



The Victoria NATURALIST

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
1996
VOL 53.2

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



2
11/2

Published six times a year by the
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 5220, Station B, Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N4
 Contents © 1996 as credited.
 ISSN 0049-612X Printed in Canada

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Desktop Publishing: Frances Hunter, 479-1956
Distribution: Lyndis Davis, Connie Hawley, Tom Gillespie
Printing: Fotoprint, 382-8218

Opinions expressed by contributors to *The Victoria Naturalist* are not necessarily those of the Society.

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Regular	\$25.00	Golden Age	\$24.00
Family	\$30.00	Junior Subscriber	\$7.00

 (Any donation in excess of the above fees is income tax deductible)

Annual Subscription Rate, Victoria Naturalist \$17.00

RARE BIRD ALERT: 592-3381

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Deadline for next issue: September 27, 1996

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OUR COVER

This month's cover shows two distinct forms of the Death Camas (*Zygadenus venenosus*) which Bill Merilees speculates may be separate species (see article on page 4). Bill also presents an interesting observation on the possibility of Anna's Hummingbirds nesting in late fall, in an article on page 5.

Much of this issue is devoted to the results of the Spring Bird Count. David Pearce has been recording the data from both the Spring and Christmas bird counts for several years. This information is a valuable contribution that can be used to document long-term trends in overwintering and breeding bird populations. Dave is to be thanked for all the hard work he has put into the database.



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Death Camas — One Species or Two?

By Bill Merilees

On a recent visit to Mitlenatch Island (June 10-17, 1996) a very interesting observation was available. Two quite distinct flowering stages were apparent among the Death Camas (*Zygadenus venenosus*) plants present. One population was in the tall green seed pod "stage", flowering totally completed with only dry wispy flower parts adhering to the top capsules of the stem. The basal and stem leaves of these plants were flaccid and yellowing or completely withered. The second population was only beginning to flower. Only the lowest flowers on the stem were open and many stems still had only tight unopened buds. The basal and stem leaves of these plants were turgid and dark green, except at their tips (*see photo*).

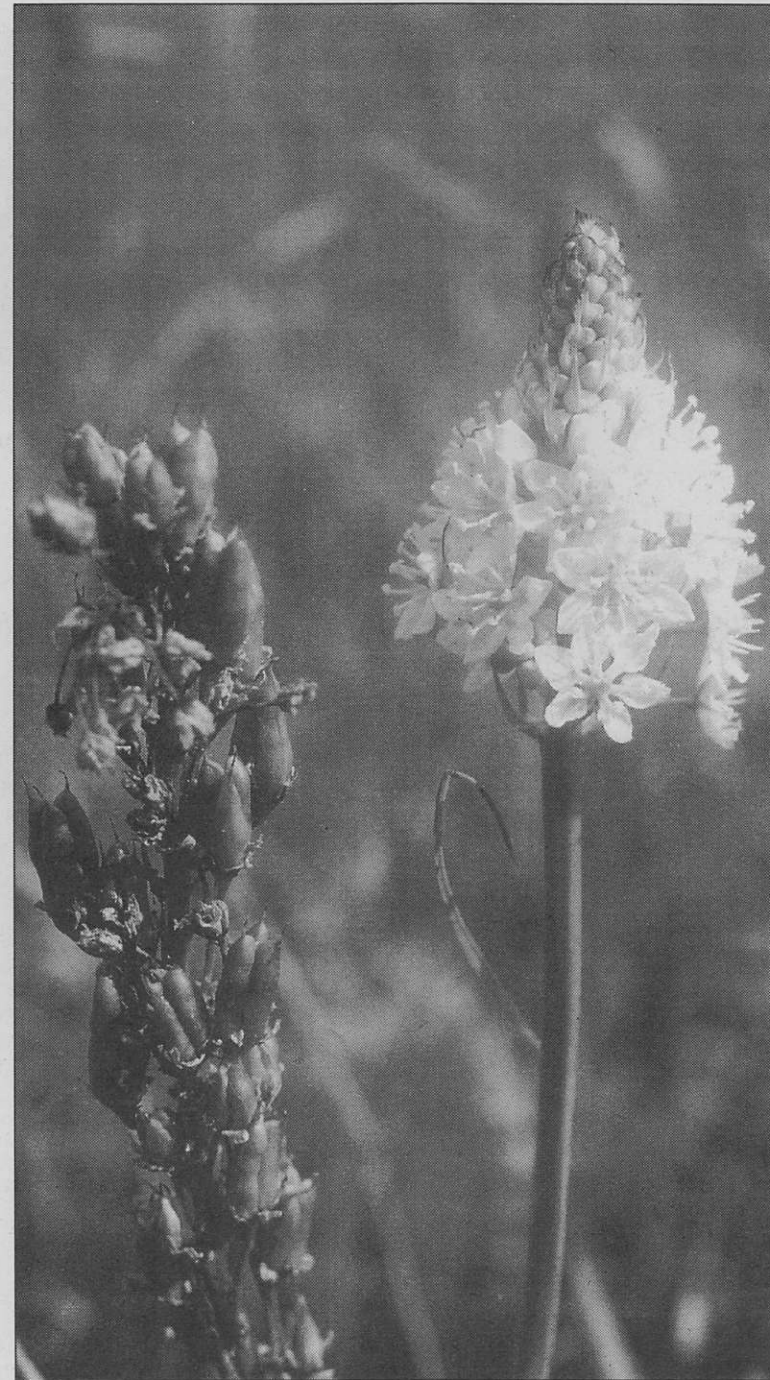
Sometimes side-by-side, but more often in neighbouring patches, these two populations were in marked contrast to one another. Although a reasonably comprehensive search was made, no plants were found intermediate between the two groups. As these two populations would appear to be completely isolated from one another in their flowering times, with no opportunity for one population to pollinate the flowers of the other, this observation prompts the question — are there one species or two?

