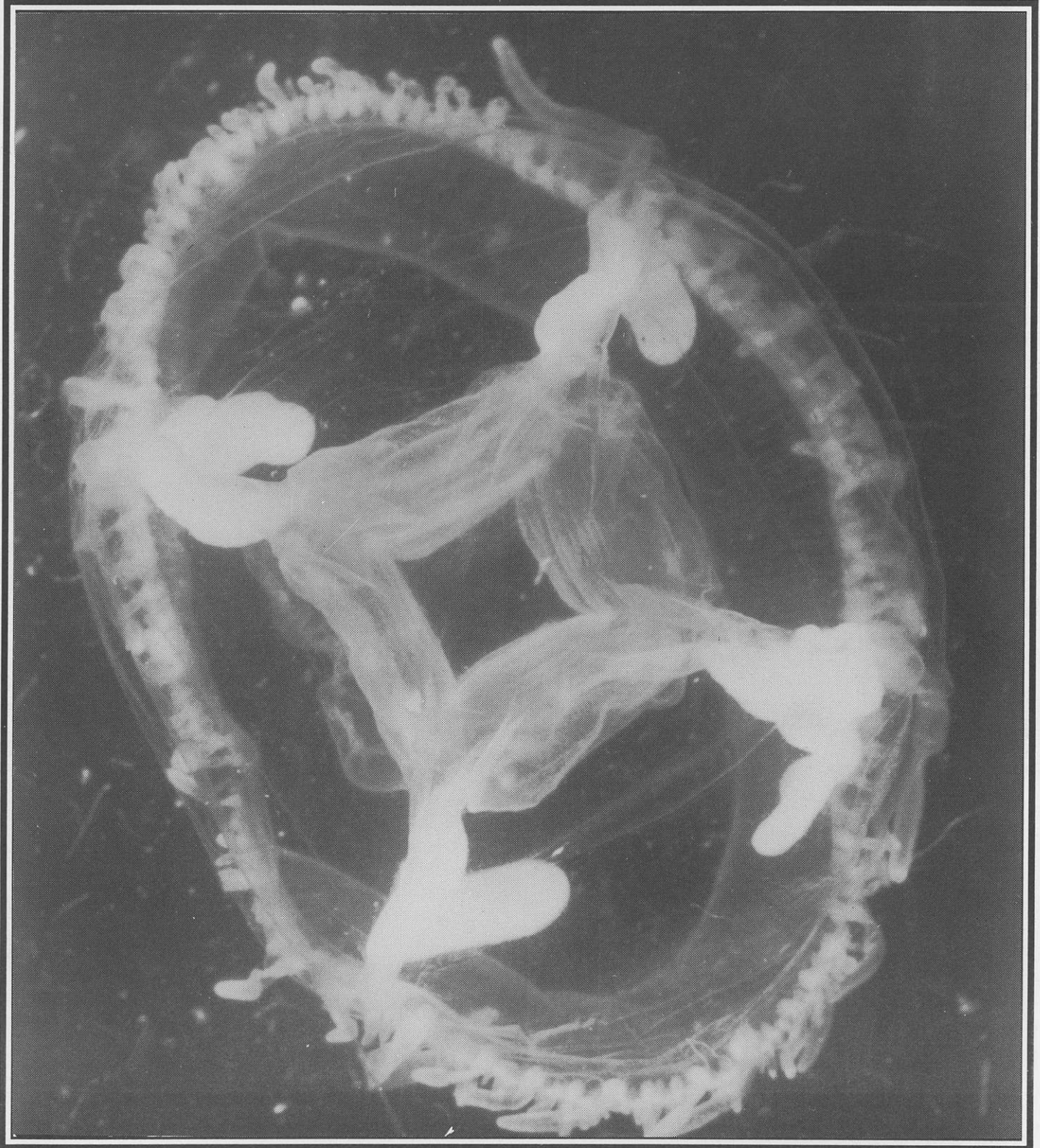




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The Victoria NATURALIST

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Our Cover

The unusual looking creature on our front cover is a freshwater jellyfish (*Craspedacusta sowerbii*) photographed by Elizabeth Corry.

Craspedacusta sowerbii (Lankester) was first discovered in 1880 in the giant water-lily tanks of the Royal Botanical Society's Gardens in Regent's Park, London, England. It probably arrived on the water-lilies from Brazil. Today it is found scattered worldwide, generally in the area between 45°N latitude and 45°S latitude. Elizabeth Corry found them locally while swimming in Durrance Lake near Victoria. See her fascinating article on the jellyfish on page 7 of this issue.

1993 Christmas Bird Count

The 1993 Christmas Bird Count was printed in the wrong order in the last issue. My sincere apologies for this error. The figures are included in this issue, this time in the correct order!

Lynton Burger



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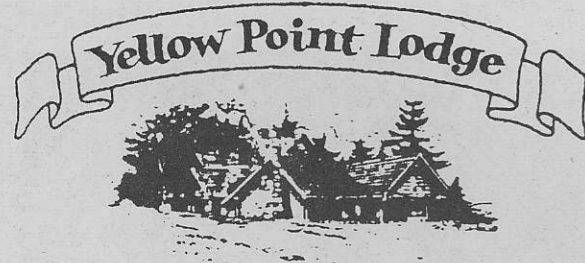
Victoria Butterfly Surveys

By Jeff Gaskin, Michael Carson and Derrick Mallard

Background

In August 1991, the Citizens Association to Save the Environment (CASE) organized the first systematic butterfly inventory for Greater Victoria, after trial runs in 1989 and 1990. In 1992, three more surveys were undertaken, and in 1993, bolstered by an increased number of participants, five monthly surveys were done between May and September. This short article reports the results of the 1993 surveys.

The purpose of these counts is to provide a benchmark assessment of butterfly abundance in the Victoria area in the light of drastic declines in numbers and species throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere, arising especially from habitat loss and spoilage from pesticides and other chemicals. Attention is also being directed to the importance of particular local habitats which sustain the region's butterfly population.



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The areas covered during the 1993 survey comprised most of the parks and other open areas in the Victoria Christmas Bird Count circle. These included Butchart Gardens and parts of the Northern Highlands, the Langford-Florence Lakes area, Goldstream Park, Mill Hill and the Galloping Goose Trail, Triangle Mountain and Witty's Lagoon, Cuthbert Holmes Park, the Gorge, Beacon Hill Park and south Fairfield, Uplands Park and Oak Bay, University of Victoria and Cadboro Bay, Ten Mile Point, Gordon Head and Mount Douglas Park, Swan Lake and Christmas Hill, Blenkinsop Lake, Beaver Lake Park, Rithet's Bog, Prospect Lake, Quick's Bottom, Bear Hill and the Martindale Valley. These areas were surveyed by about 25 observers.

A similar number of observers covered areas beyond the Christmas Bird Count circle. These areas included locations adjacent to farmland on the Saanich Peninsula and in Metchosin, and Matheson Lake Park.

Results of 1993 Surveys

A summary of the 1993 results is provided in the accompanying table (see page 5) which can be thought of as a first-attempt checklist for the region. It includes all species seen in 1992 and 1993, although the numbers refer to 1993 only.

Not all local species were reported in 1993. Silvery Blue, for example, is a very early spring butterfly and appears to have finished for the year by the time of the May count. (The 1994 survey will include an April count to accommodate early spring species.) No sightings of Monarchs were reported in 1993. Those reported in 1992 are thought to have been released by a local breeder. They were all sighted along Happy Valley Road in Metchosin in an area where someone is known to have been breeding them for several years.

In all, 12 species which were seen in 1992 were not reported in 1993. Some of these sightings must be regarded as potentially suspect. As an example, 17 American Painted Lady (easily confused with Painted Lady) were reported in 1992. Several experienced local naturalists regard this species as very rare in this area, though two of the sightings were from a reliable observer. Great Arctic, with six reports in 1992 and also considered an unusual sighting, was, however, reported by at least one reliable observer.

In addition, there is often uncertainty with some of the "whites". Mustard White was reported four times but is easily confused with Cabbage White unless the underside of the wings is seen. And the 1992 list also includes three reports of Veined White, the status of which has been somewhat unclear. The butterfly is listed on the CASE field guide, but is not included in the checklist for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands presented by Cris Guppy in the 1992 Volume 49.2 issue of the Victoria Naturalist. The confusion is compounded by the fact that the Audubon Guide (p. 358), now somewhat dated, equates Mustard White with Veined White, though the Latin name given is not the same as that used by Guppy for Mustard White. The most recent status report identifies Mustard White as *Pieris napi* (as given by Guppy), and treats Veined White as a subspecies of Mustard White. For this reason, Veined White is not included in the accompanying table.

The total number of species in the table is only 40: this compares with 66 on the full checklist for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands given by Guppy, and 60 included in the CASE

Identification Guide for Vancouver Island. Many of these other species, however, are restricted to high altitudes that are not found in Victoria.

