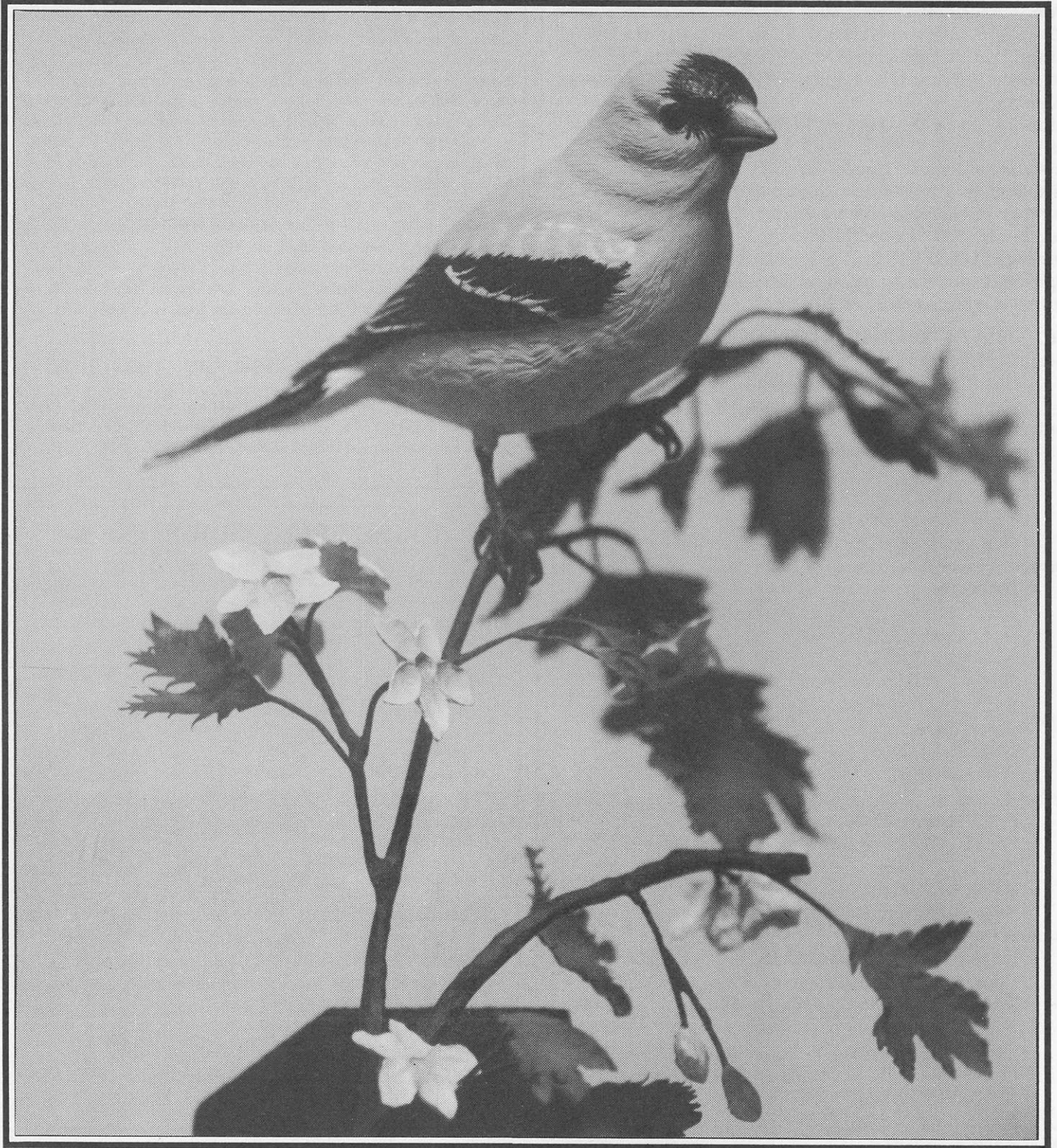




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Members are encouraged to submit articles, field trip reports, birding and botany notes, and book reviews with photographs or illustrations if possible. Photographs of natural history are appreciated along with documentation of location, species names 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 361-3543 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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OUR COVER

No, it is not a photograph! The American goldfinch on this issue's cover is a carving by local Sidney artist, Steve Madsen. Steve has been carving for about six years but to date it is still a part-time hobby. He has won first place at competitions in Sacramento and San Diego, California in the "Decorative Lifesize Decoy" category. He also placed second, Decorative Life Size, Professional Class, for his blue-throated hummingbird, at the carving competition at the Qualicum-Parkville Brant Festival this spring. The goldfinch took Steve 55 hours to complete. He is currently working on a lifesize snowy owl and willow ptarmigan in which he estimates he will eventually invest nearly 1500 hours.

Upcoming Issues

The *Victoria Naturalist* is continually on the look-out for material for publication. Our policy is to provide a mix of local natural history stories with more scientific articles that would be of interest to our readers. In two up-coming issues we hope to feature marine biology and insects. Anyone with material or information that fit into these themes are invited to contribute. Of course, other topics would also be greatly appreciated. Don't forget to include photographs or drawings if you can.



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The Swan and the Goose.

By Charlotte Edwards

Where we live, on the eastern shore of Maryland, the gentle waters run in and out, like fingers slimming at the tips. They curl into the smaller creeks and coves like tender palms. The Canada geese know this, as do the white swans and the ducks who ride an inch above the waves of Chesapeake Bay, as they skim their way into the harbour. In the autumn, by the thousands, they come home for the winter.

In hunting season the air is filled with the sound of guns. The shores are scattered with blinds, the creeks and rivers with duck and goose decoys. The swans are a different matter entirely. Protected by law, they move toward the shores in a stately glide, their tall heads proud and unafraid. They lower their long necks deep into the water where their strong beaks dig through the river bottom for food. And there is, between the arrogant swan and the prolific geese, an indifference, almost a disdain.

Once or twice each year, snow and sleet move into the area. When this happens, if the river is at its narrowest, or the creek shallow, there is a freeze which hardens the water to ice. It was on such a morning near Oxford, Maryland, that a friend of mine set the breakfast table and poured the coffee beside the huge window which looked out from her home on the Tred Avon River. Across the river, beyond the dock, the snow laced the rim of the shore in white. For a moment she stood quietly, looking at what the night's storm had painted.

Suddenly she leaned forward and peered close to the frosted window. "It really is," she cried aloud. "There's a goose out there." She reached to the bookcase and pulled out a pair of binoculars. Into their sights came the figure of a large Canada goose, very still, its wings folded tight to its side, its feet frozen to the ice.

Then from the dark sky, white against its lacklustre, she saw a line of swans. They moved in their own singular formation, graceful, intrepid and free. They crossed from the west of the broad creek high above the house, moving steadily to the east. As my friend watched, the leader swung to the right. Then the white string of birds became a white circle. It floated from the top of the sky downward. At last, as easy as feathers coming to earth, the circle landed on the ice.

My friend was on her feet now, with one unbelieving hand against her mouth. As the swans surrounded the frozen goose, she feared that what life he still maintained might be pecked out by those great swan bills. Instead, amazingly instead, those bills began to work on the ice. The long necks were lifted and curved down, again and again, as deliberately as picks swung over the head of a fisherman cutting a free space for his winter rod. It went on for a long time. At last the goose was rimmed by a narrow margin of ice instead of the entire creek. The swans rose again, following their leader, and hovered in that circle, awaiting the results of their labours.

The goose's head was lifted. Its body pulled. Then the goose was free and standing on the ice. He was moving his big webbed feet slowly. And the swans circled in the air over him, watching. Then as if he had cried, "I cannot fly", four of the swans came down around

him. Their powerful beaks scraped the goose's wings from bottom to top, scuttled under its wings and rode up its body, chipping off and melting the ice held in the feathers.

Slowly, as if testing, the goose spread its wings as far as they would go, brought them together, accordion-like, and spread again. When at last the wings reached their full, the four swans took off and joined the rest of the flock. They resumed their eastward journey, in perfect impersonal formation, to a secret destination.

Behind them, rising with incredible speed and joy, the goose moved into the sky. He followed the swans, flapping double time, until he caught up, until he joined the last of the line, like a small dark child at the end of a crack-the-whip of older boys.

My friend watched them until they disappeared over the tips of the farthest trees. Only then, in the dusk which was suddenly deep, did she realize that tears were running down her cheeks and had been for how long she didn't know.

This is a true story. It happened. I do not try to interpret it. I just think of it in the bad moments, and from it comes only one hopeful question: "If so for birds, why not for man?"

Charlotte Edwards lives in Oxford, Maryland. It was submitted to *The Victoria Naturalist* by Margaret Turner, a local member of the Victoria Natural History Society.

Magazine Positions

The *Victoria Naturalist* would like to thank Jennifer Emms for all her hard work as Advertising Manager for the magazine these past years. Jennifer wishes to try some new activities with the VNHS but she is willing to assist newcomers in "learning the ropes". Those interested in helping out with the magazine please contact Publications Chair, Kimberley Nemrava at 384-7724. Thanks for a great job Jennifer.

The *Victoria Naturalist* also has two new positions with the magazine. A **Field Trip Events Reporter** is needed to report on the activities and findings of the many field trips that are conducted over the year. A **Current Events Reporter** would review the many other natural history magazines, newsletters and newspapers for articles and activities that might be of interest to the readership. This would be in addition to our regular CALENDAR section that is put together each issue by Bev Glover. If interested, please contact the Publications Chair, Kimberley Nemrava at 384-7724, or Warren Drinnan at 652-9618.

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Brant Festival

As we went to press last issue, the Second Annual Brant Festival at Parksville had just wound up its many activities. It was a roaring success, with over twice the attendance at some events over last year.

Visitors to the Brant Festival Photography Exhibition at the Bayside Inn were impressed with the very high quality of the images presented. So were the judges, one of whom commented that "...there are more winning images here than prizes to award." Categories included coastal wildlife, waterfowl habitat and brant geese. "It is my goal to create the best waterfowl and wildlife photography exhibition in Western Canada at future Brant Festivals," said organizer Rusty Joerin at the award ceremony. We think they are already well on their way.

Other popular events at the festival was the carving competition and display and the wildlife art show. Fifty-three carvers entered 139 carvings in more than 20 categories. Victoria area carvers (all winners) included Craig Benson, Keray Jones and Steve Madsen. Ted Trusz of Edmonton had four "Best of Divisions" and was the overall "Best of Show" winner for his very realistic Lazuli Bunting. The Wildlife Art Show and Sale



Two Humpback Whales by Maartin Shaaddelee, winner of the People's Choice Award at the Brant Festival

featured works from more than 50 B.C. wildlife artists and sculptors. Those participating from the Victoria area included Craig Benson, Lissa Calvert, Fran Day, Alistair Denbigh, Donald Gunn, Mark Nyhof, Briony Penn, Nella Rogers, Maarten Schaddelee and Keith Taylor. Maarten Schaddelee won the "People's Choice Award" for his sculpture of two humpback whales, entitled *The Power of Love*.

The "Big Day" birding competition found 62 birders in 19 teams up at 5 a.m., scouring the woods and shorelines. By 3 p.m. the results started to come in to the windup held at the Island Hall Beach Resort. The *Birds of B.C.* authors—Wayne Campbell, Neil Dawe, John Cooper and Mike McNall—got 106 species but the judges decided that the team was "all a bunch of ringers" and decided to disqualify them. Still, the record of 106 stands. Next in line, and recipients of the "Most Species, Experienced Birders" award, was the Victoria Wildlife Branch team of Myke Chutter, Syd Cannings and Andrew Harcombe, with a count of 96 species. The "Most Species, Novice Birders" award went to Hannah Dickinson, David Jones and Charlene Pearce (the Bushhaus Groupies team) with a count of 31.

Results from a questionnaire handed out to festival visitors indicated that 68% were from out of the region, with nearly 50% from other Vancouver Island localities, mainly Victoria. The three day event resulted in nearly \$400,000 in total monies brought into the area. A portion of the \$8,500 left after expenses is earmarked for the Wildlife Legacy Fund with the remainder to be used as startup funding for Brant Festival 93, which is scheduled for April 2, 3 and 4th, 1993.