A search of the literature on Death Camas has not been undertaken. When I mentioned this subject to David Fraser, he reported a similar observation during his spring butterfly survey at Bear Hill in Central Saanich. He further mentioned that at Mount Work on July 1st there was a complete overlap of flowering from fresh blossoms through seed set. If this later situation is the "rule" then the Mitlenatch observation deserves further study.

The spring of 1996 has been uncommonly cool and damp. This has delayed the flowering of most plants by up to two weeks (personal flowering phenology observation program). Possibly weather has accentuated the disparity in Death Camas flowering to the point observed at Mitlenatch Island.

While this question is "fresh" in my mind, I am hoping that by sharing it, comments and additional observations will help clarify this puzzle.

BILL MERILEES is a naturalist and writer in Nanaimo and a frequent contributor to The Victoria Naturalist.



Death camas, Mitlenatch Island. Photo: Bill Merilees.

Anna's Hummingbirds Nesting in November?

By Bill Merilees

Towards the back of my garden I keep a single cattail stalk in a prominent location. This location is in the open where it can be viewed easily. It also is high enough above the ground (2+ metres) so that ground-bound predators cannot get close. Every year this practice brings me immense enjoyment. Almost as good as a nectar feeder, this fluffy head attracts female hummingbirds who garner beakfuls of down for their nest building program.

This activity begins early. About the time Indian Plum blossoms first open (mid to late February) female Anna's Hummingbirds begin arriving at my cattail. Their visits can be quite frequent, as many as three or four per half hour. Later in the season a repeat performance is made by female Rufous Hummingbirds. On other occasions Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Song Sparrows have also been recorded gathering down.

The purpose of this article is two fold. The first is to let naturalists know that a cattail can become a natural dispenser of a favoured hummingbird nesting material. This activity can provide considerable personal enjoyment. The second is that this autumn, on October 8th (once) and again on November 25 (three times) I watched a female Anna's Hummingbird gathering cattail down. I cannot say with any certainty that this was for nesting purposes as trying to follow an Anna's Hummingbird from cattail to nest site, single handed, is virtually impossible. Once a female is "loaded" she accelerates with incredible velocity and is soon over the trees and far away.