The more common species in the table are indicated by upper case letters. Less common species are indicated by lower case. The rarer species are highlighted by dark shading. The data for May are based on an incomplete coverage and are not directly comparable with those for the other months.

It is difficult to interpret the geographic distribution of these species accurately because of uneven coverage by observers, but some comments may be useful.

Most of the more common species are fairly ubiquitous, being found in most open sunny areas, although a large proportion of the sightings of the woodland-based Pine White were in Goldstream Park.

Among the less common species, sightings appeared to be more concentrated in specific areas. Almost all reports of the local sub-species (Vancouver Island) of Ringlet, for example, came from grassy meadows near Florence Lake. Virtually all sightings of Satyr Anglewing were on Lochside Trail leading to Blenkinsop Lake, though others may perhaps be expected in similar areas with nettle patches. Most of the few West Coast Lady observations were on the sunny west slope of Mount Douglas Park. Painted Lady, while more dispersed, was particularly evident at a rural acreage near Tod Inlet where many Buddleia bushes were in bloom.

The following locations were the source of the sightings of the rarer species. Uplands Park provided the only Field Crescent and all four Rosner's Hairstreaks. Rithet's Bog yielded the only two (male) Reakirt's Coppers. Some skippers which resembled European Skippers (not on Guppy's checklist but found on the mainland) were also seen here. Triangle Mountain was the location of the only Western Tailed Blue. Zephyr Anglewing was seen on the Galloping Goose Trail. Some rare species (such as the single Hydaspe Fritillary) were found in local backyard gardens. None of these species were reported in 1992.

Future Surveys

Butterfly surveys represent a new area of amateur naturalist activity. As a result, the geographic coverage is still

VICTORIA BUTTERFLY REPORTS 1992-1993

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
American Painted Lady ?			*	*		
ANISE SWALLOWTAIL	25	22	132	44	9	232
Brown Elfyn	4					4
CABBAGE WHITE	90	137	314	341	572	1454
Chequered Skipper		*				
Common Banded Skipper		*	*			
Field Crescent		1				1
Great Arctic ?			*			
Green Comma		*				
Grey Hairstreak				3	2	5
Hydaspe Fritillary			1			1
Johnson's Hairstreak			1	1	4	6
LORQUIN'S ADMIRAL		101	311	80	5	497
Milbert's Tortoiseshell		1	5	2	3	11
Monarch			*			
Mourning Cloak	4	5	2	2	2	15
Mustard White ?		*	*			
Mylitta Crescent			12	5	14	31
Painted Lady	6	15	15	18	11	65
Pale Swallowtail	2	49	4			55
Persius Duskywing		*				
PINE WHITE			5	72	17	94
Propertius Duskywing	6	10	9			25
PURPLISH COPPER	20	10	32	155		217
Reakirt's Copper		2				2
Red Admiral	1	13	6	7	3	30
Ringlet		52	15	5	16	88
Roadside Skipper		*				
Rosner's Hairstreak		4				4
SARA ORANGE TIP	19					19
Satyr Anglewing	9	13	4	2		28
Silvery Blue		*				
SPRING AZURE	139	23	4			166
West Coast Lady		5	3	2	1	11
Western Meadow Fritillary ?			*			
Western Sulphur			*			
Western Tailed Blue		1				1
WESTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL	9	232	112	13		366
WOODLAND SKIPPER			35	401	544	980
Zephyr Anglewing ?	2	1				3

* denotes reported in 1992 but not in 1993

? denotes potentially suspect report

totals refer to 1993 only

restricted and the identification skills of many of the observers are somewhat limited. A Cabbage White may be easily picked out in flight at 100 metres, whereas Barry's Hairstreak and Rosner's Hairstreak can only be reliably told apart after collection and dissection according to Cris Guppy. Some of the rarer species on the list are potentially suspect. In many ways, therefore, these early Butterfly Surveys should be regarded as comparable to the earliest Christmas Bird Counts. The joys and frustrations of successful identification for some species were shared by both counts.

As with birding, however, skills improve with practice, and the sheer beauty of many of these species seen at rest through binoculars certainly ranks as comparable with the breeding plumage of many of our songbirds. True, butterflies don't provide the acoustical pleasures of songbirds in spring, but for those whose hearing is on the wane this is an additional impetus for turning their attention to butterflies. There is also a certain satisfaction in having mid-day and early afternoon as the prime viewing time for butterflies rather than dawn!

For newcomers to butterflies, the CASE identification sheets should prove to be a useful field guide for local species, and the more comprehensive Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies is a good reference book. It is hoped that during the next year someone will be able to provide an article highlighting the field marks of some of the more difficult local species to identify, especially when they are in flight!

In order to extend the database, and thus make the inventory more reliable, another set of counts is planned for this year. The abundance of butterflies last year seems to have been somewhat less than normal, perhaps because of the damp, cool and overcast spring and early summer, which probably prevented maturation of many eggs and chrysalises. This year will hopefully be much better.

Additional observers are needed everywhere, but especially in the Western Communities. Regular observers are encouraged to take along newcomers to assist them in the challenges. Many keen and competent birders began their birding days helping in a Christmas Bird Count. The same principle applies here too. Anyone who is interested in helping with the 1994 Butterfly Counts is asked to contact Jeff Gaskin at 384-1573. Don't wait too long: Mourning Cloaks have already been reported on sunny days this year and Sara Orange Tips and Spring Azures will be at, or past, their peaks as this goes to press!

Acknowledgement is due to all the observers who volunteered their time to participate in last year's survey. As with the Christmas Bird Count, the success of this inventory ultimately hinges on the continuing support of this group of people. This is especially true when the activity is literally on the frontier of research. This butterfly inventory is the only program of its kind in Canada and the USA. It has already won loud praise from many sources including the Canadian Bio-diversity Centre in Ottawa.

Jeff Gaskin, a VNHS member, was one of the organizers of the 1993 Butterfly Surveys; Michael Carson is a member of the Parks and Conservation Committee of VNHS and is interested in the protection of local natural areas; Derrick Mallard is the President of CASE and originator of the Victoria Butterfly Survey program.

Canadian Ecoforestry Institute Finds Home In Victoria

By Joe Materi

The Ecoforestry Institute (EI) is a nonprofit organization committed to ecologically responsible forestry and forest uses. The Canadian arm of the EI was established in 1992, and currently includes about 125 members. Some are well known members of the local environmental community, such as Allan Drengson & Doug Patterson from the University of Victoria's Environmental Studies Program. Others such as Merv Wilkinson, who operates a small woodlot near Cowichan Bay, have been pioneers in the field of alternative forestry practices.

An overall goal of the institute is to create a network of ecoforestry practitioners, who typically have operations between 40 and 200 acres. In addition, there is the goal of connecting these operators with other specialists in related fields such as Biology, Restoration Ecology, and Philosophy.

One of the many characteristics that differentiate the EI from those which are involved in industrial forestry is the emphasis on maintaining fully functioning ecosystems throughout the management process, at both the stand and the landscape level. Another is the integration of the full range of forest values, including spiritual and aesthetic, in making management decisions.

Regardless of the methods by which individuals conduct their own operations, becoming an ecoforester means adopting a philosophy clearly opposed to that of single species industrial forestry. There is the recognition that many income-producing products can be obtained from the forest. Burning and use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are avoided, if not abandoned altogether. Most importantly, ecoforestry requires one to accept nature as being ultimately in charge of meeting human needs.

No single approach to low impact forestry is endorsed by the EI, in fact, there is often lively debate about which harvest methods work best. This is, in part, a result of differences in the land use history and geology of individual demonstration forests. Some carry out a form of Selective Forestry on their land, where the removal of single trees is carefully planned and executed. Others prefer Natural Selection Forest Management (e.g. Orville Camp), where only those trees already selected by Nature for removal in some way (e.g. disease or insufficient light) are candidates for harvesting.

There is similarly a wide variety of methods for removing trees from the forest. Large self-loading vehicles, small trucks with winches, even horse teams may be utilized in getting trees out of the woods and off to markets. Once again, the overriding concern is with maintaining the full range of forest functions rather than producing one "blanket" management scheme to be applied in every circumstance.

The EI has a number of ongoing projects. Like many organizations which survive on individual donations and grants, it

has difficulty in fulfilling both its research needs and requests for information. At present, there are two demonstration forests in the Victoria area (Highlands region & Salt Spring Island). There is also a quarterly publication, *the ecoforestry report*, to share ideas and inform members of upcoming events. A ten day course will be held in Oregon this summer to introduce people to concepts in ecoforestry.

For more information contact:

The Ecoforestry Institute
PO Box 5783 Stn. B
Victoria, BC
V8R 6S8
Ph. (604) 598-2363

Reference:

Camp, Orville (1990). *The Forest Farmer's Handbook*.

Freshwater Jellyfish Collected Locally

By Elizabeth M. Corry

While swimming in Durrance Lake near Victoria on August 13th, 1990, I noticed a large number of small (5 mm to 25 mm) jellyfish swimming slightly below the surface of the water.