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Mitlenatch Island (i): The 1991 Seabird Census

By Bill Merilees

In 1896 George Dawson visited Mitlenatch Island and collected a few glaucous-winged gull eggs. This visit started a series of seabird observations that continues to this day.

Following Dawson was Theed Pearse, the noted Comox ornithologist, who regularly visited Mitlenatch Island in the 1920's to band and census gulls and other seabirds. In the early 1960's, when the island became a provincial park, the staff of B.C. Parks undertook a number of inventories, including seabirds. The most recent census prior to the present one was carried out by the Royal B. C. Museum in 1981.

To continue this documentation, two trips were organised the summer of 1991. From June 7th to 9th a tally of glaucous-winged gull nests was completed and on August 4th to 5th a pelagic cormorant census was undertaken. On this later visit, the formal documentation of at least four rhinoceros auklet burrows by Eileen and Wayne Campbell ended a suspicion began in 1963 by Gerry VanTets, the island's first resident seasonal naturalist. No census was made for pigeon guillemots during the 1991 visits.

The changes in the glaucous-winged gull and pelagic cormorant nesting populations at Mitlenatch are presented in

Figure 1. The early data were taken from Drent and Guiguet, (1961), "A Catalogue of British Columbia Sea-bird Colonies". Pelagic cormorants are believed to have started nesting on Mitlenatch in the mid 1940's.

One might assume that in 1896, the time of Dawson's visit, that the environment around northern Georgia Strait was very close to being pristine. Since then garbage dumps in Powell River, Courtenay, Comox and Campbell River, a number of shellfish processing locations and offal from literally hundreds of seasonal sport fish cleaning stations, to mention only a few factors, has altered this ecosystem considerably. Glaucous-winged gulls, in particular, have been the beneficiaries of these changes which is reflected in the increase in the numbers nesting on Mitlenatch Island. Other seabird populations, like pelagic cormorants and pigeon guillemots, which feed primarily on non-commercial fish species, have been less affected.

One thing just about every coastal resident of British Columbia knows is that there is no shortage of seagulls, especially of the glaucous-winged variety. The data presented here indicates what is happening all along our coast—our gull population is expanding, virtually paralleling that of the human population.

Acknowledgements. Thanks to the following gull nest counters: from B.C. Parks, Martin Dueck, Rik and Ryan Simmons, Laurel Nash, and Karen McDowell; from the Royal B.C.

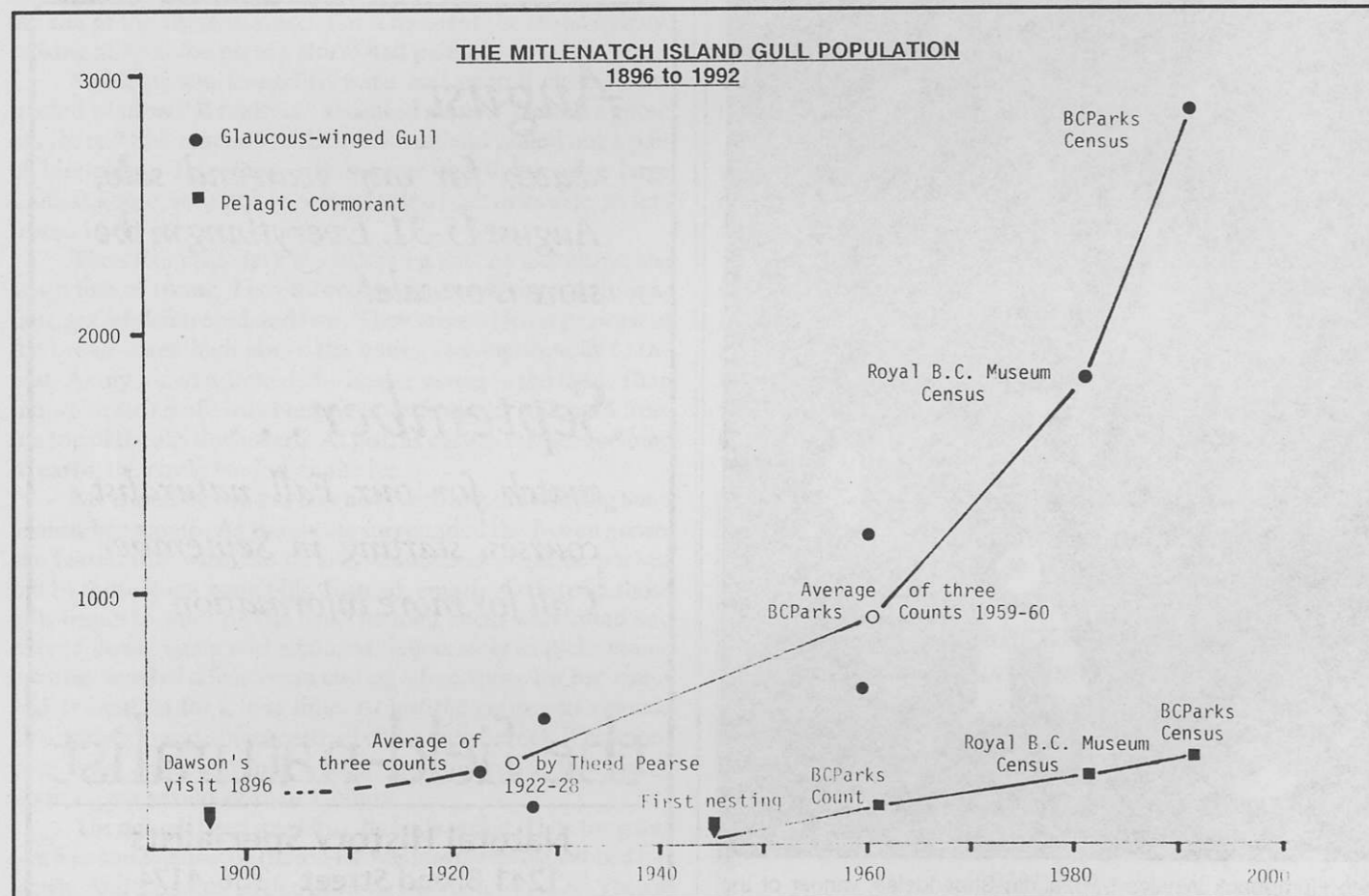


Figure 1. 1991 Sea bird Census.

Museum, Margaret Billings and Elaine Brigg; and from Arenaria Consultants, Leah Ramsay and David Fraser. Pelagic cormorant and rhinoceros auklet counts were completed by Wayne and Eileen Campbell and Tom Stirling.

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Bill Merilees lives in Nanaimo and is a past contributor to *The Victoria Naturalist*. He is the Visitors Service Coordinator for the Strathcona Region of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

Mitlenatch Island (ii): The Distribution of Greene's Bog Orchid

By Bill Merilees

When it comes to rare plants, Mitlenatch Island is known for its high numbers. Of the 210 species of flowering plants recorded (Brooke *et al.*, 1983) no fewer than 26, or 12%, are listed as being rare in British Columbia (Straley *et al.*, 1985). When it comes to rareness, the Greene's bog-orchid is listed among the rarest. It is placed in the category R1 - "plants that are represented by a single or few known populations, usually with only a few individuals in the population" (Straley *et al.*, p.6).

The nomenclature for this species, like many species, is in the process of being resolved. For instance, Hitchcock and Cronquist (1974) and Brooke *et al.* (1983) list it as Greene's bog-orchid (*Habenaria greenei*), while Straley *et al.*, call it the maritime Alaska rein orchid (*Platanthera unalascensis* subsp. *maritima*). The United States Forest Service (Anderson and Bedell, 1987) lists this species' common name as seaciff bog-orchid. More recent information (G. Douglas, pers. comm.) indicates that in Part 4 of *The Vascular Plants of British Columbia*, to be published later this year, this species will be known as *Piperia greenei*. Such is often the 'joy' in both common and scientific nomenclature, where neither the common nor scientific names are as stable as some would have you believe!

A recommendation in the Mitlenatch Island Wildlife Viewing Plan (B.C. Parks, 1991) was that before any upgrading of facilities on the island takes place, a survey be undertaken to determine the distribution of rare plants. This was done during the period of June 28th to July 1st, 1991.

A search was conducted along the existing trails and most of the non-gull colony nesting area (see map) for Greene's bog orchid, as this showy species was in full bloom at this time (see photograph). The accompanying map shows the area covered in this search and the general locations and numbers of orchids found. More detailed notes are on file in the B.C. Parks Library, Victoria.

In total, 190 plants were located at seventeen locations, with 38 'patches' noted. A patch was designated as an area one to two metres square where one, usually more, flowering stems were growing in close association. Ten 'patches' had single plants, five had two, seven had three, etc.; the average was 4.8 plants per patch. The largest number of plants per 'patch' was fifteen.

Even with the recent discovery of Greene's bog-orchid

on the Campbell River Indian Reserve, and the number of plants observed during this inventory, the total population of this species remains quite small and the R1 status is appropriate.

To ensure the Mitlenatch population of Greene's bog-orchid remains undisturbed, careful consideration will be required when planning some future trail and wildlife viewing facilities. Future monitoring of these sites on an annual basis

—CONTINUED FOLLOWING PAGE



Greene's bog orchid, *p. greenei*.

would also be helpful to note population trends or changes from one year to the next.

For naturalists visiting Mitlenatch, the best location to see this rare orchid is just ten metres southwest of the naturalist's hut. Here, well protected by the confines of narrow rocky crevices, a number of *Habenaria greenei* plants can easily be viewed and/or photographed. A visit during late June to early July should find them in full flower.

Acknowledgements. I would like to thank my able assistants Stuart Merilees and Eric Hassard for their willing participation in this project; to Mike Rhody, Ted Kramer and Ray Kachaluba of B.C. Parks for providing transportation to and from the Island; and to Lyn and Stan Paterson, coordinators of the Volunteer Warden Program, on behalf of the Mitlenatch Field Naturalists Club.

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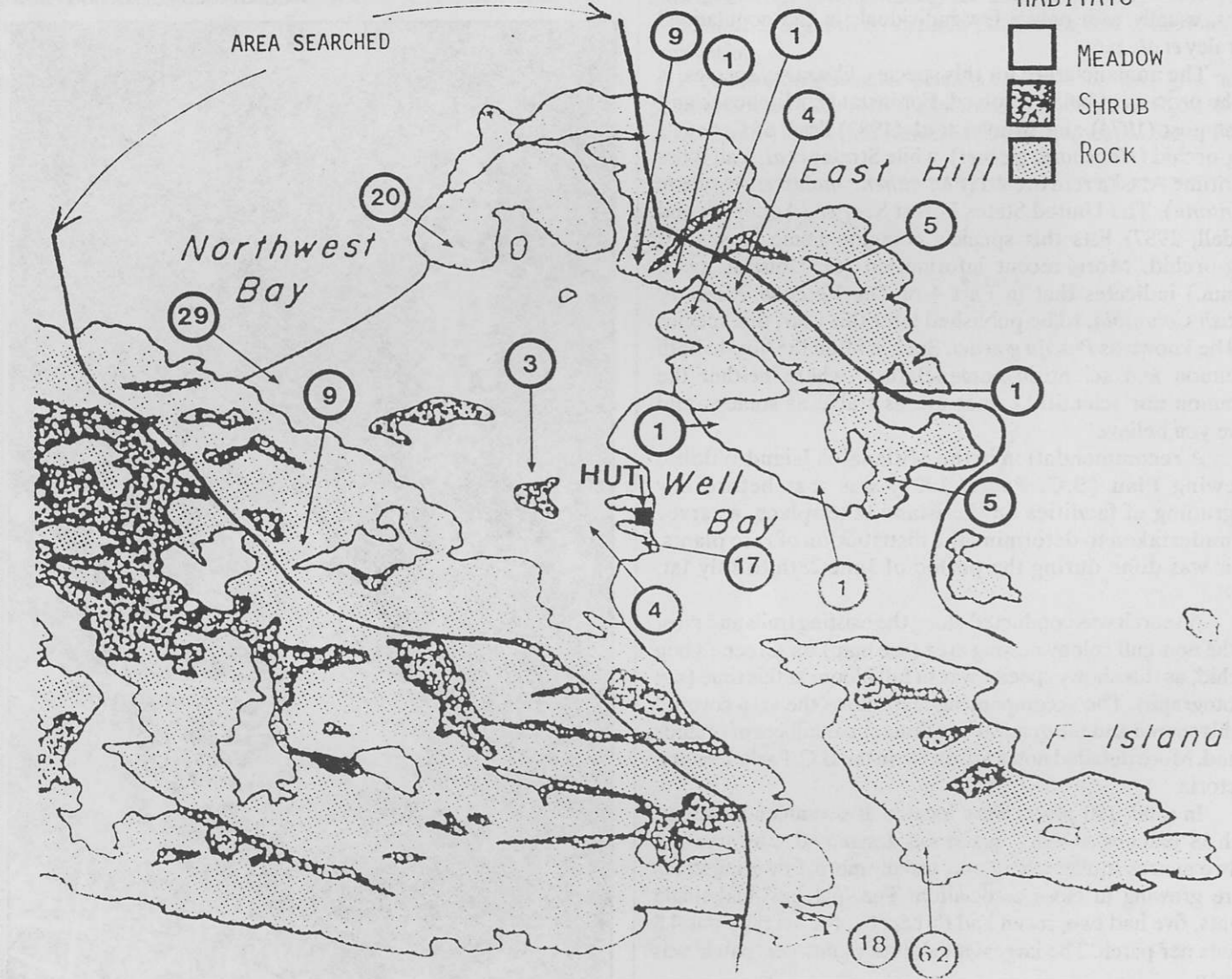
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LOCATIONS OF *Plantanthera greenei* in the Non-gull Nesting Areas of Mitlenatch Island—1991.