In California (Small, 1994), it is reported that Anna's Hummingbird "... is a winter and early spring breeder (from late November to early April)." *Bent's Life Histories* (Bent, 1940) mentions nesting records from December 21st to May 18th.

While nesting is highly suspected from the observations here in Nanaimo, another possibility remains. Very little is known about Anna's Hummingbird's roosting habits and whether or not they might build structures or utilize cavities, etc. for this purpose.

Early one morning, when the writer was putting the run on a prowling cat (by launching a handful of pebbles) the ruckus created prompted an Anna's Hummingbird to "pop out" from under a garden shed. Was this an overnight roosting location? Do readers have any information that might provide more insight on this subject?

Male Anna's provide quite a different story. They select a series of perching stations from which they sing their rasping song. On my back hill I believe this song can be heard virtually all winter. In light of the observations of the



Anna's Hummingbird. Photo: Bill Merilees.

female's gathering cattail down, I have begun to record singing males much more diligently.

The photo presented here as illustration was taken March 12th 1994.

The Common Cattail, *Typha latifolia*, is one of those species who's common name creates considerable confusion. Bulrush is the "other" frequently used name for this species but current usage applies Bulrush to members of the *Scirpus* genus (see the new Lyons, page 346).

References:

Bent, A.C. 1940. *Life histories of North American cuckoos, goatsuckers, hummingbirds and their allies*. 1964 reprint. Dover Publications.

Lyons, C.P., and B. Merilees. 1995. *Trees, shrubs and flowers to know in British Columbia and Washington*. Lone Pine Publishing.

Small, A. 1994. *California birds — their status and distribution*. Ibis Publishing.

Trip to Hurricane Ridge

By David Pearce

When the V.N.H.S. announced its first trip to Hurricane Ridge in several years, over 100 people wanted to go. Three separate trips had to be organized to accommodate everyone and these were led by David Pearce on July 13, Bryan Gates on July 14 and Marilyn Lambert on July 21. We booked Olympia Tours in Port Angeles to pick us up in two buses to take us to the top of Hurricane Ridge. We caught the 10:30 a.m. "Coho" ferry and spent the 1-1/2 hour crossing pelagic birding. Highlights included seeing the nesting Purple Martins in Victoria Harbour, four Caspian Terns and four Cassin's Auklets during the crossing and each trip saw migrating Rufous Hummingbirds flying past the "Coho". There were over 1,000 Common Murre in the Straight together with many Rhinoceros Auklet and Heerman's Gull; Bryan's group was fortunate to see a Northern Fulmar.

There must be something about the number "thirteen". On the first trip, the group arrived late at 12:30 p.m. in Port Angeles, was slow to get organized, and did not leave for Hurricane Ridge until 1:00 p.m. Then, after beginning to climb the mountainous road, one of the buses broke down. The second bus had to ram it from the rear to turn it around and it coasted all the way back into Port Angeles, having run

out of gas! We eventually reached the top of Hurricane Ridge at 2:15 p.m. leaving only 1-3/4 hours to look at the flowers, but what a sight it was. We had hit the peak flowering time due to the late spring thaw (there was snow there only two weeks previously) and the whole mountain-side was carpeted in colourful splendour. Over 75 species of flowers were seen and each group also saw a Black Bear.

The first weekend was extremely hot with the temperature around 30 degrees (C) and this resulted in few birds being seen; the highlights were a pair of American Kestrels and a Gray Jay. The second weekend was cloudy and much cooler so more birds were seen on the mountain top, including Horned Larks and American Pipits. However it was foggy in the Straight and few pelagic birds were seen. Everyone enjoyed the trip and agreed that it was too short. Next year we shall catch the 6:15 a.m. sailing to give ourselves six hours on the top.

Olympia Tours goes from Port Angeles to the top of Hurricane Ridge every day at 1:15 p.m. Call them at 1-360-452-3858 for details if you wish to organize your own trip.