I was aware of marine jellyfish but not of freshwater ones, so I collected several specimens and took them home where I preserved them in 5% formalin. From my reading, I have determined that there are indeed some freshwater jellyfish but that they are uncommon and that what I had collected was probably *Craspedacusta sp.* Also, I have since determined that this is in fact a new distributional record.

This year, in my first year Biology class at the University of Victoria, we have to do a term project and I have chosen as my project to pursue positive identification, distributional records and the basic biology and environmental significance of these specimens.

I contacted Dr. Anita Brinkman-Voss of Sooke, B.C., who has made a career of jellyfish research, most recently for the Royal Ontario Museum. She informed me that the specimens are probably *Craspedacusta sowerbii*. She also gave me some suggestions for further reading.

Craspedacusta sowerbii (Lankester) was first discovered in 1880 in the giant water-lily tanks of the Royal Botanical Society's Gardens in Regent's Park, London, England. It probably arrived on the water-lilies from Brazil.

Today it is found scattered worldwide, but largely confined to the area between 45°N latitude and 45°S latitude. There appears to be no particular pattern to its micro-distribution, being found in only one or a few lakes, ponds or artificial impoundments in any one geographic area. The question of how it gets distributed is interesting. It might get transported on aquatic plants that people unwittingly move from one area to another or it might get transported on the feet of waterfowl. There is an encysted polyp stage in its life history that can withstand desiccation and might be suitable for distribution.

Craspedacusta sowerbii's life history is that the main feeding stage is a very small single or colonial sea anemone-like polyp form existing attached to logs, rocks or twigs on the bottom of the lake. Occasionally, when conditions are favourable, it will bud off the floating medusa (jellyfish) stage. There can be female medusae and male medusae. The eggs and sperm are shed into the water where fertilization occurs. The larval stage settles to the bottom where it develops into the polyp or hydroid stage.

Most populations however, consist of all males or all females. All of my Durrance Lake specimens appear to be males. This would be consistent with the theory that new populations have developed by the introduction of a single individual into a lake. The population most likely therefore, developed solely through asexual budding of the polyp stage.

The floating medusa stage in some lakes appears only in infrequent years, exists for only a short period of time and may be the reason for the small number of sightings.

The National Museum in Ottawa has specimens of *Craspedacusta sowerbii* collected from Quebec and eastern Ontario, but Canadian records are not numerous. This probably relates to the fact that its optimum habitat appears to be located between 45°N latitude and 45°S latitude. North American records are mainly from the eastern United States. There are a very small number of sight records from British Columbia, the most recent being from Masset Inlet on the Queen Charlotte Islands. There is a possibility that this is not *C. sowerbii* but a new species of brackish water *Craspedacusta*. A new species of *Craspedacusta* has been discovered in Russia from a sea lagoon and it has been named *Craspedacusta vovasi*.

The Royal British Columbia Museum has only one *Craspedacusta sowerbii* specimen in its collection. It was collected by Scott Simpson from Glen Lake on August 12, 1991. It is noted that the specimen did not exactly fit the *C. sowerbii* description and the specimen is listed as a variant form. I will pursue positive identification by sending some of my specimens to the National Museum and I will also give others to the Royal British Columbia Museum.

The environmental significance and impact on human welfare of this type of information relates to its relationship to the concept of biodiversity and the attempts to preserve biodiversity both for its own sake but also for the health of the planet and the consequent impact on human welfare. Some researchers wonder whether *C. sowerbii* could affect other planktonic species numbers by preying on them. Experiments, however, suggest this is not significant.

A first step in preserving biodiversity is to determine what biodiversity exists presently. This is a huge task since it is estimated that there exists far more undiscovered species than known species. The work of interested amateurs such as myself but mainly trained professional taxonomists and ecologists working in museums of natural history worldwide is gradually giving us a better appreciation of the world's existing biodiversity. With a better knowledge of what we have will come a more effective effort to preserve it.

Elizabeth Corry is a 1st year Biology student at the University of Victoria.

1993 Christmas Bird Count

This 1993 Christmas Bird Count is a correction of the one published in the preceding edition. Several pages were out of order in the previous printing.

- 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 HABOUR
- 9. PORTAGE INLET - THE GORGE
- 10. VICTORIA HARBOUR
- 11. BEACON HILL
- 12. OAK BAY

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Red-throated Loon						1	6			1	1	1
Pacific Loon						2	4			2	2	6
Common Loon						11	18	8		4	1	4
Pied-billed Grebe		4		3	10		2		3	3		1
Horned Grebe							18	2	1	25	17	
Red-necked Grebe			1			16	1	13	2	68	43	52
Eared Grebe												
Western Grebe						7	2,024	44		4	2	
Double-crested Cormorant	2	17	19	1	39	280	34	31	17	279	26	7
Brandt's Cormorant						12	220	1		1,659	675	220
Pelagic Cormorant	6					104	6	1,203		40	17	31
Great Blue Heron	5	1	6	1	3	5	7	32	5	32	2	5
Tundra Swan												
Trumpeter Swan	72	4			5		1			4		
Mute Swan			2			2	7		2		2	
Greater White-fronted Goose											1	
Snow Goose												
Canada Goose	605		1	183	13	25	131	97	218			
Green-winged Teal	134		18	18	3	67		17	51			
American Black Duck											1	
Mallard	1,992	127	61	75	62	380	277	12	543	94	420	54
Northern Pintail	166					10	22		95		4	
Northern Shoveler	2				11	2	1				8	
Gadwall			1				5		19			
Eurasian Wigeon	2			1		1	1				3	
American Wigeon	703	8	53	21	5	430	271	76	211	200	315	123
Canvasback						3			40			
Ring-necked Duck	28	28		21	19		17					
Greater Scaup		2				23	14	1	40			
Lesser Scaup		6		2					200		6	5
Harlequin Duck						8		14		31	32	43
Oldsquaw							39	10		6	6	11
Black Scoter												
Surf Scoter						58	98	24		137	152	38
White-winged Scoter						9	13			47	22	1
Common Goldeneye			10			17	27	59	13	84	17	18
Barrow's Goldeneye	3		5			1						
Bufflehead	14	22	61	5	22	189	288	204	250	111	115	167
Hooded Merganser	39	15	4	8	17	17	7	51	48	39	6	31
Common Merganser	10	7	56	10	23	1	10	14		16		4
Red-breasted Merganser	7					60	19	70		100	38	28
Ruddy Duck		4										
Bald Eagle	5	1	23	4	3	4	4	2	1	4	1	5

1993 Christmas Bird Count

- 13. UNIVERSITY - CADBORO BAY
- 14. 10 MILE POINT
- 15. GORDON HEAD - MOUNT DOUGLAS
- 16. SWAN LAKE - CEDAR HILL
- 17. BLENKINSOP - PANAMA FLATS
- 18. ELK LAKE - CORDOVA BAY
- 19. PROSPECT LAKE - QUICKS BOTTOM
- 20. MARTINDALE - BEAR HILL
- 21 - 23. OAK BAY ISLANDS

SPECIES	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL	COMMENTS
Red-throated Loon		1	2					6		19	
Pacific Loon	8	12	404			3		1	2	446	high
Common Loon	1	4	16			6	2	20		95	
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1		8		1	11			48	
Horned Grebe		19	88			320		184		674	
Red-necked Grebe	6	15	36			10		299	14	576	
Eared Grebe			11							11	low
Western Grebe	1					1		2	4	2,089	
Double-crested Cormorant	3	49	7	1	2	15	28	7	11	875	all time high (previous high 636 in 1979)
Brandt's Cormorant		15	28			3		14	702	3,549	all time high (previous high 1,664 in 1979)
Pelagic Cormorant	4	56	22			14		16	59	1,578	
Great Blue Heron	2	6	1	1	3	4	6	7	13	147	high
Tundra Swan								2		2	
Trumpeter Swan						17	2	66		171	
Mute Swan							2			17	low
Greater White-fronted Goose										1	
Snow Goose								1		1	
Canada Goose	3	1	1	64	167	573	143	845		3,070	all time high (previous high 2,656 in 1992)
Green-winged Teal	2			8		12	67	2	32	431	
American Black Duck										1	
Mallard	195	94	225	307	1,184	339	609	556	13	7,619	
Northern Pintail					29		62	3		391	
Northern Shoveler				1	2		98		2	127	
Gadwall				2	3	10	14			54	
Eurasian Wigeon			1					1		10	
American Wigeon	305	22	50	99	46	26	76	111	9	3,160	all time low (previous low 3,339 in 1977)
Canvasback				11			12			66	
Ring-necked Duck	1		1	36	45	9	72	14		291	
Greater Scaup			6			103		11		200	
Lesser Scaup			8	4			10			241	low
Harlequin Duck		22	28					28	82	288	
Oldsquaw	7	83	120			58		294	9	643	
Black Scoter								4		4	
Surf Scoter	25	48	36			148		528	45	1,337	high
White-winged Scoter	2	14	9			9			20	146	
Common Goldeneye	2	6	29			41	6	102	12	443	
Barrow's Goldeneye										9	low
Bufflehead	18	62	204	11	2	325	20	271	155	2,516	high
Hooded Merganser	7	22	7	10	23	24	26	13	35	449	
Common Merganser	5		5	10	6	204	72			453	
Red-breasted Merganser											
Ruddy Duck	21	34	19			57		258	41	752	all time high (previous high 637 in 1988)
Bald Eagle							4			8	low
	4	4	9	1	1	5	3	5	6	95	high