Locations of *Plantanthera greenei* in the Non-Gull Nesting Areas of Mitlenatch Island.

Mitlenatch Island (iii): Goldmoss Stonecrop— Notes on Its Expanding Distribution

By Bill Merilees

The presence of the European cultivar goldmoss stonecrop, (*Sedum acre*), on Mitlenatch Island, was first recorded by Rob Butler in 1973. However the arrival of this species probably goes back to the time when the Manson family of Cortes Island used the island to raise sheep and cattle as early as about 1890 (Stirling, 1963). Credence for this supposition, and the possibility the Manson's may have deliberately brought this plant to Mitlenatch, is the fact that this species is also found at the Manson's family home. At Manson's Landing, on some of the rocky islets in the lagoon, goldmoss stonecrop still persists (Fred Zwickle, pers. comm.).

During floral investigations by researchers up to 1982 (Brooke *et al.*, 1983) this species was reported as - "Rare. Very localized clumps on rock outcrops. West Hill". During my visit of June 28th to July 1st, 1991 goldmoss stonecrop was in full bloom, imparting a 'golden carpet' appearance over fairly extensive areas (photo 1). In addition, small clumps of this species were also located on 'F' Island and East Hill. This represents a considerable change from that recorded previously. The purpose of this article is to roughly document this distribution for the non-gull nesting areas on the eastern half of the island as it appeared in 1991 (see accompanying map).

More detailed field notes and photographs are on file in the B.C. Parks Library in Victoria.

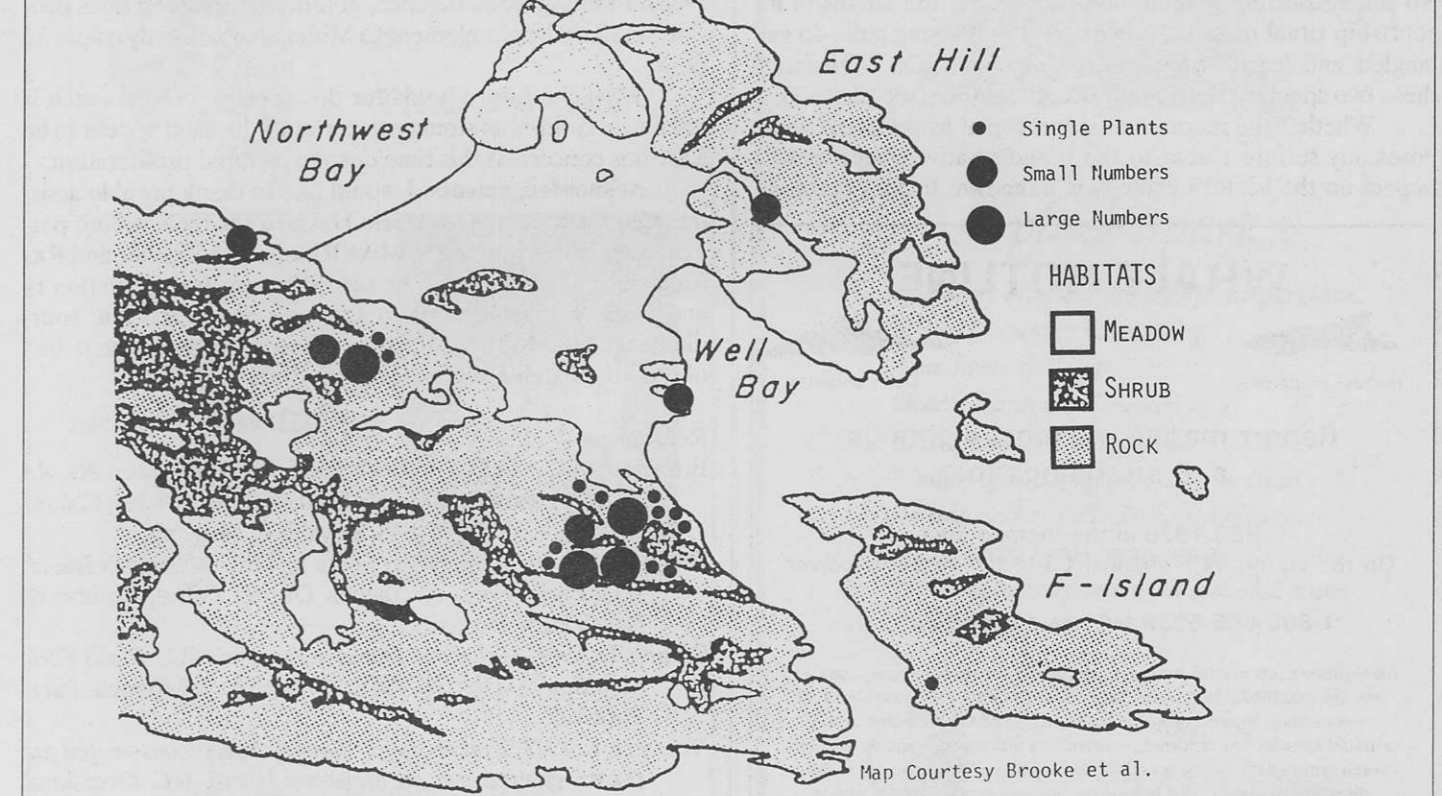
Goldmoss stonecrop (photo 2) is a fairly small species, the leafy stems seldom getting more than ten centimetres long. The leaves are fleshy and semi-clasp the stem in four, fairly tight rows. As the plants grow the older leaves wither and die but persist, while the stems take on a rather sprawling form. A number of yellow flowers are born at the stem's apex. Clumps of this species readily fragment allowing the stems to be used as nesting material in gull nests, to be blown about by high winds, or to fall or roll to new locations. Glaucous-winged gulls regularly use large amounts of plant material in their nests and frequently pull out vegetation as part of their ritualistic courtship and nest building behaviour (Vermeer, 1963). At Mitlenatch in 1991, a number of gull nests were observed with living fragments of this stonecrop among the components.

One interesting fact is that none of our native stonecrops are present on Mitlenatch. Even the broad-leaved stonecrop (*Sedum spatulifolium*), which is common around Georgia Strait, is absent.

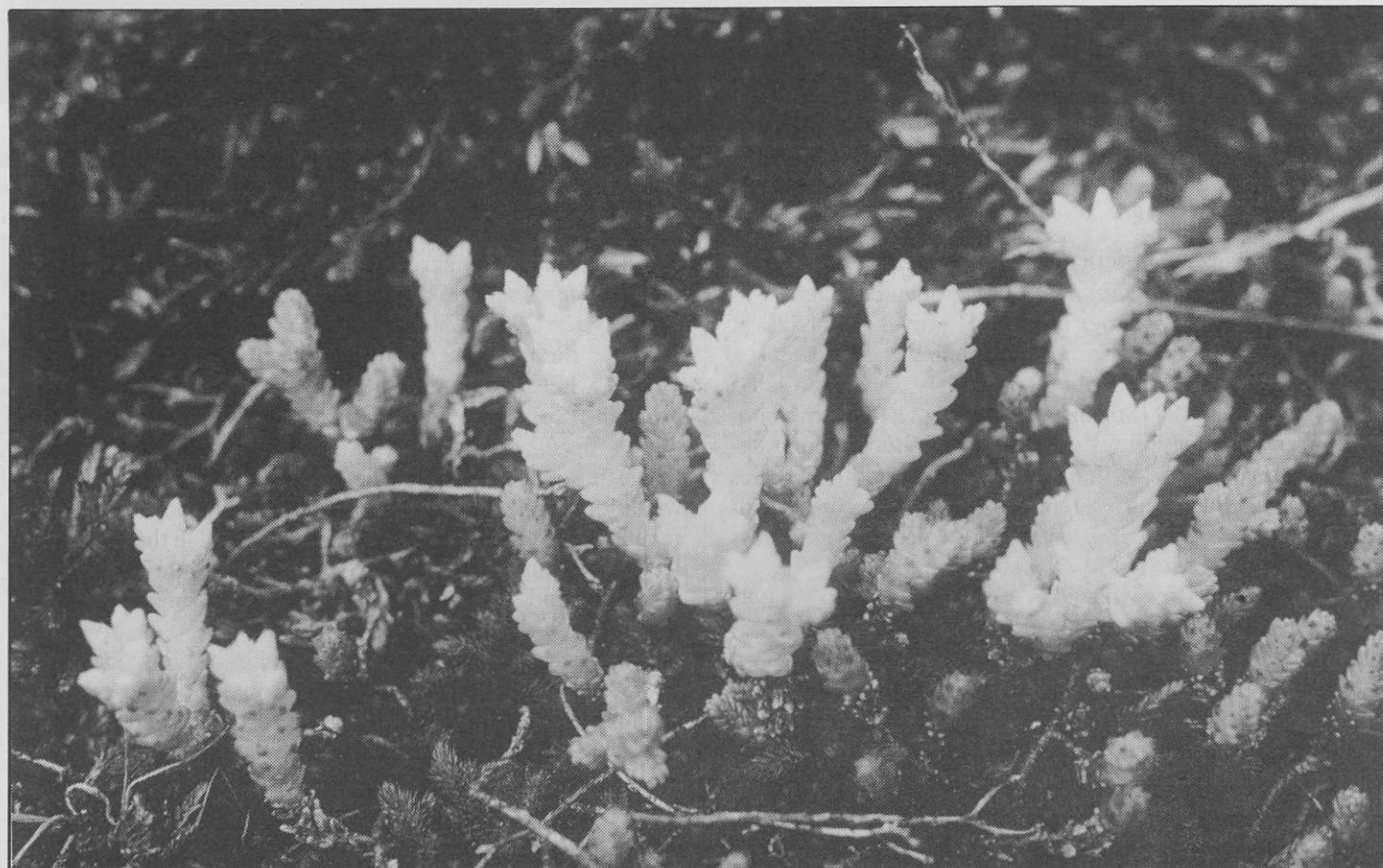
In some respects, this stonecrop has many of the characteristics of the native brittle prickly-pear cactus (*Opuntia fragilis*). Both have yellow flowers, both are capable of

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DISTRIBUTION OF GOLDMOSS STONECROP ON MITLENATCH ISLAND - 1991



Distribution of Goldmoss Stonecrop on Mitlenatch Island.