The birds and flowers seen on the three trips were as follows:

Birds

Common Loon	Northern Fulmar	Horned Lark	Purple Martin
Double-crested Cormorant	Brandt's Cormorant	Violet-green Swallow	Cliff Swallow
Pelagic Cormorant	Great Blue Heron	Barn Swallow	Gray Jay
Canada Goose	Mallard	Steller's Jay	Northwestern Crow
Harlequin Duck	Surf Scoter	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Turkey Vulture	Osprey	Swainson's Thrush	Hermit Thrush
American Kestrel	Black Oystercatcher	American Robin	American Pipit
Least Sandpiper	Heerman's Gull	European Starling	Yellow-rumped Warbler
California Gull	Glaucous-winged Gull	Chipping Sparrow	White-crowned Sparrow
Caspian Tern	Common Murre	Dark-eyed Junco	Purple Finch
Pigeon Guillemot	Marbled Murrelet	House Finch	Red Crossbill
Cassin's Murrelet	Rhinoceros Auklet	House Sparrow	
Rock Dove	Rufous Hummingbird		
Belted Kingfisher	Northern Flicker		
		TOTAL: 51 species	

Flowers

Mertens' Sedge	Olympic Onion	Field Chickweed	Narrow Sepaled Phacelia
Fool's Onion	Glacier Lily	Silky Phacelia	Harsh Paintbrush
Columbia Lily	False Hellebore	Scarlet Paintbrush	Magenta Paintbrush
White Bog Orchid	Alaska Bog Orchid	Large Mountain Monkey Flower	Purple Monkey Flower
Mountain Sorrel	American (or Alpine) Bistort	Foxglove	Cusick's Speedwell
Threadleaf Sandwort	Moss Champion	Mountain Owl-Clover	Bracted Lousewort
Catchfly	Red Columbine	Elephant-heads	Sickle-top Lousewort
Rockslide Larkspur	Buttercup sp.	Broad-leaved Penstemon	Small Bedstraw
Western Wallflower	Broad-leaved Stonecrop	Twinflower	Sitka Valerian
Goat's-beard	Strawberry	Common Harebell	Yarrow
Old Man's Whiskers	Partridge-foot	Hawkweed	Pale Agoseris
Vari-leaved Cinquefoil	Baldhip Rose	Pearly Everlasting	Wooly Pussytoes
Thimbleberry	Dwarf Bramble	Pink Pussytoes	Hairy Arnica
Sitka Mountain Ash	Ocean Spray	Edible Thistle	Wooly Sunflower
Mountain Spirea	Western Hedysarum	Ox-eye Daisy	Smooth Douglasia
Arctic Lupine	Broad-leaved Lupine	Various Asters, Fleabanes etc.	
American Vetch	Common Fireweed		
Smooth Willowherb	Yellow Willowherb		
Sweet Cicely	Devil's Club		
Cow Parsnip	Martindale's Lomatium		
Indian Consumption Plant	Red Heather		
White Rhododendron	Spreading Phlox		

TOTAL: 75 species

Wildflower list compiled by:

*Bill Kinkaid
Joy Finlay and
Marilyn Lambert*

1996 Spring Bird Count

Introduction by David Pearce

The first ever, late-Spring Breeding Bird Count took place on June 8 with 114 participants. The day was sunny throughout reaching a high of 20 degrees. The object of holding the Spring count in June was to get an idea of which birds stay to breed in the Victoria area and where. To this end the area was divided into 52 sub-areas, instead of the usual 21 areas, to provide more detail of exact breeding locations. This resulted in several areas being covered only by a single observer but the overall results are very interesting. One would expect to find fewer species and bird totals than during the May migration count and that was true with only 130 species found compared to the usual 160-170 species in May. However the total bird count of 26,940 is only slightly lower than the 28,000 birds found in May.

Looking at individual species there was a decline in the numbers of warblers and vireos in June compared to May, except for a large increase in Warbling Vireos. Other later

arrivals like the Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, Willow Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Cedar Waxwing and Evening Grosbeak also showed marked increases in numbers.