1993 Christmas Bird Count

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. BUTCHART GARDENS/NORTHERN HIGHLANDS | 5. LANGFORD LAKE | 9. PORTAGE INLET - THE GORGE |
| 2. CENTRAL HIGHLANDS | 6. ALBERT HEAD - TRIANGLE MOUNTAIN | 10. VICTORIA HARBOUR |
| 3. GOLDSTREAM | 7. ESQUIMALT LAGOON - MILL HILL | 11. BEACON HILL |
| 4. THETIS LAKE/HASTINGS FLATS | 8. ESQUIMALT HABOUR | 12. OAK BAY |

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Northern Harrier												
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		1	5	1	1			2		1	1
Cooper's Hawk	3	1	1	1	2				1	2	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	10	4	5	5	1	3	2	1	1			
American Kestrel	1					1						
Merlin		1	2	1	1				1	1	1	
Pergine Falcon	1										1	
Ring-necked Pheasant	1			11			1					
California Quail	22	8	30	50	27	82	4		9	4		1
Virginia Rail												
American Coot					3	1	21		6	2		15
Black-bellied Plover							1	79				6
Killdeer			5	10			1			1		3
Black Oystercatcher						5		4		5	2	6
Greater Yellowlegs										1		1
Spotted Sandpiper												
Whimbrel												
Black Turnstone						9	6	22	28	13	4	
Surfbird						3				19		1
Sanderling							7			26	1	
Least Sandpiper						3						
Rock Sandpiper												1
Dunlin							10	16			6	5
Common Snipe	1					1	1					
Mew Gull			5	2	9	12,100	650	40	5	449	750	17
Ring-billed Gull												
California Gull						1	3				1	
Herring Gull			1								2	
Thayer's Gull	1		4	1		148	1,200	195	7	125	8	
Western Gull			2			1	3			1	3	
Glacous-winged Gull	726	17	1,050	96	112	1,143	10,394	608	686	433	1,500	150
Glaucous Gull			1									
Common Murre						39	4	8		58	875	
Pigeon Guillemot						4	1			3	27	54
Marbled Murrelet						7	2	9			7	1
Ancient Murrelet										5	63	
Rhinoceros Auklet						6	1	4		12		4
Rock Dove	29		5	29	6	15	29	237	158	405	21	
Band-tailed Pigeon							45					2
Common Barn-Owl	1											
Western Screech-Owl	1	4	1			1						
Great Horned Owl	8	4	1	5		8				1		1
Northern Pygmy-Owl	1	1	1			1						

1993 Christmas Bird Count

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 13. UNIVERSITY - CADBORO BAY | 18. ELK LAKE - CORDOVA BAY |
| 14. 10 MILE POINT | 19. PROSPECT LAKE - QUICKS BOTTOM |
| 15. GORDON HEAD - MOUNT DOUGLAS | 20. MARTINDALE - BEAR HILL |
| 16. SWAN LAKE - CEDAR HILL | 21 - 23. OAK BAY ISLANDS |

SPECIES	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL	COMMENTS	
Northern Harrier								2		2		
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	1		2	2	1	2		22		
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	4		30		
Red-tailed Hawk			1	1	3	1	2	4	1	45	all time high (previous high 43 in 1984)	
American Kestrel										2		
Merlin	1	2			1					12		
Pergine Falcon			2		1		2	1	1	9	equal record high with 1985	
Ring-necked Pheasant								5		18	low	
California Quail	14	20	1		10	48	33	3		366		
Virginia Rail						4				4		
American Coot				6		350	58			462		
Black-bellied Plover								16	112	214	high	
Killdeer								73		128		
Black Oystercatcher		3			34	1			7	32		
Greater Yellowlegs	3	2								7	low	
Spotted Sandpiper		1								1		
Whimbrel										1		
Black Turnstone									21	103		
Surfbird									3	26		
Sanderling										34		
Least Sandpiper										3	all time high (previous high 1 in 1977)	
Rock Sandpiper										4		
Dunlin						1		11	138	187		
Common Snipe							1	2	2	8	low	
Mew Gull	34	8	48	12	3	2	1	8	90	14,233	high	
Ring-billed Gull		1								1		
California Gull								1		6		
Herring Gull										3	low	
Thayer's Gull				2	8	145	4		4	260	2,112	high
Western Gull										10	high	
Glacous-winged Gull	90	54	104	564	260	649	500	208	207	19,551	all time high (previous high 16,794 in 1986)	
Glaucous Gull										1		
Common Murre												
Pigeon Guillemot	1	9	27						4	172	1,197	
Marbled Murrelet		13	33						6	78	219	
Ancient Murrelet										32	58	
Rhinoceros Auklet						95	647			287	1,097	
Rock Dove		6	1							2	36	second highest
Band-tailed Pigeon		21	43	41	2			68	104	1,213	all time high (previous high 1,183 in 1989)	
Common Barn-Owl									1	48		
Western Screech-Owl								1		2		
Great Horned Owl								7		14		
Northern Pygmy-Owl		4	2				1	8	1	44	all time high (previous high 30 in 1991)	
										4	equal highest with 1989	

1993 Christmas Bird Count

- 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 HABOUR
- 9. PORTAGE INLET - THE GORGE
- 10. VICTORIA HARBOUR
- 11. BEACON HILL
- 12. OAK BAY

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Barred Owl	1				1	1						
Short-eared Owl												
Northern Saw-whet Owl		1										
Anna's Hummingbird					1							3
Belted Kingfisher	1	2	1	1	2	3	3	11	3	6		2
Red-breasted Sapsucker								2				
Downy Woodpecker	4	6	3	7	6	4	11	4	7	6	12	4
Hairy Woodpecker		3	5	2	1	3	1	1				
Northern Flicker	45	35	6	25	10	29	16	17	19	3	21	14
Pileated Woodpecker	5	8	1	1			1					
Eurasian Skylark												
Steller's Jay	9	32	28	4	29	6	1					
Northwestern Crow	299	104	179	152	263	114	119	123	254	124	189	36
Common Raven	73	76	12	23	6	17	9	5		1	4	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	149	136	170	89	117	86	86	80	88	9	66	21
Bushtit	15	101		10	46	44	43	144	165	49	119	60
Red-breasted Nuthatch	27	47	7	61	12	26	9	12	12	4	18	2
Brown Creeper	3	6	9	11	7	56	2	3	2	1	11	1
Bewick's Wren	13	8	1	9	7	2	6	3	18	2	18	5
Winter Wren	27	33	59	15	2	36	8	8	14	3	20	4
Marsh Wren					1							
American Dipper			8									
Golden-crowned Kinglet	197	363	252	375	122	290	118	84	185	15	165	27
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	6	18	4	22	28	12	2	13	10	15	2
Townsend's Solitaire		1					2					
Hermit Thrush	1		1							1	2	
American Robin	227	186	36	444	103	94	126	82	464	160	260	365
Varied Thrush	26	41	21	26	6	43	8	11	14	5	28	1
American Pipit												
Cedar Waxwing	2	1									3	
Northern Shrike											1	
European Starling	1,468	27	67	312	357	216	46	113	518	177	980	58
Hutton's Vireo									1			
Orange-crowned Warbler								1				1
Yellow-rumped Warbler												
Townsend's Warbler			1	1		1						
Palm Warbler										1		
Rufous-sided Towhee	56	37	2	25	29	44	35	22	29	13	31	19
Savannah Sparrow	2						3					
Fox Sparrow	24	32	5	9	15	19	13	4	15	10	17	2
Song Sparrow	55	34	8	21	40	47	37	60	45	20	90	34
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	1										
Swamp Sparrow												

1993 Christmas Bird Count

- 13. UNIVERSITY - CADBORO BAY
- 14. 10 MILE POINT
- 15. GORDON HEAD - MOUNT DOUGLAS
- 16. SWAN LAKE - CEDAR HILL
- 17. BLENKINSOP - PANAMA FLATS
- 18. ELK LAKE - CORDOVA BAY
- 19. PROSPECT LAKE - QUICKS BOTTOM
- 20. MARTINDALE - BEAR HILL
- 21 - 23. OAK BAY ISLANDS