Sedum Acre, Mitlenatch Island. (Photo: William Merilees.)

reproduction through fragmentation and both have the ability to survive in the driest of locations, often crevices in bedrock. No self respecting seagull, however, would use cactus in its courtship ritual or as nesting material but young gulls do get tangled and 'carry' away cactus fragments! On Mitlenatch these two species occasionally occur together (see photo 3).

Whether the increase of stoncrop at Mitlenatch Island poses any serious threat to the island's native plants or will impact on the island's ecology is unknown. It does certainly

infringe on the island's natural ambience. This also could be said for 54 other non-native species recorded (Brooke *et al.*, 1983). In this species defence, goldmoss stoncrop does provide 'another' bright element to Mitlenatch's already colourful flora.

What the future holds for this species on Mitlenatch is unknown. Goldmoss stoncrop certainly does not appear to be a serious concern at this time despite its rapid proliferation.

Acknowledgements. I would like to thank my able assistants Stuart Merilees and Eric Hassard for their willing participation in this project; to Mike Rhody, Ted Kramer and Ray Kachaluba of B.C. Parks for providing our transportation to and from the Island; and to Lyn and Stan Paterson, coordinators of the Mitlenatch Island Warden Program on behalf of the Mitlenatch Field Naturalists' Club.

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Fewer species seen in 1992 Spring Bird Count

By David Pearce

The second annual spring "Christmas Bird Count" took place on May 9 with 117 participants. Several groups started off owling before dawn and were rewarded with 17 owls of 5 species, the highlight being an unconfirmed long-eared owl heard at Elk-Beaver Lake. The dawn started off fine but cool and overcast and then at about 9:00 a.m. it began to rain, which dampened the birds and the spirits. The rain eased off at about 11:00 a.m. but the temperature only reached 13 degrees. As a result, the total species count was down from last year's 159 to 155 but the total number of birds seen was only 1 less than last year at 25,759!

Spring arrived earlier this year and as a result many of the ocean birds and wintering ducks had already departed. Birds seen last year but were missing from the 1992 count included the red-throated loon, western grebe, horned grebe, pied-billed

grebe, trumpeter swan, ruddy duck, black scoter, Barrow's goldeneye, common goldeneye, sanderling, pectoral sandpiper, red-breasted sapsucker and American pipit. Highlights of this year's count included a northern goshawk near Butchart's Gardens, a Swainson's hawk and three sandhill cranes found at Martindale and a golden eagle near Witty's Lagoon. Other interesting counts were two American kestrels, eight semipalmated plovers, two wandering tattlers, one ruddy turnstone, four purple martins and a western meadowlark.

Highlights of this year's count included a northern goshawk near Butchart's Gardens, a Swainson's hawk and three sandhill cranes found at Martindale and a golden eagle near Witty's Lagoon.


Due to a lack of leaders, two areas were not covered on count day but figures were included in counts done on May 8 for Victoria Harbour and May 6 for the Oak Bay Islands.

The post count gathering was held at Lyndis Davies' house. She also organized refreshments, for which everyone was grateful.


David Pearce has been very active in both the Christmas and Spring Bird Count and organized and co-ordinated the Spring Bird

Count this year. David has also summarized the observations from both the Christmas and spring counts for publication in the *Victoria Naturalist*. BIRD COUNT DATA CONTINUES FOLLOWING PAGE

WHALE HOTLINE



harbour porpoise

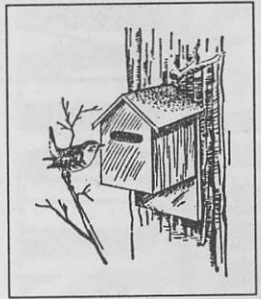


Dall's porpoise

Report marine mammal sightings and strandings to:

380-1925 in the Victoria area
 On the water: VHF channel 68 to the vessel *Sundiver*
1-800-665-5939 toll-free anywhere in B.C.

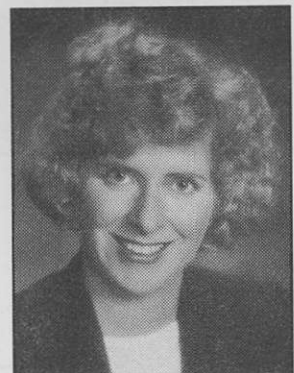
All sightings, no matter how old, are useful for research purposes and are entered into a computer data base. Records are available to all researchers. When current local sightings of killer whales or any unusual species are reported, researchers will try to respond to them. Please report date, time, location, description of the animals, number, direction of travel, and behaviour, as well as your name, phone number and address in case further information is required.



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

1991 Spring Bird Count Data

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pacific Loon											6		
Common Loon	1					2		2			1		1
Red-necked Grebe						1							
Double-crested Cormorant	2			2	2	8	10	10	62	58	45	55	10
Brandt's Cormorant						6				3		6	
Pelagic Cormorant					2	5	106			10	28	14	7
Great Blue Heron	15	3	6	5	3	18	1	4	22	1	13	1	1
Mute Swan	2		2			6	1		1		2		

Brant											24	6	
Canada Goose	55	9	17	14	17	26	15	29	45	7	5		
Wood Duck	1	3					1						
Green-winged Teal				2	3	5							
Mallard	115	12	4	63	48	53	32	2	38	19	224	1	42
Northern Pintail				3									
Blue-winged Teal				2									
Cinnamon Teal				7									

Northern Shoveler													
Gadwall				20									
American Wigeon						4					2		
Greater Scaup									8				
Lesser Scaup													
Harlequin Duck										6	42	4	1
Oldsquaw													
Surf Scoter										16		22	

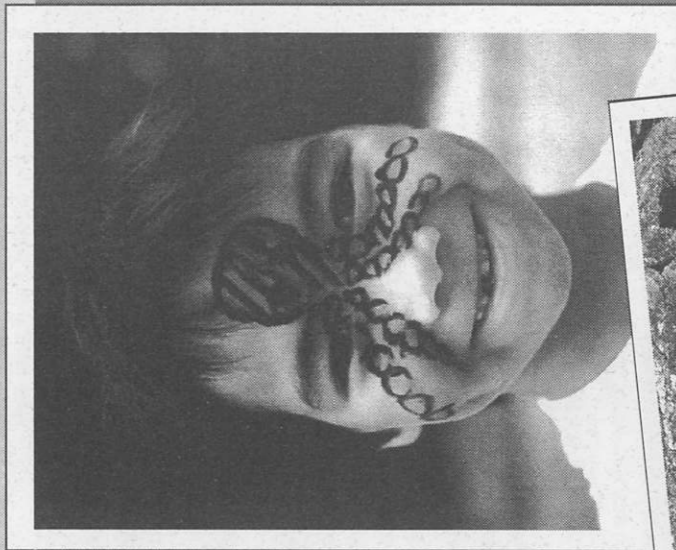
White-winged Scoter							2						
Bufflehead					1	8			3				
Hooded Merganser	1	2	16			3							
Common Merganser			10			4							
Red-breasted Merganser	2										1		
Turkey Vulture		3					2						
Osprey							1						
Bald Eagle	3		2	2	2	7	4	1		1	2	2	2

Northern Harrier													
Cooper's Hawk		1	3									1	2
Northern Goshawk	1												
Swainson's Hawk													
Red-tailed Hawk	4		1	1	1								
Golden Eagle						1							
American Kestrel					2								
Merlin													

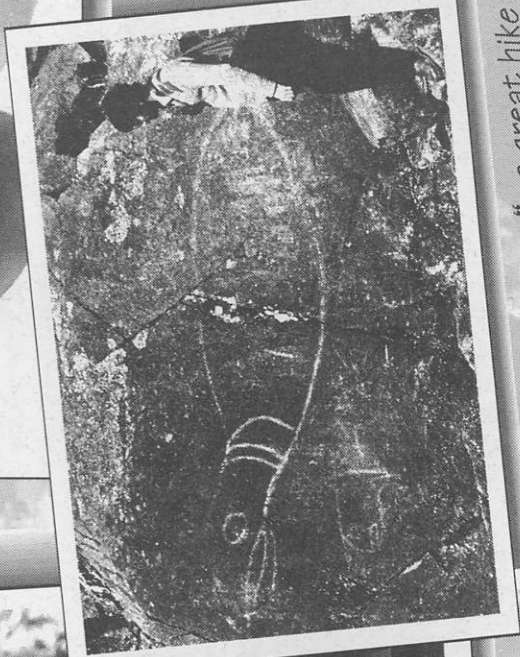
Ring-necked Pheasant	7			8	1	1	1		2			3	
Blue Grouse	2	1		3									
Ruffed Grouse		2											

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Butchart Gardens/
Northern Highlands | 5. Langford Lake | 10. Victoria Harbour |
| 2. Central Highlands | 6. Albert Head/ Triangle Mountain | 11. Beacon Hill |
| 3. Goldstream | 7. Esquimalt Lagoon/ Mill Hill | 12. Oak Bay |
| 4. Thetis Lake/ Hastings Flats | 8. Esquimalt Harbour | 13. University/ Cadboro Bay |
| | 9. Portage Inlet/ The Gorge | 14. 10 Mile Point |

"I like this octopus..."



"...a great hike to the petroglyphs!"



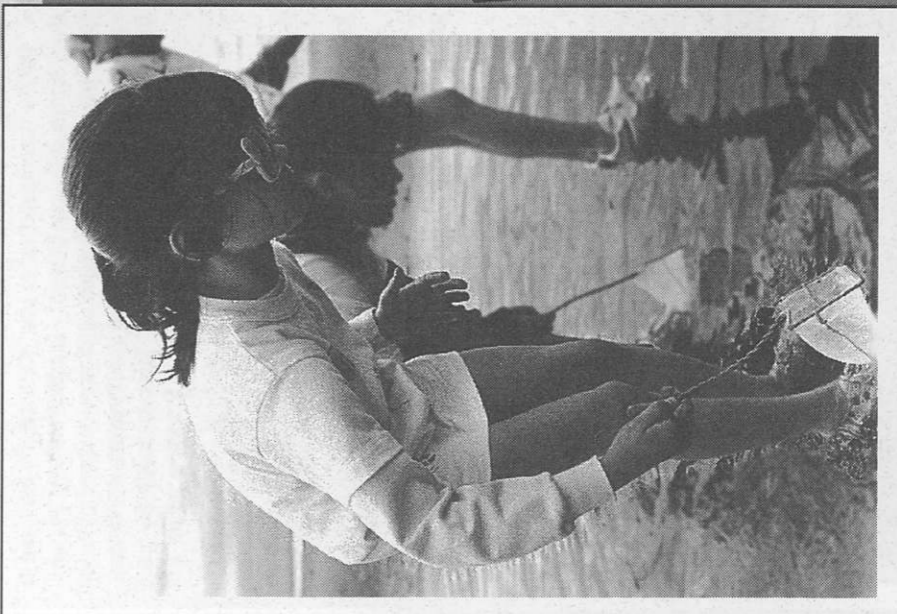
CRD Parks

SUMMER 1992

PROGRAMS

"What is a midden?"

"...I see a sculpin!"



Capital Regional District Parks
 490 Atkins Avenue
 Victoria, B.C. V9B 2Z8
 (604) 478-3344 or 474-PARK
 (recorded information)





CRD Parks

SUMMER PROGRAMS

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Nature Walks

Join CRD Park Naturalists for explorations that uncover the fascinating in CRD Parks. From a forest walk to a seashore snoop, from a look at native petroglyphs to a search for bullfrogs, these nature walks offer something for everyone.

Walks are held throughout the week and are free. For information on topics, dates, times and meeting places, pick up a copy of the monthly program flyer at CRD offices, community recreation centres and libraries, or phone 474-PARK.

Sunrise Seekers — Canoeing

Canoe through the early morning mist searching for elusive birds and other lakeshore life on Elk/Beaver Lake, in Saanich.

