet at Helmcken Park'n'Ride 9:30 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. at Aylard Farm parking lot. Turkey vultures are such sensible creatures, not rising before 10 in the morning, but, when they do, they gather in the thermals in large numbers and migrate across the strait. You can stay just the morning to witness this and other birdlife or bring a lunch and hike up a mountain to find other raptors.

## OCTOBER EVENTS

**Tuesday, October 1**

**Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 p.m.** Clifford Carl Reading Room, Cunningham Building, UVIC.

**Tuesday, October 8**

**General Meeting, NOTE NEW TIME!** 7:30 p.m. Begbie 159, UVIC. Ever notice how beautiful dragonflies are? They have often captured the interest of naturalists as they fly across the pond, but many do not know a lot about them. Gordon Hutchings, a volunteer of the Royal B.C. Museum and a dragonfly expert, will give an illustrated talk about the variety, biology and habitat of these amazing insects.

**Sunday, October 13**

**Birding Trip to Elk and Beaver Lakes.** 1:00 p.m. Meet at Jennings Lane parking lot. Join Tony and Nonie Embleton for an afternoon exploring the lakes and finding the fall arrivals. Contact them for more information at 595-6812.

**Saturday, October 19**

**Birdwatching trip on the M.V. Coho.** 10:30 a.m. ferry departure (walk-on). Anyone is welcome to meet Hank Vander Pol to bird from the bow. The crossing takes 1 1/2 hours and the return trip is at 2:00 p.m. from Port Angeles. There are possibilities of seeing shearwaters, storm-petrels, fulmars or phalaropes. Should weather be bad, the trip will be on Sunday. If still bad, then it will be held on the following Saturday. Contact Hank at 658-1924 for details.

**Sunday, October 20**

**Field Trip to Learn Mushrooms.** 9:00 a.m. Meet Helmcken Park'n'Ride. October is the best time for fungi and Adolf Ceska (477-1211) will lead a trip to Glenz Lake. Bring a lunch and come along to find the beauties of the autumn woods.

**Wednesday, October 23**

**Birders' Night.** 7:30 p.m. Begbie 159, UVIC. Tim Zurowski will present slides from his winter trip to find the birds of Florida. Take the evening off and spend it gazing at herons, spoonbills and more in the 'glades.

**Saturday, October 26**

**Becher Bay Boat Trip.** Space limited. To register, call Mary-Anne Montgomery (380-7152). Cost \$15 for WIGS or VNHS members, \$25 for non-members. Large numbers of gulls and alcids gather in Juan de Fuca Strait in fall. This trip will go out from Becher Bay towards Race Rocks. It is possible to get uncommon species such as short-tailed shearwaters, Cassin's auklets and ancient murrelets. Leader Mike Shepard (380-7615).

## COMING UP IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Third Coho Trip; Planning for Christmas Bird Count; Mosses and Liverworts; Conifer Workshop; and more.

## BULLETIN BOARD

**For Sale**

*National Geographic Field Guide to Birds, Naturalist Guide to the Victoria Region and Victoria Area Bird Checklists* for sale by contacting Lyndis Davis at 477-9952.

**Interested in starting Botany Night?**

Adolf Ceska would like some feedback on the interest for a botany evening on the third Tuesday of the month. Please contact him at 477-1211 if you would like to see this started.

**Volunteers needed**

Martindale Survey continues. Please volunteer for Saturday mornings, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Contact Eric Walters or Darren Copley (385-0927 or 479-9879). For information, see past Bulletin Boards. The flats should get quite interesting again as October approaches.

**Volunteers needed**

For hawk migration monitoring contact Mary-Anne Montgomery (380-7152).

**Endangered Species**

Interested in learning more about B.C.'s endangered species? A public symposium on B.C.'s threatened and endangered species will be held September 28 and 29, 1991 at Robson Square Media Centre in Vancouver.

The focus of the symposium is on community action; to bring individuals and communities together to deal with local problems. There will be feature presentations by biologists, academia and naturalists on the status of B.C.'s threatened and endangered species in nine habitat zones. Species to be discussed include the humpback whale, grizzly bear, flammulated owl, Pacific giant salamander, rattlesnake, white sturgeon, and lichen of B.C.

The symposium is sponsored by the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists and the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society. A registration fee of \$25.00 for both days, or \$15.00 for one day is required. For more information on the conference contact:

Thomas Harder  
Conference Co-ordinator  
c/o Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 34129, Station "D"  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6J 4N3  
Phone: (604) 736-8750

**Junior Naturalists**

*The Victoria Naturalist* seeks contributions from Junior Naturalists.. If some of our younger readers have artwork, pictures or stories to contribute please contact Warren Drinnan, Editor, *The Victoria Naturalist*, 1863 Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8R 1C1.

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