SPECIES	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	TOTAL	COMMENTS
Barred Owl		1				1	1			6	all time high (previous high 5 in 1990)
Short-eared Owl								2		2	equal highest with 1970
Northern Saw-whet Owl							1			2	
Anna's Hummingbird	9	21	3			3				40	high
Belted Kingfisher	3	2	5		2	4		1	1	53	high
Red-breasted Sapsucker							1			3	
Downy Woodpecker	7	3	11	15	8	10	14	5	3	150	all time high (previous high 96 in 1987)
Hairy Woodpecker			1				1	2		20	equal high with 1991
Northern Flicker	21	20	17	12	15	28	50	20	3	426	high
Pileated Woodpecker		2	1			2	9	6		36	all time high (previous high 29 in 1989)
Eurasian Skylark								19		19	low
Steller's Jay							7	1		117	
Northwestern Crow	185	404	166	160	303	718	171	339	80	4,482	
Common Raven	1	3	9	5	6	9	54	28	1	342	high
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	108	116	75	38	55	192	266	147	5	2,099	all time high (previous high 1,835 in 1991)
Bushtit	160	146	93	89	139	37	104	14		1,578	all time high (previous high 1,158 in 1992)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	34	20	5	2	22	82	27		433	all time high (previous high 196 in 1988)
Brown Creeper	3	7	14	2	1	12	18	1	1	171	all time high (previous high 126 in 1989)
Bewick's Wren	6	16	8	13	8	8	15	29		195	high
Winter Wren	2	7	16	5	5	10	12	45	7	338	
Marsh Wren				1	1	1	14	4	2	24	
American Dipper										8	high
Golden-crowned Kinglet	44	58	89	20	31	323	375	105	2	3,240	high
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		10	13	8	16	12	15	5	217	
Townsend's Solitaire										3	
Hermit Thrush	1	2					1			9	
American Robin	422	219	321	112	171	194	547	579	16	5,128	
Varied Thrush	9	44	21	1	1	6	61	41	3	417	
American Pipit								126		126	all time high (previous high 78 in 1988)
Cedar Waxwing								4		10	low
Northern Shrike		2								3	
European Starling	118	39	446	75	188	151	34	2,059	38	7,487	
Hutton's Vireo							1			2	
Orange-crowned Warbler									1	3	
Yellow-rumped Warbler						1	2	22		25	all time high (previous high 19 in 1992)
Townsend's Warbler										3	equal high with 1988
Palm Warbler										1	
Rufous-sided Towhee	27	66	15	54	30	61	46	67	10	718	all time high (previous high 652 in 1989)
Savannah Sparrow								15	1	21	all time high (previous high 19 in 1990)
Fox Sparrow	5	17	8	15	10	17	29	30	3	299	
Song Sparrow	27	46	34	33	29	25	33	100	44	862	all time high (previous high 814 in 1992)
Lincoln's Sparrow					3		3	8	6	23	high
Swamp Sparrow			3				3			6	all time high (previous high 3 in 1992)

1993 Christmas Bird Count

SPECIES	1993 Christmas Bird Count											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
White-throated Sparrow	2									1		
Golden-crowned Sparrow	226	18	6	53	16	38	45	13	27	31	22	26
White-crowned Sparrow	1			1			5			4		2
Harris' Sparrow												1
Dark-eyed Junco	913	418	136	431	489	358	123	121	332	67	155	24
Snow Bunting												
Red-winged Blackbird	6		1	242	18	3	10				1	
Western Meadowlark										2		
Brewer's Blackbird	80			50	40		43				41	
Pine Grosbeak		1										
Purple Finch	12	28	7	5	1	22	8		16	4	6	6
House Finch	119	2	1	5	38	23	69	19	88	25	73	39
Red Crossbill	127	256	8	577		60	67	12	6			
Pine Siskin	1,110	1,689	456	624	483	581	411	155	132	34	1	
American Goldfinch					17		18			2	14	2
Evening Grosbeak			1									
House Sparrow	1		10	108	48	8	71	66	428	122	470	9
TOTAL BIRDS	9,935	4,025	2,957	4,268	2,775	17,620	16,348	5,185	5,825	5,104	8,562	1,925
TOTAL SPECIES	70	55	63	59	56	82	87	62	56	76	76	70

1993 Christmas Bird Count

SPECIES	1993 Christmas Bird Count											TOTAL	COMMENTS
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
White-throated Sparrow	2	1									1	7	all time high (previous high 5 in 1989)
Golden-crowned Sparrow	29	64	57	74	35	28	81	126	2	1,017	2	1,017	all time high (previous high 985 in 1992)
White-crowned Sparrow	13	1	7	5	5	2		52	1	99			
Harris' Sparrow	1						1	2		5			all time high (previous high 4 in 1972)
Dark-eyed Junco	101	137	207	64	78	322	637	787	30	5,930	30	5,930	all time high (previous high 4,447 in 1991)
Snow Bunting									3	3			equal high with 1973
Red-winged Blackbird			4	10	95	3	34	243		670			
Western Meadowlark					13	1		16		32			
Brewer's Blackbird			4	6	32			223		519			
Pine Grosbeak										1			
Purple Finch	14		2	15	6		51	20	4	227			all time high (previous high 212 in 1990)
House Finch	89	62	166	85	38	39	68	147	1	1,196			all time high (previous high 1,001 in 1992)
Red Crossbill	4		108		5	23	457	55	65	1,830			all time high (previous high 709 in 1988)
Pine Siskin	78		81	92	92	228	692	989	70	7,998			all time high (previous high 4,136 in 1962)
American Goldfinch			20				8	43		124			
Evening Grosbeak								1		2			low
House Sparrow	21	67	121	244	84	60	29	72		2,039			all time high (previous high 1,639 in 1992)
TOTAL BIRDS	2,282	2,439	4,447	2,474	3,476	5,961	6,052	10,769	3,089	125,518			very high
TOTAL SPECIES	60	68	74	52	58	73	73	95	64	146			third highest on record

New Members, March 30 1994

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| Jan. 26 Hal and Ann Gibbard of Wende Road. | likes birdwatching, animals, hiking and travelling. |
| Jan. 26 Dawn Loewen of Saanich Road is interested in botany, birding and hiking. | Feb. 14 Ian and Debbie Montgomery of Goward Road enjoy birding and flyfishing. |
| Jan. 26 Ruth Isaac of Sandover Crescent. | Feb. 25 Stewart and Linda Guy of William Head Road are interested in birding, botany and childrens activities. |
| Jan. 26 Eric Franklin of Daisy Avenue. | Feb. 25 Geoff Carrow of Fairfield Road enjoys hikes and oceanwalks. |
| Jan. 26 Gail Clarke of Bewdley Avenue. | Mar. 7 Marie Elliott of Taylor Street; a gift from Frances Gundry. |
| Jan. 26 Helen and William Kyle of Courser Drive. | Mar. 8 Karen Macdowell of Genevieve Road. |
| Jan. 31 Pat Johnson of Bundock Street is a great walker, always interested in bird life. | Mar. 11 Edward and Cynthia Sinclair of Goldstream Avenue. |
| Feb. 1 Mrs. Dale Geils of Newport Avenue. | Mar. 18 Marcia Farquhar of Gemini Drive is interested in birding, kayaking and nature photography. |
| Feb. 3 Jack and Jean McLeod of Eakin Drive. | Mar. 28 Peggy Bourne of Twin View Drive. |
| Feb. 9 Rob Cannings and Hannah Nadel of Bryrwood Court. | |
| Feb. 9 Sylvan Foreman of Dallas Road | |



harbour porpoise

WHALE HOTLINE

Report marine mammal sightings and strandings to



Dall's porpoise

380-1925 in the Victoria area
On the water: VHF channel 68 to the vessel *Sundiver*

1-800-665 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 behavior, as well as your name, phone number and address in case further information is required.

President's Report, 1993-94

It has been another busy year with many activities and accomplishments for our society. Our accomplishments are the work of many members and some contribute much more than others. I urge you all to think of what you can do to help improve the operation of our Society. I believe that members should be aware that \$10 of each membership goes to the B.C. Federation of Naturalists to support the B.C. Naturalist and the province-wide activities of the Federation. The production, printing and mailing of our Victoria Naturalist costs approximately \$10 per member which leaves \$5 per member to support our rare bird and events phones, postage and the various expenses incurred by the Society.

We have been fortunate to be the recipients of several endowments over the years. These have been used to provide scholarships, bursaries and carry out conservation projects. This year, we received a bequest from Alice Myrtle Hay of over \$30,000. The Board placed one half of these funds in the scholarship fund to establish an award of \$650 to a student pursuing a graduate degree in Biology at the University of Victoria who is specializing in the area of species or habitat conservation. This is in addition to the Samuel Simco Bursary which is awarded to a student specializing in conservation studies. We also grant, through the University of Victoria, the Freeman King Scholarship and the Natural History Society Scholarship for third or fourth year students. A bursary has also been established for students in the Environmental Technology Program at Camosun College.

The Conservation Projects account was enhanced by \$16,000+ from the Hay bequest.