<i>Saturdays</i>	
July 4 to Aug 1	6:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Aug 8 to Sept 5	6:30 - 9:00 a.m.
Sept 12 to Sept 26	7:00 - 9:30 a.m.

<i>Sundays</i>	
July 12	6:00 - 8:30 a.m.
August 2	6:00 - 10:00 a.m.
September 6	6:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Fee: \$6 per adult or teen, \$3 per child 12 and under. All equipment provided.

*Note: special, 4-hour canoe programs include a stop on one of the islands. Fee is \$8 per adult or teen, and \$4 per child 12 and under.

Fee: \$5 per adult/child pair and \$3 for additional child (maximum 2 children per adult). Note: This is a great chance for those with both older and younger children. Enrol your older kids in Young Nature Explorers and then you can explore too with your younger kids in Parents and Tots Nature Adventures.

Adventures in Archaeology

A special 4-day archaeology day camp where kids (10-13 years) with a curiosity for things of the past can get some hands-on experience. Find out what an archaeologist really does!

July 28 - 31 (Tues-Fri) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (in Metchosin)
Fee: \$25 per child. We will attempt to car-pool. Limited enrolment.

Big People, Little People

This is a playful 2-hour program for children (5-7 years) and their adults, exploring nature *together* through games, stories, walks and crafts. Test your forest listening skills; see how quietly you can move over dry twigs; find out what's amiss on the "un-nature trail." Parents, be prepared to play in this one too!

Program I
Friday, August 7 1 to 3 p.m.
Francis/King Regional Park (in Saanich)

Program II
Friday, August 21 1 to 3 p.m.
Coles Bay Regional Park (in North Saanich)
Fee: \$5 per adult/child pair, and \$3 for each additional child

Junior Naturalist

In this special 4-day conservation day camp, kids (10-13 years) with a keen interest in nature can learn about local wildlife and their habitats. One program only. We will attempt to carpool. Enrolment limited. Fee: \$25 per child.

Day One & Two (Aug 11-12) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Francis/King Regional Park (in Saanich)
Day Three (Aug 13) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (in Metchosin)
Day Four (Aug 14) 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (in Saanich)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Spring into Summer

To begin our CRD Parks season and to celebrate the first day of summer, "spring into summer" on this day of fun for everyone.

- travelling nature house with live displays (snakes, slugs, frogs)
- facepainting
- special guest entertainers "under the big top" tent
- refreshments
- prizes
- papermaking
- children's games
- nature walks

Sunday, June 21 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (in Saanich)

Saanich Strawberry Festival

Join CRD Parks staff as we help Saanich celebrate its annual Strawberry Festival. Free shuttle bus starting at noon from Royal Oak Shopping Centre.

- pancake breakfast
- special demonstrations
- petting zoo
- entertainment
- CRD Parks nature walks, exhibits, crafts & games
- pony rides
- food concessions

Sunday, July 5 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (at Beaver Lake)

Slug Fest

Last year's Slug Fest was such a success we decided to do it again. Find out about a slug's built-in water slide. Kiss a slug. Bring your own garden slug and enter it in the competition for biggest and fastest slugs. This is a day in celebration of this hitherto much maligned mollusc. People who attended last year raved about the slugs and the entire event. Come and see what the fuss is about.

- slug walks
- slug races
- slug talks
- travelling nature house
- games, prizes

Sunday, July 19 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Devonian Regional Park (in Metchosin)

Fabulous Frog Festival

This is the special event you've been waiting for: a whole day devoted to frogs. Find out about the great bullfrog invasion at Elk/Beaver Lake. Learn about frogs, their loves, foes, and struggles. Bring your family, your friends, and your favourite frog cartoons and jokes. Be prepared to have some froggy fun!

- travelling nature house with live displays (snakes, slugs, and of course, frogs)
- froggy games
- froggy nature walks
- froggy crafts for kids
- froggy facepainting
- froggy fables and special guests
- froggy prizes
- refreshments

Sunday, August 9 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (at Beaver Lake)

Snake Day

Snakes, snakes, and more snakes...this is one our most popular programs. Some come for the love of snakes and some out of morbid fascination. An entertaining program — you're sure to learn something you don't know! Drop in anytime. Special snake shows at 1 and 3 p.m.

- local snakes
- snakes to touch (really!)
- snake crafts
- guest snakes (exotic)
- snake lore

Thursday, August 27 12 to 4 p.m.
Witty's Lagoon Regional Park (in Metchosin)

Talk to the Animals

When is a squirrel angry? Can you call like a crow? Or an owl? Or a quail? What about human communication (we're animals too)? Lots of fun for the whole family, so be prepared to laugh and learn.

- travelling nature house
- games, races, prizes
- animal call contests
- nature walks

Sunday, August 30 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Coles Bay Regional Park (in North Saanich)

WORKSHOPS

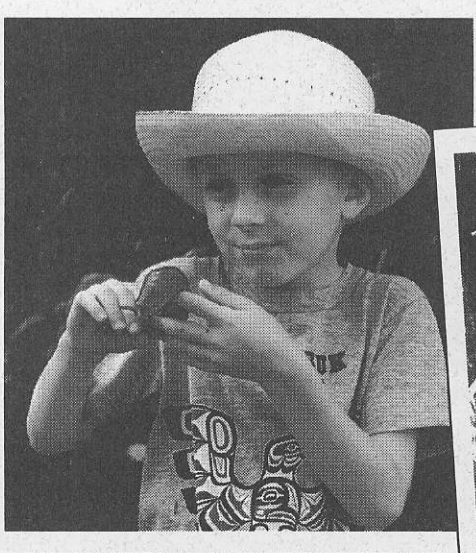
Sharing Nature with Children

Do you want to rediscover your childhood and learn how to share wonder with your children? Naturalists will lead you on a special day of games, walks, and explorations designed to deepen your experience of nature and share this experience with children. This workshop is suitable for parents, teachers, community group leaders, and any other adults who want to explore nature with children.

Sunday, September 13 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Francis/King Regional Park (in Saanich)
Fee: \$12 per person. Pre-registration required. Limited enrolment.

"...a cool place!"

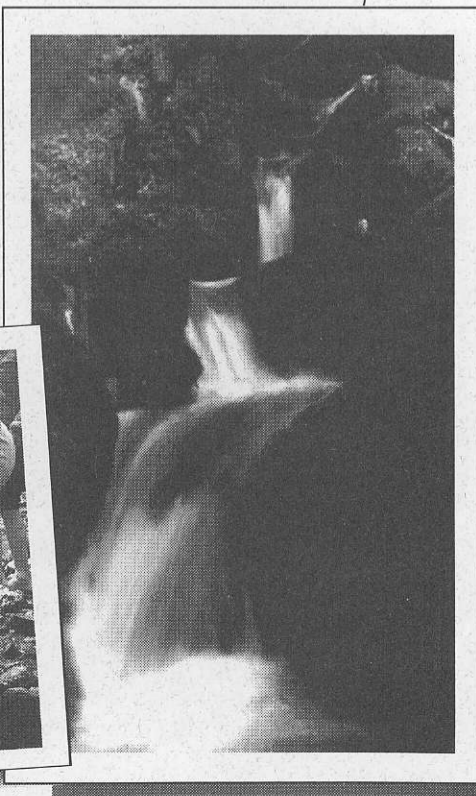
"...off to the slug races!"



"...the naturalist knew some neat stuff!"



"...tidepools are my favourite..."



Dolphin and Whale Research and Education Trips

Oceanic Society Expeditions is offering the chance for individuals to participate in an ongoing 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 several hundred individuals and are one of the most acrobatic and animated species of dolphin, often engaging in multiple mid-air leaps, flips and somersaults. The project also involves studying the behaviour and feeding ecology of blue whales and humpback whales. Excellent opportunities for photography and video. Seven-day trips will be conducted during August, September and October, 1992. People are needed to help with all aspects of the research and no prior experience is needed. 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.

Oceanic Society Expeditions is a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation and education relating to the marine environment. For further information contact the Oceanic Society Expeditions, Fort Mason Centre, Building E, San Francisco, CA 94123, USA or telephone them (415) 441-1106 (ask for Mary Jane Schramm) or Mary Black at (415) 372-0671.

Order of British Columbia Awarded to VHNS member

Wayne Campbell was one of thirteen British Columbians, and four from Victoria, who recently received the Order of British Columbia this year. Wayne is curator of ornithology at the Royal B.C. Museum and senior author of the recently published *Birds of British Columbia (Volume I)*. He is also an active member of the Victoria Natural History Society.

In making the announcement, Premier Mike Harcourt said "The people chosen for this honour have made remarkable contributions in fields including community service, the arts, business, culture, research, sports and the professions." The recipients were recommended to the government by an independent advisory council, chaired by B.C. Chief Justice Allan McEachern, and the appointments were then made by an order-in-council.

	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
	1				2		2		11
	3	5			1		4		20
									1
	6	8	5	6	15	1	1	500	806
					6		2	40	63
	3	1			6		3	200	385
			7	2	5	4	8	4	123
			1						15
									30
			1	8	36	51	75	2	412
				1	1	20			27
			3					30	43
2	8	56	15	32	119	22	4		911
						4			3
		5				7			19
			4		1				5
						3			23
							3	4	13
									8
		2							2
		12			4			8	77
		4							4
15	16			152			12	1	234
									10
	8								40
	1			20			6	1	24
						1	1		14
	4			7			3		17
									5
									1
2				1	1	4	3		39
									3
							3		3
									7
									1
							1		1
						5	3		20
									1
									2
									1
						1			39
									6
									3
			1	3	1	7	4		
									1

- 15. Gordon Head/ Mount Douglas
- 16. Swan Lake/ Cedar Hill
- 17. Blenkinsop/ Panama Flats
- 18. Elk Lake Cordova Bay
- 19. Prospect Lake/ Quick's Bottom
- 20. Martindale/ Bear Hill
- 21-23. Oak Bay/Islands.

GROUP NATURE PROGRAMS

CRD Parks designs nature walks and special programs for community groups such as walking clubs, seniors or other special interest organizations. If you and your group would like to spend an hour or two exploring a CRD Park, give us a call.

CRD Parks also offers special programs and facilities for people with disabilities. In addition, some of our interpretive programs are wheelchair accessible. For a copy of the CRD Parks ACCESS Guide and for information on special nature programs, call 478-3344.

FACILITIES RESERVATIONS

Group picnic sites in some CRD Parks are available for reservation at a nominal fee. Booking of these sites requires a permit. For more information contact CRD Parks at 478-3344.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CRD PARKS?

Dial 474-PARK (474-7275) for 24-hour access to details on nature house hours, nature programs and natural history sightings.

SUMMER NATURE HOUSE HOURS

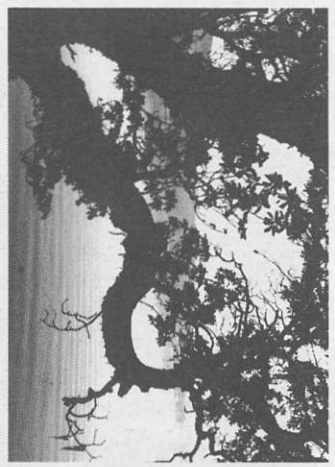
Friendly CRD Parks staff and volunteer naturalists await your visit to the Nature House at Francis/King Regional Park. See, touch and smell live exhibits; view the interpretive displays; talk to a naturalist.

Francis/King Regional Park 1710 Munn Road in Saanich open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wed to Sun and holiday Mondays (June 28 to Sept 7)

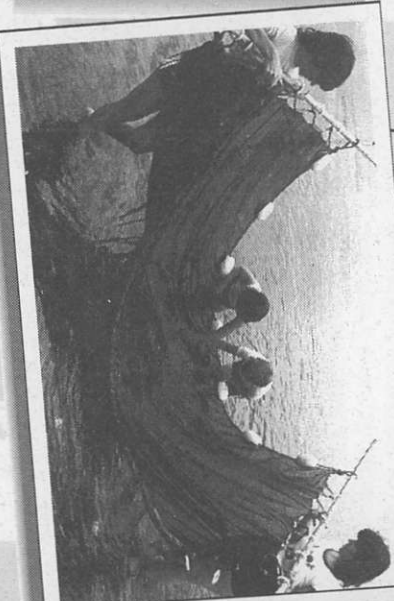
Note: The Witty's Lagoon Nature House in Metchosin is temporarily closed. The 40-year-old log house needs repairs and an assessment will be carried out this year.