The highlights of the count were a Tufted Puffin at Witty's Lagoon; a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Viaduct Flats; 57 Purple Martins in Esquimalt and Victoria Harbours; and more Red Crossbills (516) than Pine Siskins (435). A rare bird that was missed on June 8, but stayed at Rithet's Bog from June 4 until at least 5:30 p.m. on June 7, was an American Avocet.

The post count gathering was held at the Swan Lake Nature Centre, for which we thank them. Many thanks, also, to all who took part. It may not have been as exciting as the May count but the information gathered on breeding birds is very important. From now on the May and June counts will be alternated each year so in 1997 we will do the count on May 10.

1996 Spring Bird Count

1A. Central Saanich	1B. Maybor's Flats	1C. Mount Work
1D. Tod Inlet	2A. Gowlland Range	2B. Francis/King Parks
3A. Goldstream Park	3B. Mount Finlayson	4A. Hastings Flats
4B. Scafe Hill	4C. Thetis Lake Park	5A. Florence Lake

BIRD SPECIES	1A	1B	1C	1D	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	5A

Pacific Loon												
Common Loon												
Pied-billed Grebe						1						2
Brandt's Cormorant												
Double-crested Cormorant	14										1	

Pelagic Cormorant												
Green Heron												
Great Blue Heron	16		2			1	2		5		1	2
Mute Swan							2					
Trumpeter Swan									1			

Canada Goose	80	12		10		21	35		72	2	8	16
Wood Duck			2			5						1
American Wigeon												
Gadwall												
Green-winged Teal												

Mallard	22	9				10			17	1	1	5
Cinnamon Teal												
Ring-necked Duck	2											
Greater Scaup												
Harlequin Duck												

Surf Scoter												
White-winged Scoter												
Hooded Merganser			2									
Red-breasted Merganser	1											
Common Merganser	3						1					

Turkey Vulture	3	9	2			1	4			7	1	
Osprey		2										
Bald Eagle	2	1	5	1		1	1		2			3
Northern Harrier		1										
Cooper's Hawk	2								1			

Red-tailed Hawk	4	1	2	2		1	1			3		1
American Kestrel		2										
Merlin		2						1				
Peregrine Falcon												
California Quail	9	6	2	16	9	9	3	3	15	8	2	1

Ring-necked Pheasant		3		1					15			
Ruffed Grouse											1	
Virginia Rail												
Greater Yellowlegs		2										

1996 Spring Bird Count

5B. Glen Lake	5C. Langford Lake	6A. Albert Head	6B. Triangle Mountain
6C. Witty's Lagoon	7A. Colwood (E)	7B. Esquimalt Lagoon	7C. Mill Hill
8A. Esquimalt Harbour	9A. Portage Inlet	9B. The Gorge	10A. Victoria Harbour
11A. Beacon Hill Park	11B. Clover Point	11C. Victoria City	12A. Oak Bay Municipality

BIRD SPECIES	5B	5C	6A	6B	6C	7A	7B	7C	8A	9A	9B	10A	11A	11B	11C	12A

Pacific Loon			2													
Common Loon			1	1								1				
Pied-billed Grebe																
Brandt's Cormorant			2											1		23
Double-crested Cormorant			6		1		6		37		3	14	1	86		31

Pelagic Cormorant			3		1				11			1		6		7
Green Heron																
Great Blue Heron		1			4		8		25	3	2	3	9	1	15	3
Mute Swan			3				4						1			
Trumpeter Swan																

Canada Goose	5	6	2					148			84	33	44	7		3
Wood Duck																9
American Wigeon																
Gadwall																
Green-winged Teal																

Mallard	3	5	17	8	14			49		2	27	2	17	347	1	14
Cinnamon Teal																4
Ring-necked Duck																
Greater Scaup			3													
Harlequin Duck					2				2				1		22	2

Surf Scoter			4							12					8	
White-winged Scoter			1													
Hooded Merganser																
Red-breasted Merganser													1			
Common Merganser										2						