Thanks to Leah Ramsey and all the people who made the Goldstream Art Show a tremendous success. There were about 13,000 people who attended and profits from the show exceeded \$10,000, of which half will go to our scholarship fund and the other half will be used to construct a viewing tower at Goldstream Park.

\$2500 was given to Swan Lake to support their activities.

In conjunction with the Friends of Beacon Hill Park, a successful Camas Day was held and will be repeated this year, thanks to the work of Helen Oldenshaw, Connie Hawley, Tom Gillespie and others.

Our thanks to David Pearce who coordinated both the spring and Christmas bird counts.

Mike Carson and others carried out a survey of bird use on Blenkinsop Lake and made representations to Saanich on steps to protect this area from adverse use.

Tony Embleton and his Conservation Committee, now headed up by Jeff Stone, have made many representations to various bodies, trying to protect Mystic Vale, Glencoe Cove and other important areas.

Tony has also devoted a great deal of time and effort into the C.O.R.E. process for Vancouver Island.

Bev Glover and Pam Stacey have provided outstanding programs for our meetings and many of you who attend

Birders' Night but skip the regular meeting have missed some great education programs. Bev has also been responsible for our participation with the Royal B.C. Provincial Museum for the weekend showcase programs on Naturalists.

Adolf Ceska has been responsible for Botany Night and the Botany trips.

Our thanks to Bryan Gates, Bruce Whittington and Hank Van der Pol for running the Rare Bird Tape and Birders' Night. Thanks also to the Goodwills for hotlining rare birds.

Thanks to Anne Adamson, Katie Dawson, Beth Chatwin, Freda Woodworth, Dorothy Henderson and Joan Gowan for their efforts to make our banquet and other social functions a success.

Thanks to David Allinson for arranging our many excellent field trips.

Your Society has also provided support to both the Canadian Nature Federation and Nature Conservancy.

Thanks to Lyndis Davis who handles sales of our publications.

Thanks to Margaret Wainwright who has coordinated our Conservation Observer program.

Thanks to Warren Drinnan, Lynton Burger and Kim Nemrava for all their work in putting out our "Victoria Naturalist".

We all owe a real debt of thanks to Gordon Devey for his splendid job as Treasurer and Audrey Copping as Secretary.

Tom Gillespie continued his great work as Membership Chairman as well as putting in a helping hand for innumerable jobs for our Society.

Our Past President, Mike McGrenere, has provided wise counsel and firmed up the guidelines for scholarships and awards. We were pleased to present the much-deserved Distinguished Service Award this year to Kay Suttill.

Respectfully submitted
Wally MacGregor

Publicity Committee Report

During the 1993/94 season the publicity committee produced displays for the following: Camas Day, April 1, 1993; Recreation Day, April 25, 1994; Nature Art Show, September 1993; VIPIRG Native Vegetation Workshop, October 2, 1993; B.C. Systems Corporation's Good Living Day, October 20, 1993; and RBCM Weekend Showcase, November 25, 1993. The committee also assisted with the publicity campaign for Camas Day 1993 and the approaching Camas Day 1994. The committee assisted the Royal B.C. Museum with the weekend showcase preparations by organizing all the volunteer help for their tables, displays and tours. A new VNHS brochure was designed and desk-top published by Frances Hunter. Printed brochures are currently being distributed to certain locations in the Victoria area. New VNHS decals were also printed and are now available. My thanks to all who helped with displays and publicity.

Respectfully submitted
Bev Glover

Report of the Auditor to the Members

I have examined the Balance Sheet of the Victoria Natural History Society as at December 31, 1993 and the Statements of Income and Expenditure for the year ended on that date. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Directors of the Society. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

My examination has been conducted strictly for the benefit of the members of the Society. Due to statutory limitations on the authority of members of the Society of Management Accountants of British Columbia, this examination does not meet the requirement of a statutory audit should such an audit be required.

My examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of accounting records and other supporting evidence as I considered necessary in the circumstances, except that in the case of revenue it is only possible to verify interest earned and it was otherwise not practicable to extend my examination beyond accounting for receipts as reported by the Society.

In my opinion, except for the effect of any adjustments that might have been required had I been able to carry out a verification of certain revenue items (see preceding paragraph), these statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at December 31, 1993 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Signed: Stephen Gentles, CMA

Victoria

March 1, 1994

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1993						
TOTAL DEC 31, 1992		TOTAL DEC 31, 1993	GENERAL ACCOUNT	CONSERVATION (NEHRING) ACCOUNT	SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT	CONSERVATION PROJECT ACCOUNT
	ASSETS					
\$5,549	Cash at bank	\$789	\$789	-	-	-
6,121	Term deposits	-	-	-	-	-
56,332	Short term investments at cost (market value 1993: \$111,680 1992: \$ 58,882)	104,502	3,121	68,617	32,764	-
2,183	Accounts receivable	4,470	4,470	-	-	-
8,678	Stock of books	6,940	6,940	-	-	-
77,059	Long term investments at cost (market value 1993: \$85,827 1992: \$78,578)	77,059	291	63,832	12,936	-
\$155,922		\$193,760	\$15,611	\$132,449	\$45,700	\$0
	LIABILITIES					
\$2,515	Accounts Payable	\$2,028	\$2,028	-	-	-
2,552	Memberships and subscriptions paid in advance	1,386	1,386	-	-	-
150,855	FUND BALANCES	190,346	12,197	\$132,449	\$45,700	(\$0)
\$155,922		\$193,760	\$15,611	\$132,449	\$45,700	(\$0)
APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTORS						
	W. J. MACGREGOR	Director				
	G. R. DEVEY	Director				

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1993

1992	GENERAL ACCOUNT	1993	1992	CONSERVATION (NEHRING) ACCOUNT	1993
Income			Income		
\$12,277	Membership dues and donations	\$14,162			
-	Bequests & Memorials	31,121	\$9,207	Interest	\$10,947
1,086	Publications (net of cost of goods sold)	1,554			
329	Interest	169			
59	Miscellaneous income	220			
13,751		47,226			
Expenditure			Expenditure		
5,808	Naturalist-production & mailing (net of advertising & subscription revenues)	7,131	4,540	Conservation Projects Account	3,195
250	Cost of meetings	250	1,000	Donation-Nature Trust of British Columbia	-
1,076	Postage and stationary	816			
3,720	Affiliation fees	4,920	5,540		3,195
1,135	Telephone, Bird Alert system and Information service	971			
1,046	Miscellaneous	1,488			
13,035		15,576			
716	EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	31,650	3,667	EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	7,752
10,952	Funds on hand at beginning of year	11,668	105,432	Funds on hand at beginning of year	109,099
-	Less: Transfers to Conservation (Nehring) and Scholarship accounts	31,121	-	Increase in funding -Transfer from General Fund	15,598
\$11,668	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	\$12,197	\$109,099	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	\$132,449

Birding Committee Report, 1993-94

The majority of recent Birding Committee efforts have been to review rare bird reports and records with the goal of updating the current area checklist. You can look for a new checklist by early 1995. Terms of reference will also be established to facilitate the collection of sight records on southern Vancouver Island in conjunction with bodies like the Royal British Columbia Museum and the British Columbia Field Ornithologists.

Bird Habitat projects currently being undertaken by the Parks and Conservation Committee (such as the Rithet's Bog and Trumpeter Swan surveys) continue to need the full support and participation from our membership.

Bird field trips continue each month at a number of popular sites in Victoria, but you are always free to offer new suggestions to myself or to the Field Trip Chairperson. Finally, Birders' Night (held on the fourth Wednesday from September to May) will be ably hosted by Bryan Gates. Feel free to offer Bryan suggestions for guest speakers or topics for discussion.

Respectfully submitted
David Allinson

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1993

1992	SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT	1993	1992	CONSERVATION PROJECT ACCOUNT	1993
Income			Income		
\$2,157	Interest	\$3,389			
2,880	Donations	-	\$612	Donations	\$358
5,037		3,389			
Expenditure			Expenditure		
1,700	Scholarship and Bursaries	2,050	2,500	Donation-Swan Lake Sanctuary	2,500
			-	Martindale Flats	1,000
			-	Bird Boxes	821
			880	Blind-Quick's Bottom	-
			522	Miscellaneous	482
			3,902		4,803
3,337	EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	1,339	(3,290)	EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	(4,445)
25,501	Funds on hand at beginning of year	28,838	-	Funds on hand at beginning of year	1,250
	Increase in funding			Increase in funding	
	-Transfer from General Fund	15,523	4,540	-Transfer from Conservation (Nehring) Account	3,195
\$28,838	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	\$45,700	\$1,250	FUNDS ON HAND AT END OF YEAR	(\$0)

Notes:

- It is the policy of the society that:
 - The General Account shall be self sustaining.
 - The Conservation (Nehring) and Scholarship Accounts shall be retained as endowment funds.
 - Accounting shall be performed on an accrual basis.
 - Insofar as it is appropriate, the first charge on income shall be to provide for the protection of the Capital of the Nehring and Scholarship Funds from erosion of value to to inflation during the year.