REGISTRATION FEES

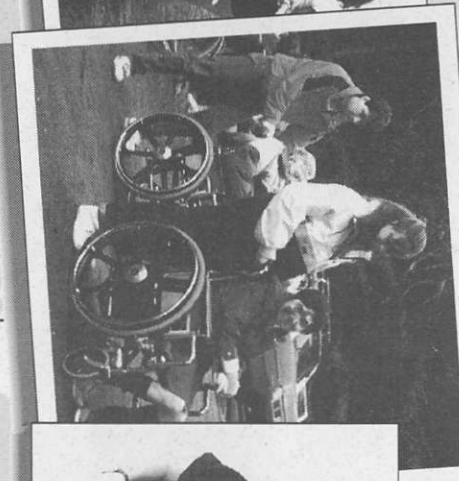
Programs with a fee require pre-registration. Forms are available at CRD's main office (524 Yates St.), CRD Parks (490 Atkins Ave.), Francis/King Nature House, and Panorama Leisure Centre (North Saanich). Make cheques payable to: CRD Parks Nature Programs Mail/bring to: CRD Parks, 490 Atkins Ave., Victoria, B.C. V9B 2Z8



"...some trees look spooky"



"I didn't know there was so much stuff!"



"...everyone had a great time!"



"...the naturalists were crazy — but fun!"

1991 Spring Bird Count Data

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
California Quail	46	49		12	60	46	7		7	7	1	7	
Virginia Rail				1									
Sora													
American Coot													
Sandhill Crane													
Black-bellied Plover												10	
Semipalmated Plover						7							
Killdeer	22			8	1	3	2		3	2			7
Black Oystercatcher						4		2	2	4	1	3	2
Greater Yellowlegs					1								
Lesser Yellowlegs				1									
Wandering Tattler										1		1	
Spotted Sandpiper				3	1	3							
Whimbrel												22	1
Ruddy Turnstone													
Western Sandpiper				2		56							
Least Sandpiper				3		40							
Dunlin						35					1	27	
Short-billed Dowitcher				3		3						12	
Long-billed Dowitcher				1		1					35		
Common Snipe						1							
Mew Gull						6							
California Gull											1		
Western Gull						5				1			
Glaucous-winged Gull	163	34	11	28	50	172	55	146	112	120	348	207	37
Common Murre						1		1			2		
Pigeon Guillemot						4		5		2		6	
Marbled Murrelet						11		10		2		2	
Rhinoceros Auklet								31		11	18	13	
Rock Dove	1				3	2	29	4	43	19	54	2	10
Band-tailed Pigeon	10			12	16	13	39						6
Mourning Dove	1												
Western Screech-Owl	1												
Great Horned Owl			2		1	1							
Barred Owl	1												
Long-eared Owl													
Northern Saw-whet Owl				1									
Vaux's Swift													
Anna's Hummingbird					2	1							3
Rufous Hummingbird	18	22	12	3	28	21	11		2				
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	3		1	7	1		1				
Downy Woodpecker	2	2	2	2	1	2	4		1		2	2	1
Hairy Woodpecker	2		1		1	1							

- 1. Butchart Gardens/ Northern Highlands
- 2. Central Highlands
- 3. Goldstream
- 4. Thetis Lake/ Hastings Flats

- 5. Langford Lake
- 6. Albert Head/ Triangle Mountain
- 7. Esquimalt Lagoon/ Mill Hill
- 8. Esquimalt Harbour
- 9. Portage Inlet/ The Gorge

- 10. Victoria Harbour
- 11. Beacon Hill
- 12. Oak Bay
- 13. University/ Cadboro Bay
- 14. 10 Mile Point

	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
	4	15	7	14	14	85	8		389
						2			3
						2			2
					2				2
							3		3
							20		30
								1	8
				4		4	6	1	63
	4							5	27
				1					2
									1
									2
							5		12
	5								28
								1	1
							8	200	266
									72
									113
								2	49
							29		37
									3
	1		2						8
								1	1
									6
	25	70	132	70	64	77	11	3,000	4,932
								22	26
	13	1					9	30	70
	2							6	33
	8								81
			47		5	8	27		254
		15			7	23			141
								2	3
									2
									10
									3
									1
									1
									3
	3								10
	2	5		8	9	14	4	2	161
									20
									32
									9

- 15. Gordon Head/ Mount Douglas
- 16. Swan Lake/ Cedar Hill
- 17. Blenkinsop/ Panama Flats

- 18. Elk Lake Cordova Bay
- 19. Prospect Lake/ Quick's Bottom
- 20. Martindale/ Bear Hill
- 21-23. Oak Bay/Islands.

Welcome to New Members

- April 4 Marion Thompson of Carolwood Drive: studies birds, flowers, and reptiles.
- April 5 Tom Romanuck, of Iris Avenue: is a birdwatcher.
- April 20 Lori Hryniuk, of View Street: is a student in Botany at the University of Victoria.
- April 20 Marilyn Hartley and family, of Belmont Avenue.
- April 22 Jack Livesey and Mary Thornbury, of Burdett Avenue: are an artist and a retired art teacher.
- April 22 Marilyn Nash, of Burdett Avenue: is a new birdwatcher.
- April 23 Martha Burd, of Duke Road: enjoys birds and photography.
- April 28 Jim and Ruby Traill, of Montreal Street: like wildflowers and birds.
- May 2 Mrs. Louise Bryan, of Rithet Street: studies all nature, flora and fauna.
- May 4 Eileen Stephenson, of Bowker Avenue: enjoys hiking and is a novice birdwatcher.
- May 5 Marie Baker, of Pendergast Street: is active in conservation and ecology issues.
- May 7 Syd Cannings, of Arbutus Road: is also active in conservation and ecological issues.
- May 10 Roy Oram, from Pender Island: is a birdwatcher and enjoys recording bird songs and calls.
- May 31 Brian and Martine Emmett, of Palmer Road: are interested in natural history and enjoy hiking and kayaking.

1991 Spring Bird Count Data

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Northern Flicker	10	19	4	6	5	10	5		3				
Pileated Woodpecker	3	3	7	4	1		2						
Olive-sided Flycatcher	5	11			5					1			
Western Wood-Pewee								2					
Willow Flycatcher		1											
Hammond's Flycatcher	2	6		14									
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	11	26	17	30	14	5	2						
Eurasian Skylark	5												

Purple Martin								4					
Tree Swallow	1			20	2	4							
Violet-green Swallow	207	22	50	149	243	194	36		77		64	10	6
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			1		3								2
Cliff Swallow	1			20									
Barn Swallow	112	2		70	26	140	7		65	12	5	3	12
Steller's Jay	1	11	16	5	3	1							
Northwestern Crow	101	32	28	42	70	84	66	16	102	96	167	93	51

Common Raven	19	57	5	2	7	8	3		3		3		
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	35	19	36	16	35	47	29		17	2	6	10	3
Bushtit	11	6		18	27	9	13		58	20	11	1	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	4	4	14	11	7	2		4				
Brown Creeper	3	2	8	6	3	1	2		1	1	5		
Bewick's Wren	13	17		10	18	9	14		15	8	4	11	13
House Wren	1	16		4	1	3	1						
Winter Wren	7	12	29	13	8	10	5		4	1	1		

Marsh Wren	3			2									
American Dipper			2										
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	20	16	54		7	8						
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					1								1
Townsend's Solitaire					2								
Swainson's Thrush	2	3				1	1						
Hermit Thrush					7								
American Robin	218	57	46	105	145	172	75	1	85	32	58	47	85

Varied Thrush		2	3		2	1							
Cedar Waxwing				1									
European Starling	131	9	27	45	54	98	59	10	248	140	342	45	58
Solitary Vireo		8	1	5		2							
Hutton's Vireo						3							
Warbling Vireo	7	17	2	1	2								
Red-eyed Vireo				1									
Orange-crowned Warbler	85	53	50	26	70	41	32		12	3	2	8	1

Yellow Warbler	1	7		2	17	10	5		4	1	2	5	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	11		11	4	7	1				1	1	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	3	13		14	2		2						

- 1. Butchart Gardens/ Northern Highlands
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- 5. Langford Lake
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- 8. Esquimalt Harbour
- 9. Portage Inlet/ The Gorge

- 10. Victoria Harbour
- 11. Beacon Hill
- 12. Oak Bay
- 13. University/ Cadboro Bay
- 14. 10 Mile Point

	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
		2	2		5	10		1	82
			1		3	3			27
		9			1	3			35
									2
						1			2
	1					1			24
	7			7		23	1		143
							7		12
									4
		2	20	2	71	1	8		131
		46	176	44	298	25	29	10	1,686
	1	12	2	2		13	2		38
							1		22
	2	6	117	23	27	39	21	4	693
									37
	37	26	152	46	54	56	140		1,459
									21
					2	14			2
	6			4	9	10	3		153
					3				5
									2
							2		9
									7
	53	92	139	83	95	131	40		1,759
								1	9
			12	3			3		19
	23	81	288	70	81	104	200		2,113
	2			1		10			29
									3
									29
			1						2
	6	10	12	15	3	42	3		474
									87
		2	3	19		7	2		87
	1	8		9	2	3			60
						8			42

- 15. Gordon Head/ Mount Douglas
- 16. Swan Lake/ Cedar Hill
- 17. Blenkinsop/ Panama Flats

- 18. Elk Lake Cordova Bay
- 19. Prospect Lake/ Quick's Bottom
- 20. Martindale/ Bear Hill
- 21-23. Oak Bay/Islands.

Garry Oak Meadows

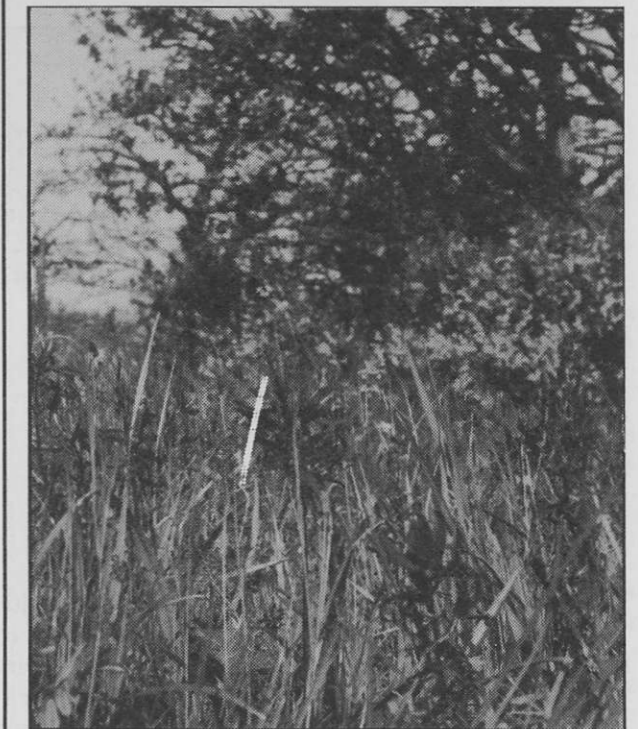
By Joyce Lee

Garry oaks (*Quercus carnyana*), with their associated flowers, ferns, grasses, shrubs, lichens and mosses, are fast moving towards extinction. In fact, this ecosystem is the most threatened in Canada. Ninety-five percent of its habitat has been lost and the remaining five percent is threatened by urbanization.

Recently, 22 concerned individuals met to plot the course of a new group, the Garry Oak Preservation Society, specifically devoted to conservation and education of Garry oak meadows. And at the annual general meeting of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalist held this past May, a resolution was passed to promote the protection of the Garry oak. Naturalists, oak lovers, developers and just plain folk were galvanized into action following the major destruction of oaks for the Mackenzie interchange.