Turkey Vulture	1	3			4					1						
Osprey																
Bald Eagle	3	1	2	1	1					6					1	
Northern Harrier																
Cooper's Hawk													1		2	1

Red-tailed Hawk	1							2			1					
American Kestrel																
Merlin																
Peregrine Falcon										1						
California Quail	7	18	26	36	6	1			2	1	3	2	2	10		

Ring-necked Pheasant			2													1
Ruffed Grouse			2													
Virginia Rail																
Greater Yellowlegs																

1996 Spring Bird Count

12B. Uplands Park	13A. Cadboro Bay District	13B. Mount Tolmie
13C. University of Victoria	14A. Finnerty Cove	14B. Ten Mile Point District
15A. Gordon Head District	15B. Mount Douglas	16A. Cedar Hill
16B. Swan Lake	17A. Blenkinsop Lake	17B. Panama Flats

BIRD SPECIES	12B	13A	13B	13C	14A	14B	15A	15B	16A	16B	17A	17B

Pacific Loon					1	1	1					
Common Loon					1			1				
Pied-billed Grebe											1	
Brandt's Cormorant												
Double-crested Cormorant	4	10			1	9	6	16		3		

Pelagic Cormorant	2					1	2					
Green Heron											2	
Great Blue Heron	3	4		2				7	3	2	7	1
Mute Swan												
Trumpeter Swan												

Canada Goose	2	2		2						6		10
Wood Duck											2	
American Wigeon									2			
Gadwall												
Green-winged Teal				1								

Mallard		11	6	7	19	1		3	99	19	12	6
Cinnamon Teal												
Ring-necked Duck												
Greater Scaup												
Harlequin Duck	6											

Surf Scoter					2			42				
White-winged Scoter												
Hooded Merganser		6							1			
Red-breasted Merganser												
Common Merganser												

Turkey Vulture												
Osprey												
Bald Eagle								3			1	
Northern Harrier												
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	1					1	1	1		

Red-tailed Hawk								3			1	
American Kestrel												
Merlin	2											
Peregrine Falcon							1					
California Quail	3	1	7		3	1	5	5			7	2

Ring-necked Pheasant										2	3	1
Ruffed Grouse												
Virginia Rail												
Greater Yellowlegs												

1996 Spring Bird Count

18A. Cordova Bay	18B. Elk/Beaver Lakes	18C. Rithet's Bog	19A. Observatory Hill
19B. Prospect Lake	19C. Quicks Bottom	19D. Trevlac Pond	19E. Viaduct Flats
20A. Bear Hill	20B. Island View Beach	20C. Martindale Flats	21A. Oak Bay Islands

BIRD SPECIES	18A	18B	18C	19A	19B	19C	19D	19E	20A	20B	20C	21A	TOTAL	COMMENT

Pacific Loon	4												9	
Common Loon	1									1			7	
Pied-billed Grebe						1		11					16	
Brandt's Cormorant	1											55	82	
Double-crested Cormorant	14									2		300	565	

Pelagic Cormorant	6									2		95	137	
Green Heron													2	
Great Blue Heron			1			3	1	3				3	143	
Mute Swan													10	
Trumpeter Swan													1	

Canada Goose	12	102	17		33			68	95		21		967	
Wood Duck					2		10	15					37	
American Wigeon								2					4	
Gadwall								3					3	
Green-winged Teal													1	

Mallard	30	46	26		9	7	21	56	6				959	
Cinnamon Teal								2					2	
Ring-necked Duck								1					3	
Greater Scaup													3	
Harlequin Duck												2	37	

Surf Scoter	62									6			136	
White-winged Scoter	2												3	
Hooded Merganser	1	2					4						16	
Red-breasted Merganser	1												3	
Common Merganser													6	

Turkey Vulture	1	1			6		2				1		47	
Osprey								2					6	
Bald Eagle		1			1					2	2	3	44	
Northern Harrier													1	
Cooper's Hawk			1	1									16	