Publication Committee Report, 1993-94

The Naturalist is supported, in part, by advertising. Our thanks to Thimble Farms, Precise Colour, Yellow Point Resort and The Field Naturalist for their regular advertising and support.

Lyndis Davis, Connie Hawley and Tom Gillespie do an excellent job of attaching labels, adding inserts and special items like the "seeing spots" for membership renewal. We sincerely

appreciate their work.

Robert Allington goes above and beyond in typesetting the magazine to a professional level. Although it may appear straightforward by the time it reaches your door, Robert has miraculously made all the articles, photos and advertisements fit.

Sincere thanks to Warren Drinnan for the many, many hours of work he puts into "The Victoria Naturalist." It is a big project every two months.

And finally, a big thank you to Lynton Burger, who stood in for Warren while he was away.

Respectfully submitted
Kimberley Nemrava

Parks And Conservation Committee, 1993-94 Annual Report

The Parks and Conservation Committee (PCC) provides a forum to which VNHS members can bring their conservation concerns.

The success of the committee is dependent on the interest and work of individual members associated directly or indirectly with the committee. Over the past year we have been fortunate to have members who were willing to volunteer tens and in some cases hundreds of hours. Highlights of activities with which our members were associated include the following:

- The investigation of five significant habitat areas, Martindale Flats, Blenkinsop Lake, Esquimalt Lagoon, Tod Creek Flats and Quick's Bottom, within the Capital Regional District (CRD) was continued.

- The Conservation Observer Program provided information to the PCC on the current state of many of our local natural areas. Observers are responsible for individual areas which they regularly visit and note environmentally related changes.

- A successful Camas Day was again coordinated in conjunction with the Friends of Beacon Hill Park. This day provides an opportunity to introduce the public to the native flora and fauna of Victoria as found in Beacon Hill Park.

- The committee identified and provided information on important significant habitats and viewing areas for several provincial initiatives.

- We supported conservation efforts in the CRD through letters and individual presentations.

- Members of the PCC have continued to represent the conservation concerns of the VNHS on various committees in the CRD.

- Greater involvement with the Camosun College's Environmental Technology Program was initiated. The PCC has suggested topics relevant to required research projects and has provided a small amount of financial support for these projects.

- A forum entitled "Ensuring Liveability in Greater Victoria: A Forum to Establish Partnerships for Natural Areas Conservation" was organized and proceedings published. The forum brought together naturalists, municipal planners, biologists, politicians and others to discuss natural areas conservation.

The end of 1993 brought about some shuffling in the PCC structure. Tony Embleton, after 4 years as the PCC Chairperson, has stepped down. Jeff Stone volunteered to take over as Chairperson and Tom Gillespie as Vice-Chairperson.

Tony will continue to play an active role in the PCC

as the Chairperson of the Conservation Observer Program. Long time members Margaret Wainright and Connie Hawley have retired from the committee. And finally, we were saddened by the passing of one of our active members, Gordon Jones.

Respectfully submitted
Jeff Stone

Bird Habitat Report

This report summarizes various activities pursued this year in relation to bird habitat protection, initiated primarily through the Parks and Conservation Committee (PCC).

A major concern continues to be the threat to farmland in the Martindale Valley, Central Saanich, from various forms of "development". Brent Diakow is monitoring the situation and maintaining dialogue with local farmers. The PCC is exploring ways of preserving habitat in the valley.

Two other prime birding areas continue to be under pressure: the Blenkinsop Lake area and Rithet's Bog, both in Saanich. A detailed bird inventory was completed for the former and a comparable study of the latter is also under way. No further news has been received regarding Saanich Parks Department plans to convert Lochside Trail to a bikeway with a bridge across the lake.

A series of Target Bird Surveys was initiated this year in an attempt to learn more about habitat usage in the Greater Victoria area by particular species. The first dealt with Trumpeter Swans wintering in the area. A report will be available shortly. Other such surveys are planned for the future in the hope of learning more about the distribution of selected species in the local area.

Nest-box construction and installation has continued through the year, largely under the direction of Darren Copley. Six Wood Duck boxes were installed on Blenkinsop Lake. Boxes for Western Screech Owls were installed on the property of St Margaret's School bordering Blenkinsop Lake and in the grounds of the University of Victoria. Funding for this work was made available by a grant from the Friends of the Environment Foundation, Canada Trust. Plans to install further boxes for Western Bluebirds have been put on hold until more is learned about the reasons for the dwindling numbers in the area.

Attempts have been made to encourage local centres of post-secondary education to become involved in habitat protection and research. Student projects currently underway in the Environmental Technology Program of Camosun College include: a study of the process of infilling of Quick's Bottom together with proposals for partial restoration; and the impact of increased extraction of irrigation water from Blenkinsop Lake on lake ecology and bird usage.

The pressure on bird habitats in the Victoria area continues to grow. A great deal of work remains, not merely in terms of bird inventories, but in education and improved liaison with municipal councils. Progress is discouragingly slow, but hopefully it will be a few years yet before we are compelled to focus our birding on Cowichan Bay and in the Highlands because of loss of habitat locally.

Respectfully submitted
Michael Carson

No Tango In Tingo

By Nigel Mathews

They Shoot Mayors in Tingo Maria.

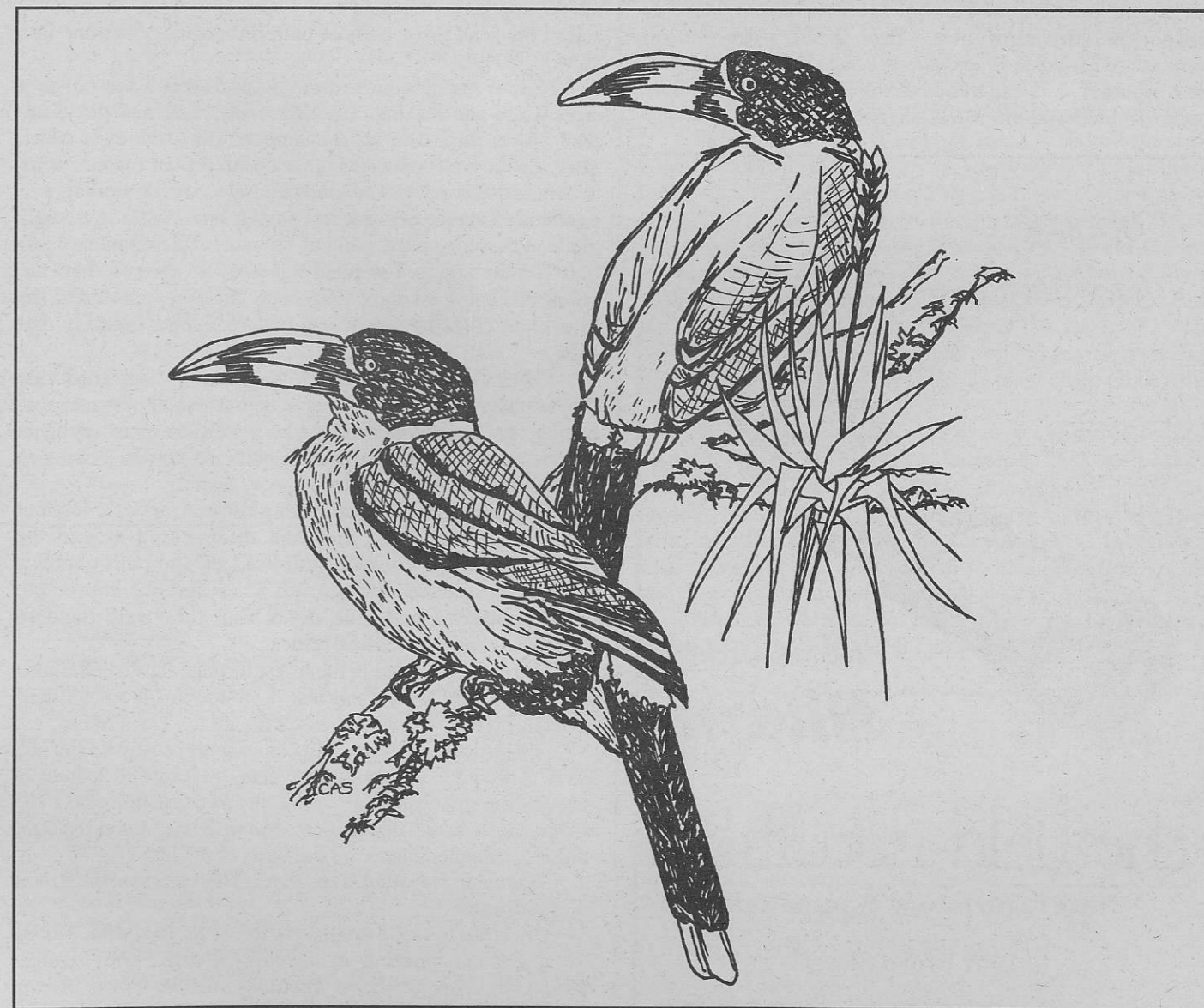
Situated in the Huallaga valley in Peru, the town is at the centre of an ongoing battle between the Peruvian army and the Sendero Luminoso or Shining Path guerilla movement. At an altitude of 3000ft on the eastern slopes of the Andes the country around Tingo Maria is ideal for growing coca from which cocaine is extracted. It is also great for birding!