The Garry oak is Victoria's tree, found nowhere else in Canada and over 150 associated plants (including 40 rare species) are found in the meadows in association with the tree. The ecosystem is not well understood and unfortunately is poorly represented in provincial and federal park systems. Further south, the species is found growing as an oak forest but at the northern extent of its range, in the Saanich Peninsula, they are found in isolated pockets.

- CONTINUED PAGE 19



Camus (Camassia quamash) in bloom in the Garry Oak meadows of Beacon Hill Park.

1991 Spring Bird Count Data

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Townsend's Warbler	18	37	48	29	3	4							
MacGillivray's Warbler	6	13	3	2	11	10							
Common Yellowthroat	15	4		8	6	9	5		1				
Wilson's Warbler	2	22	11	15	9	6	1		6	3		5	
Black-headed Grosbeak	1											1	
Rufous-sided Towhee	40	54	4	21	38	17	19		13	2		77	26
Chipping Sparrow	14	1		12	10	1	4		2				
Savannah Sparrow	197			1		12	11		5	7	1	8	1

Fox Sparrow													
Song Sparrow	30	23	16	16	59	38	8		8	12	4	7	3
Lincoln's Sparrow				1									
Golden-crowned Sparrow		5			1	1	2			1	3	8	10
White-crowned Sparrow	13	23		24	7	19	6		4	2		2	
Dark-eyed Junco	20	10	12	21	9	13	22						3
Red-winged Blackbird	55	11		13	61	8	42	2	5	2		10	3
Western Meadowlark	1												

Brewer's Blackbird	18			4	6	18	10						4
Brown-headed Cowbird	12	16	2	17	23	6	8		10	20	3	5	10
Western Tanager	1		1	7	2								
Purple Finch	15	22	5	14	10	14	2		12	1			2
House Finch	14			9	7	5	23		72	5	11	12	22
Red Crossbill													
Pine Siskin	46	32	8	30	28	24	6		13	2			2
American Goldfinch	21	12	1	5	20	40	6		12	1		2	

Evening Grosbeak		32	4	3		3							
House Sparrow	16			12	12	4	3		125	64	65	7	23

TOTAL BIRDS	2,058	927	559	1,186	1,348	1,737	769	386	1,340	729	1,616	807	476
TOTAL SPECIES	77	59	47	78	69	90	58	19	46	44	43	47	39

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FOR THE JUNIOR NATURALIST

A Life Transformed

By Peggy Price

I am sitting quietly on a mossy maple branch, waiting for my wings to dry. I have just experienced a change beyond my understanding. Some might even call it a miracle.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Papi. I am a swallowtail butterfly. I was called "Papi" to honour an early ancestor called Papilio. My parents wanted to keep this name in the family, for it has been there for generations. Our family has been

an inspiration for music and art for thousands of years, for we are very beautiful.

As I wait, my thoughts drift back to my beginnings. My earliest memory is of being confined inside a tiny green egg, underneath a leaf. I wiggled and twisted, for I felt very cramped and uncomfortable. Then the wall of my prison split, and I was free.

Looking around, I saw I was in a world of delicious, green leaves. I felt very hungry. The strain of breaking free had created an enormous appetite within me and the sight of all those delectable leaves immediately made my mouth water. I noticed my empty egg shell beside me—it looked quite tasty too, so for starters I munched on it to get my jaws operating.

For the next few weeks I ate constantly. I never tired of the delicious green maple leaves which were abundant on the

—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

David Douglas, on his visit to western North America, commented on our landscape as the 'perfect Eden'. And so it was for human activities - but not for the oak community. The Garry oak is now under attack by predators such as the aphid-like phylloxera and the larvae of the jumping gall wasp. And then there is urban encroachment.



Garry Oak.

The Garry Oak Meadow Society up hopes to seek protection for our oaks through persuasion, education and legislation. Several task groups were formed for the initial support and planning, including: rescue and restoration; growing; research (mapping and inventory); and, education (promoting the appreciation and understanding of oak ecosystems).

The society is in the process of being registered. As naturalists, we know and love our special places such as the Garry oak meadows; we need to promote and encourage their preservation. On July 7th at 7:15 p.m. the Education Task Group will meet at the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary. The group will discuss "Meadow Move '92", in which plants and sod from Garry oak meadows that are slated for development are transferred to new sites.

Those interested in assisting "Meadow Move '92," contributing to the Society or participating in the task groups, should contact Willie MacGillivray at Swan Lake (479-0211) or Joyce Lee (386-3785). Memberships are \$20.

Joyce Lee is a founding member of the Garry Oak Meadow Society and member of the VNHS. She and her family are avid naturalists and lovers of the outdoors.

The pen and ink drawing of the Garry oak was done by Briony Penn, a lecturer at the University of Victoria and a founding member of the Garry Oak Meadow Society.

	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL
	6	1		2		9			157
		1							46
		2	15	10	1	27	6		109
	9	1	5	5		6	2		108
				3					5
	17	41	18	39	19	53	7		505
				8		9			61
		27	5	44	1		123	6	449

			2		2				4
	5	10	20	36	16	40	10		361
									1
		5	5	3	2	1	2		49
		4	3	3	2	9	8	1	130
		2	2	6		24			144
		8	83	27	20	54	12	2	418
									1

				9		1	14		84
	6		3	20	6	45	6	4	222
			2	1		4			18
	6	9			11	39	12	2	176
	10	32	31	20	42	21	8		344
						3			3
	21	14	11	24	26	94	11		392
	9	28	1	53	2	39	30	2	284

			38	25		5			110
	18	8	142	14	47	3	20		583

	376	739	1,686	912	1,337	1,598	1,024	4,149	25,759
	43	55	50	54	65	82	63	34	155

- 15. Gordon Head/ Mount Douglas
- 16. Swan Lake/ Cedar Hill
- 17. Blenkinsop/ Panama Flats

- 18. Elk Lake Cordova Bay
- 19. Prospect Lake/ Quick's Bottom
- 20. Martindale/ Bear Hill
- 21-23. Oak Bay/Islands.

tree where I was hatched. I grew larger and larger. In time my skin could no longer contain my expansion and it split painlessly down my back. Unharmed, I crawled out and found that a newer and larger skin had developed underneath my old one.

This strange event was repeated as I continued on my eating binge. Soon I was a handsome green caterpillar. I noticed that I had become heavier in front and large yellow and black markings had developed near my third segment. These were my false eyespots. The black pupils had blue shadings which made them very realistic. I had been provided with these warning signs to scare off predators. If I turned suddenly, they even scared me!

My hunger continued. I could never satisfy my appetite and was always in search of food. This pattern continued for several months. I consumed massive amounts of greenery - munching from morning until night.

—CONTINUED FOLLOWING PAGE

FOR THE JUNIOR NATURALIST --

— CONTINUED FROM PRECEDING PAGE

Early one day I awoke. For some strange reason, I was not hungry. I wondered if I was ill. I had a strong sense that my life was about to change. I could not understand what I was being directed to do but knew only that I must do it.

I drew a silk like thread from my body. Finding a quiet branch where I would be safe from predators, I glued the end of the thread to the bark of the maple tree. I then created a silken girdle, twisting and turning to attach it securely around my body. I wrapped it several times around my neck, making sure the loops were tight.

I lay back, worn out by this strange activity. Suddenly my skin split again. This time there was no new caterpillar skin underneath but instead, a strange material which hardened as

it dried. I wiggled uncomfortably to shed my old skin. I felt strange changes within myself. It was almost as though my inner being were dissolving. I rested, for I felt an outside power was in control of my transformation. I was at peace, and slept.

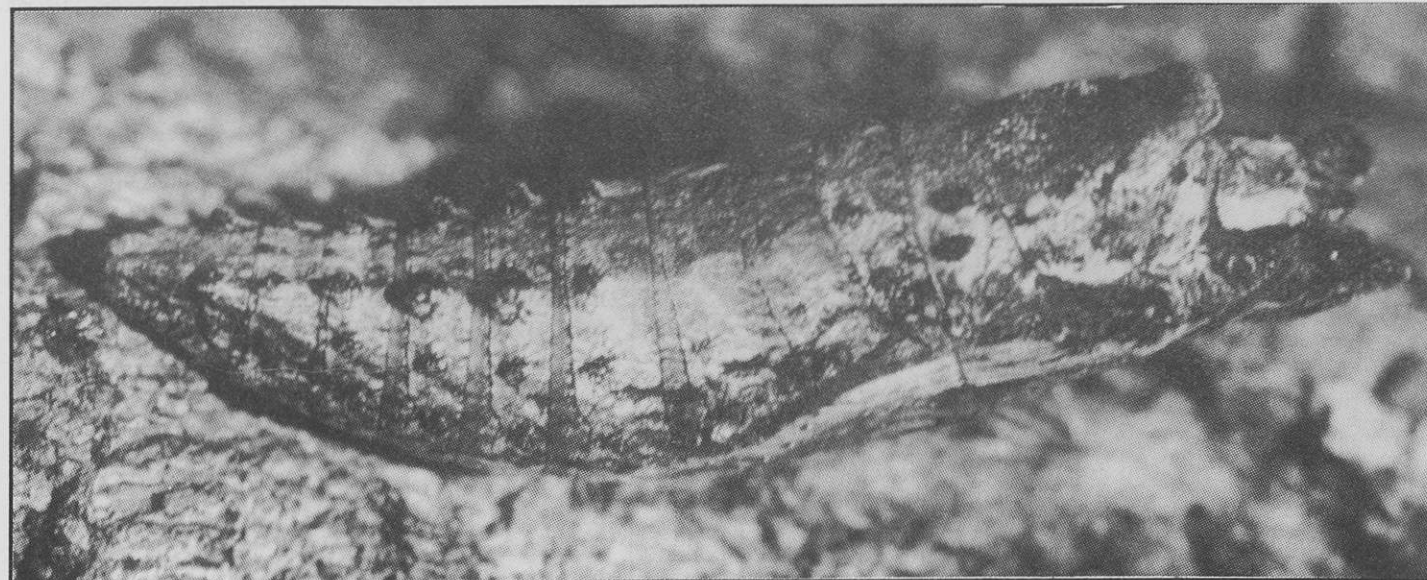
What happened in the next few months could be looked upon as incredible. My very body cells dissolved and rearranged themselves, as though guided by a master plan. My former self, the ever hungry green caterpillar, no longer existed. My cells, without any help from me, had quietly brought about almost unbelievable changes within my being.

I woke to find that I was again confined within a case which was too small for my expanding body. Twisting and writhing, I felt it split and the cool air rushed in.

How marvellous fresh air felt! I struggled to be free. The warmth from the sun increased

my circulation. My body was fat and heavy, but became smaller as I pumped some of my surplus body fluids into my new wings, which had been folded and crumpled. As they expanded, they

What happened in the next few months could be looked upon as incredible. My very body cells dissolved and rearranged themselves, as though guided by a master plan. My former self, the ever hungry green caterpillar, no longer existed.



Chrysalis



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began to flatten out and stiffen. What a beautiful sight they were - colours and patterns in a design that would bring joy to an artist's heart! The iridescence as the sun caught the overlapping textures dazzled me. I flapped them up and down several times, feeling them strengthen with the exercise. I felt I must fly. Could this be true? Me, the creepy crawly caterpillar, could I float over flowers and flutter through the trees?

I flapped my glorious wings again and found myself drifting in the sunshine over a sea of flowers. A beautiful rosy bloom attracted me. I settled down upon it and inhaled its fragrance with joy. Unrolling my tongue, I was happy to discover that it operated like a drinking straw. I was able to suck up the delicious nectar from the base of the blossom with ease.

I felt refreshed by this ambrosia and continued floating above the flowers, stopping frequently to savour the nectar from the many varieties of blooms I discovered along the way.

Satiated, I drifted down to a dahlia, and rested. I slept briefly, but was awakened by human voices.

"Say Harry, look at this beauty" said one, aiming a strange black object in my direction. I could see myself reflected in the round window at the centre of the black box. I sat quietly, hoping they would go away. The second human came over with a similar black object.