By the early 1980s birding tours had stopped visiting the area. The recent murder of two ornithologists by the Sendero Luminoso has put the region off-limits to most birders. However, the added danger and risk of birding around Tingo Maria was strangely attractive to me. The best place for birds is a path running along a ridge in the Cordillera Azul about 20 kms along

the road to the Amazonian town of Pucallpa; I was determined to find it.

I was the only foreigner on the flight to Tingo Maria and my fellow passengers were mostly taciturn Indians. After an hour of flying above the clouds we plunged down between towering Andean peaks and lurched along the bumpy runway. This was no ordinary airport. When the plane came to a halt a squad of soldiers encircled the aircraft with their weapons at the ready. Machinegun nests were manned and 25 or 30 officers and men approached the steps which were hastily drawn up against the side of the plane. When the other passengers had dispersed I fell into conversation with one of the officials who explained in a frightened, frustrated tone that they had been expecting a visit from a representative of the U.S.embassy in Lima along with some Drug Enforcement Agents. He warned me that I may well have been mistaken for a D.E.A. and advised me to return to Lima on the same plane. I thanked him for his advice but decided to stay as

—continued following page



The Grey-breasted Mountain Toucan.

I might never return to Tingo Maria. The Hotel do Turistas on the outskirts of town was full of army officers but a room was eventually found for me the only tourist.

Tingo Maria is run down. Its elevation makes for a pleasant climate less humid than the lowlying jungle. Verdant vegetation is set off by distant Andean peaks. However, the town resembles a war zone and the streets are strewn with potholes and garbage.

Emaciated mongrels forage at every corner and the general air of tension makes the visitor feel unwanted. You feel instinctively that reports of your presence have reached terrorists' ears. Already you are under observation. However, that inimicable Latin American *joyo do vivo* prevails. Young men sail by on motorcycles. Somebody somewhere is making money and it is probably not legal.

The following morning, binoculars in hand I headed for the bus depot. This is where old women and young children sell snacks and trinkets, and delapidated vehicles gather to transport people out of town. Tingo, as it is known locally is still at the crossroads and despite the strife, life goes on. The town itself is in the hands of the army but the Sendero Luminoso hold sway in the countryside.

Tingo, as it is known locally is still at the crossroads and despite the strife, life goes on. The town itself is in the hands of the army but the Sendero Luminoso hold sway in the countryside.

I enquired about transport to Pucallpa and was soon aboard an open-backed truck heading for the Cordillera Azul.

As the ancient vehicle ground its way slowly uphill through the pass in the mountains, I gathered my birding equipment and prepared to get off. When we were almost at the crest of the ridge I leaped over the side and disappeared into the forest. I looked back half expecting the truck to stop but the bored looking driver glanced briefly in my direction before continuing on his way.

Wandering in remote areas where rare and little known birds occur is a satisfying pastime. However, I didn't see many endemics that day. It was cold and misty and by mid-morning a steady drizzle had set in; the few birds which were around promptly disappeared, skulking.

I took shelter beneath the overhanging roots of a massive forest tree and with my jacket hood pulled low over my eyes, dozed off. I awoke suddenly, realising that I was not alone. As I slowly raised my head three pairs of battered army boots came into view.

The trousers were worn and patched and the ponchos were holed and leaking. The rifles were rusty and dirty, and death lay behind the vacant stare of the dark eyes which glowered at me from faces more startled than mine. For an instant no-one moved so stunned were we at finding one another in such circumstances. I quickly opened the Venezuela guide at a striking illustration of Toucans explaining that I was here to watch birds. I stepped forward and showed them the colourful plates asking if they knew the whereabouts of the Greybreasted Mountain Toucan which is only found in that area.

They were so taken aback by this verbal onslaught that they actually believed me! They accepted offers of tea, chocolate and nuts and within half-an-hour were on their way again promising to report any sightings of the Mountain Toucan to the non-existent local Natural History Society.

Despite an outward calm, my pulse had raced throughout the conversation. Once they had disappeared around the corner, I grabbed my pack and dived off the path tumbling through the sodden undergrowth to escape our impromptu meeting place. I had little doubt that they were Sendero Luminosos and feared their return.

I remained hidden in the forest throughout that afternoon and into the night. By mid-morning the following day I was lurking at the forest edge awaiting a vehicle bound for Tingo Maria.

Eventually a battered old bus ground its way up the hill. As it slowed for the final gear change I ran and leaped in through the open door. It was empty and had no seats. The driver, a little barrel of a man, roared with laughter at the sight of this bedraggled birder on the floor of the bus.

Through the battered speakers of his bus came the strains of Ghostbusters!

Nigel has travelled extensively in the Far East, Asia, Europe Africa and the Americas in search of unusual ornithological adventures. Nigel is also a founding member of the Pacific Strandloper ornithological research initiative.

CALENDAR

REGULAR MEETINGS are generally held on the following days. **Board of Directors:** the first Tuesday of each month. **General Members Meeting:** the second Tuesday of each month. **Botany Night:** the third Tuesday of each month. **Birders' Night:** the fourth Wednesday of each month. Locations are given in the calendar listings. Telephone the VNHS Events Tape at 479-2054 for further information and updates.

MAY EVENTS

Saturday, May 7
Fourth Annual Spring Bird Count.
Co-ordinator, David Pearce (477-2664)

Saturday, May 14
Cowichan River Estuary Birding
Join us for our annual jaunt to the Cowichan River Estuary to view the return of nesting Purple Martin and Osprey. The area also offers a great diversity of birdlife as this trip has produced as many as 89 species. Bring a lunch as we may stop at scenic Quamichan Lake for a picnic. Meet at the Helmcken Park n' Pool at the corner of Helmcken Road and TransCanada Highway at 8:15 a.m. or at the Cowichan Bay Dock Road at 9:00 a.m.. Leader TBA.

Monday, May 23
Victoria Day Birding on Sidney Island
Join David Allinson (380-8233) for the opening weekend at this popular provincial park. Bring ferry fare, lunch or a snack for this half-day trip to the island to view alcids, shorebirds, and songbirds. Meet at the foot of Beacon Avenue in Sidney in time for the 8:00 a.m. sailing.

JUNE EVENTS

Sunday, June 5
Simplifying Ear Birding
Join Hank Van der Pol (658-1924) for our popular early morning outing to help you separate and identify the sounds of the dawn chorus. The trip will take us to Layritz Park, Broadcast Hill and Quick's Bottom. Meet at Layritz Park off Glyn Road (off Wilkinson Road) for a 6:00 a.m. start.

Saturday, June 11
Birding at Matheson Lake Regional Park
Come explore the CRD's newest addition to its list of parks around scenic Matheson Lake and nearby Mt. Matheson. Lots of songbirds feed and nest in the park, so come and join David Allinson (380-8233) for this morning trip. Meet at the park at 8:00 a.m. at the end of Matheson Lake Park Road off Rocky Point Road (near Pedder Bay in Metchosin).

Sunday, June 28

Sidney Island Birding

Our series of trips to Sidney Island continue with the hope of viewing the first of southbound shorebirds at the spit and lagoon. Bring ferry fare and a lunch for this half-day trip. Meet at the end of Beacon Avenue in Sidney in time for the 8:00 a.m. sailing. Leader TBA.

BULLETIN BOARD

A person is sought to serve on the VNHS Board in the Publications portfolio. Contact David Allinson at 380-8233 as soon as possible, if you are interested.

Target Bird Survey: Black-headed Grosbeak

The Black-headed Grosbeak (BHGR) is an uncommon summer species in the Greater Victoria area. About half-a-dozen or so singing males are regularly found on Lochside Trail leading to Blenkinsop Lake during late spring and early summer, but reports from elsewhere are spotty.

In view of Saanich's proposals for development of Lochside Trail into a bikeway, together with associated thinning of the hedgerow vegetation, it seems appropriate to determine to what extent nesting BHGR are found elsewhere in the Saanich Peninsula through a systematic survey. Regular spring bird count data are unfortunately of little use in this context because the main influx of BHGR occurs after the early May bird count and, in any case, some of these early BHGR sightings are probably migrants rather than local breeders.

It is proposed to survey as many suitable habitats (mostly open deciduous riparian areas) as possible during the first week of June this year. By this time most BHGR in the area will likely be on territory, with little movement between different areas. Inventories can therefore be done by individual birders on any convenient morning during this week.

Anyone wishing to participate in this survey is asked to contact Michael Carson at 658-5029.

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ALL TUCKERED OUT: Darren and Claudia on a pelagic birding trip.