"Marvellous," he agreed - "...it's a western tiger swallow-tail, isn't it?" "Right on, Harry," said the other. "Mind your

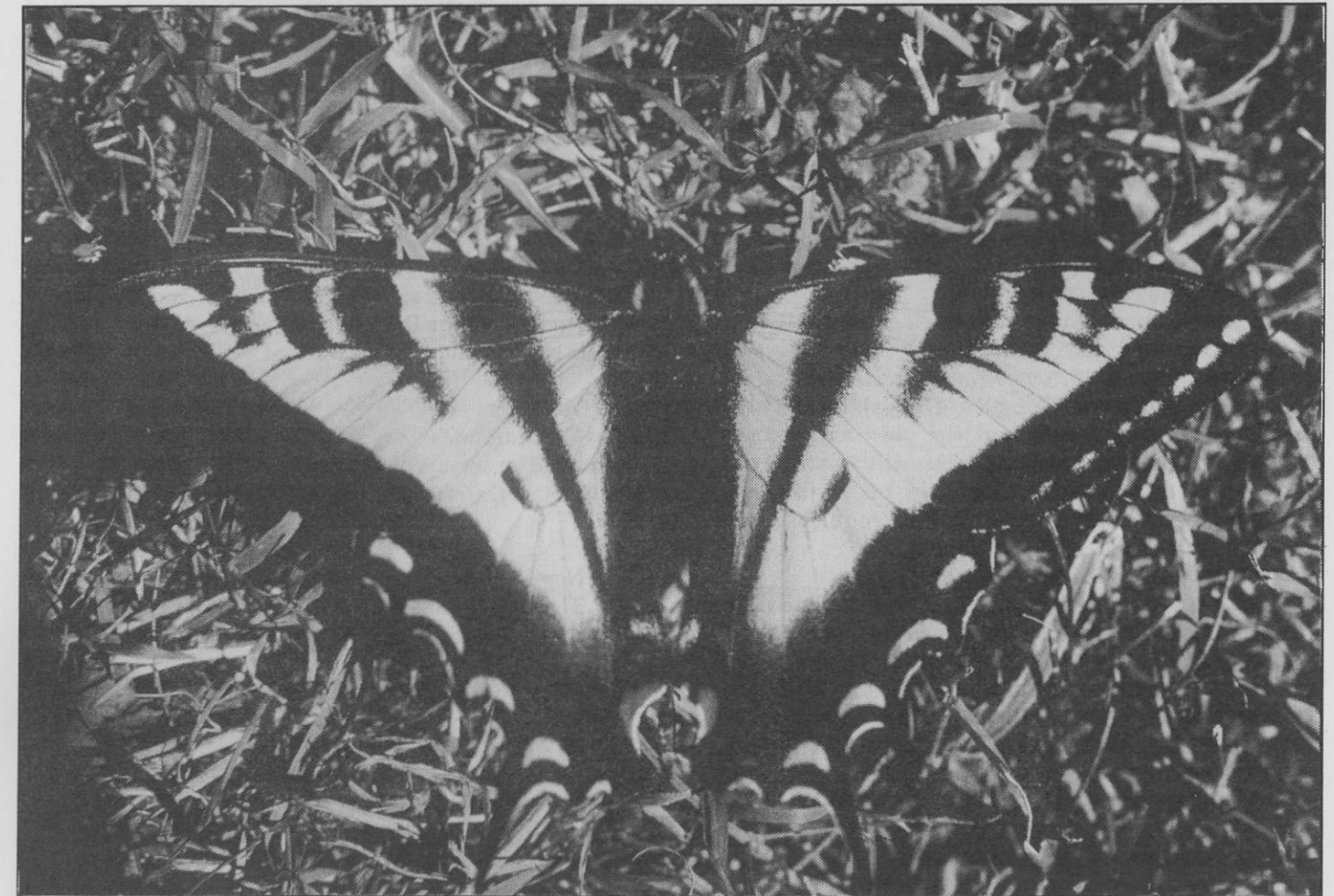
shadow doesn't fall on him, as it will frighten him off." Then I heard some loud clicking noises, and fearing danger, I flew high into the air. "Well, at least we each got a shot before he took off" said Harry, as they watched me drift into the leaves of the maple tree.

Soon I had the flower garden to myself again. I was not really alone, however, for I saw that many honey bees were busy gathering nectar and pollen for their winter food supply. I did not mind them doing this, as there was lots of food for all. Their cheery buzzing created a pleasant atmosphere in the warm garden. They were such hard workers that they made me feel rather lazy and self indulgent. Remembering the recent changes I had experienced, I realized we had completely different life styles - they must work and store up food for the long winter, whereas I had slept quietly in my chrysalis, awaiting my transformation when summer arrived.

I cannot imagine what the next chapter will be in this rather unpredictable life of mine, but for now my days are full and rich. In my garden I spend my days floating above the glorious beds of blossoms, wafting about in the warm summer breeze, refreshing myself with exquisite nectar and, of course, resting.

I know that I have found Paradise.

Peggy Price is a frequent contributor to The Victoria Naturalist, sharing her passion for natural history with our junior readers.



Butterfly

CALENDAR

REGULAR MEETINGS are generally held on the following days. **General Members Meeting:** the second Tuesday of each month. **Birders' Night:** the fourth Wednesday of each month. **Board of Directors:** the first Tuesday of each month. Locations are given in the calendar listings. Note that there are no regular meetings scheduled for July or August.

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.

JULY EVENTS

Saturday, July 11.

Seal Grotto. Meet at Helmcken Park 'n Ride at 8:30 a.m. The group will visit a little known grotto (sea cave) near Jordan River that houses a harbour seal nursery. There should be lots of activity this time of year. Bring lunch, drinks and spend some quiet time observing from the blind. A very short hike plus a ladder climb down to the blind is involved. In order to minimize the impact on the seals, the group will be limited to twelve people. Please phone the leader, Bev Glover (721-1476) to register. If full, a waiting list will be kept and perhaps a second outing organized.

Sunday, July 19.

Sidney Island and Sidney Spit. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at the end of Beacon Avenue, Sidney. As of press time, the leader was still to be announced; contact Dave Allinson, 478-0457, for details. This island is always a delight to visit and is ideal for viewing shorebirds returning from the north. There will be three trips throughout the summer. Each trip takes all day and lunches, drinks and ferry fare will be required.

Saturday, July 25.

Shorebird Migration Trip to Iona Regional Park, Richmond, B.C. Meet at the Town and Country Mall Parking lot at 6:45 a.m. to carpool or meet at the forward lounge on the 8:00 a.m. ferry. The leader will be Dave Allinson (478-0457). From late July to September, thousands of shorebirds stop to feed and congregate in the Iona lagoons at the mouth of the Fraser River. This is a joint field trip with the Victoria and Vancouver Natural History Societies. We will meet with Vancouver birders who have been conducting bird surveys of the park. The trip will take all day; bring lunches and drinks.

AUGUST EVENTS

Saturday, August 8.

Sidney Island and Sidney Spit. The second of three trips. See July 19 information for details. The leader will be Bryan Gates (598-7789).

Saturday, August 15.

Cowichan Bay and Area. Meet at Helmcken Park 'n Ride at 8:30 a.m. or at Cowichan Bay Dock Road at 9:15 a.m. Co-leaders will be Mike McGrenere (658-8624) and David Pearce (477-2664). An annual favourite birding expedition. One highlight is counting the number of young purple martins for the year. It may be possible to make the lunch stop at Sominos. The trip will take all day; bring lunches and drinks.

Saturday, August 22.

Sidney Island and Sidney Spit. The third of three trips. See July 19 information for details. The leader will be Hank Vander Pol (658-1924).

Sunday, August 23 and August 30.

Fall Hawkwatch at Beechy Head. In the fall of 1991, a program to monitor the migration of raptors on southern Vancouver Island was started. Volunteers are needed again for this joint VNHS AND Western Institute of Global Studies (WIGS) venture. Phone Mike Shepard (388-4227) or coordinator John Cooper (655-7848) if you can help.

BULLETIN BOARD

For Sale

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

Volunteers

The Martindale Survey is being extended and volunteers are needed for surveys on Saturday mornings 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Contact Darren Copley (479-9879) or Eric Walters (385-0927).

New Facilities

The observation blind at Quick's Bottom has recently been completed and is now available for use.

Other Interesting WIGS Activities

WIGS is running a number of surveys and workshops this July and August. Most of them will concentrate on completing an inventory of the Oak Bay islands. Among the numerous activities is a grass workshop on July 4; a butterfly survey on July 11; daily bird surveys from July 12 - 31; and a shorebird workshop on July 25. The cost is \$15.00 to \$20.00 per trip and includes zodiac transportation to and from the islands. For more information contact Mike Shepard at 388-4227.

Deer Park and Hurricane Ridge. For those interested in wild flowers, Swiftsure Tours is again offering a weekend trip on July 4 and 5, to this spectacular region. Contact Mike Shepard at 388-4227.

Slide Photographers

The 1992 program is continuing. Meetings incor-

porate slide viewing, speakers, educational programs, field trips and member participation. Club meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 8:00 p.m. at Windsor Park Pavilion, Oak Bay. For further information please contact Wayne Maloff, President, Greater Victoria Colour Film Study Group, at 385-1640.

New Bird of Prey Facility Opens

The Wildlife Rescue Association of British Columbia (WRA) has been active since 1979 in the rescue and rehabilitation of orphaned, injured and pollution-damaged wildlife for release back to the wild. They now have over 9,000 donors and members and hope to continue increasing this number. Over 150 volunteers donate their time weekly.

The WRA has recently finished construction of a new Raptor (bird of prey) Flight Cage. The facility was a neces-

sary addition to their operation to enable to provide adequate flight room for large birds of prey such as great horned owls, red-tailed hawks, and other species. One significant feature of the flight cage is the open, netted roof, which simulates the wild. This provides exposure to the elements, a necessary step after an indoor recovery period. The flight cage is the last stage in rehabilitation recovery for the birds before they are released, and provides such things as flight training, conditioning and acclimation, which ensures that they are ready to face the wild.

For further information on the Wildlife Rescue Association one can contact Susan Herunter, Wildlife Care Manager at 526-2747 or visit the centre at 5216 Glencarin Drive, Burnaby, B.C.

The hawk circles, turns and dives... swoosh!

He didn't even see it coming. Wild hawks often have no eyes for high tension

wires strung across their hunting territory. Until it's too late. And today he's perching in our new bird-of-prey cage viewing the world with fearful and anxious eyes.

It's a desperate sight we're now facing. We have a collision of human beings and wildlife—both wanting to occupy the same place at the same time. As well, we have a collision between increased operating expenses and fewer

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TALONS AND FEATHER HIT HIGH TENSION STEEL

donations to our wildlife rehabilitation facilities. We know how to deal with the broken wings and bodies, but we don't know how to deal with a broken economy that has drastically cut our financial support.

Where does that leave this hawk? We have his cage, but without your help, we won't have the heating, supplies, food and special handling equipment he needs.

Special thanks to our friends who contributed to the construction of our new Raptor Flight Cage:

Vancouver Foundation
George Cedric Metcalfe Foundation
Peter Cundill & Associates Ltd.
North Vancouver Rotary Club
Grizzly Construction
City of Burnaby



HELP EASE THE CRUNCH

Your generous contribution can make a critical difference to the birds-of-prey in our new Raptor Flight Cage.

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YES! I want to put wings on wildlife. Here's \$25 to help feed disabled birds-of-prey this season. Please send me an acknowledgment of my gift.

YES! Here's my \$75 contribution to help keep the lights and heat running in your new birds-of-prey cage. Please send me a set of WINTER RESCUE greeting cards.

YES! Here's my contribution of \$200 or more. Please invite me along next time you set one of our wild friends free.

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Address _____
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The Victoria NATURALIST

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Michael Shephard and Bruce Whittington at the
mouth of the Englishman River, during the
Brant Festival Big Day Bird Count.
(Photo: Jan Garnett)