Red-tailed Hawk	2	1		1		1		1	2		2		33	
American Kestrel													2	
Merlin													5	
Peregrine Falcon													2	
California Quail	12	3	2	4	15	1		1	12		5		286	

Ring-necked Pheasant													36	
Ruffed Grouse													3	
Virginia Rail								1	2				3	
Greater Yellowlegs													2	

1996 Spring Bird Count

BIRD SPECIES	1A. Central Saanich					1B. Maybor's Flats					1C. Mount Work				
	1A	1B	1C	1D	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	5A			
Spotted Sandpiper															
Black Oystercatcher															
Killdeer	4	85		1		1		7							
Mew Gull															
Ring-billed Gull															
California Gull															
Glaucous-winged Gull	28	7		28		1		5		1					
Western Gull															
Bonaparte's Gull															
Caspian Tern															
Common Murre															
Pigeon Guillemot															
Marbled Murrelet															
Rhinoceros Auklet															
Tufted Puffin															
Rock Dove	7	27													
Band-tailed Pigeon	8					3		3		4					
Mourning Dove	1	1	1												
Western Screech-Owl						2									
Great Horned Owl	1						1								
Barred Owl	1														
Anna's Hummingbird															
Rufous Hummingbird	29	4	6	3	7	2	39	13	2	2	3	3			
Belted Kingfisher	1	2					1								
Red-breasted Sapsucker	2			1											
Downy Woodpecker	2	2				1		4	1	1					
Hairy Woodpecker					1		1	1	1	2	1				
Northern Flicker	8	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	1	1	2	1			
Pileated Woodpecker	3		1	1	2	1	1			1	2	1			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4				5	1		2		3	3	1			
Western Wood-Pewee								1							
Willow Flycatcher	2			1	2	4		1		5					
Hammond's Flycatcher					1						3				
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	19		32	3	2	12		6	9	7	35				
Steller's Jay	1		5				5					3			
Northwestern Crow	42	27	28	19	2		51		25		1	12			
Common Raven	12	2	12	14	8	2		1	4	5	2				
Hutton's Vireo			2												
Solitary Vireo			4	2	1				3	5					

1996 Spring Bird Count

BIRD SPECIES	5B. Glen Lake					5C. Langford Lake					6A. Albert Head					6B. Triangle Mountain				
	5B	5C	6A	6B	6C	7A	7B	7C	8A	9A	9B	10A	11A	11B	11C	12A				
Spotted Sandpiper																				
Black Oystercatcher																				
Killdeer																				
Mew Gull																				
Ring-billed Gull																				
California Gull																				
Glaucous-winged Gull																				
Western Gull																				
Bonaparte's Gull																				
Caspian Tern																				
Common Murre																				
Pigeon Guillemot																				
Marbled Murrelet																				
Rhinoceros Auklet																				
Tufted Puffin																				
Rock Dove																				
Band-tailed Pigeon																				
Mourning Dove																				
Western Screech-Owl																				
Great Horned Owl																				
Barred Owl																				
Anna's Hummingbird																				
Rufous Hummingbird																				
Belted Kingfisher																				
Red-breasted Sapsucker																				
Downy Woodpecker																				
Hairy Woodpecker																				
Northern Flicker																				
Pileated Woodpecker																				
Olive-sided Flycatcher																				
Western Wood-Pewee																				
Willow Flycatcher																				
Hammond's Flycatcher																				
Pacific-slope Flycatcher																				
Steller's Jay																				
Northwestern Crow																				
Common Raven																				
Hutton's Vireo																				
Solitary Vireo																				

1996 Spring Bird Count

12B. Uplands Park	13A. Cadboro Bay District	13B. Mount Tolmie
13C. University of Victoria	14A. Finnerty Cove	14B. Ten Mile Point District
15A. Gordon Head District	15B. Mount Douglas	16A. Cedar Hill
16B. Swan Lake	17A. Blenkinsop Lake	17B. Panama Flats

BIRD SPECIES	12B	13A	13B	13C	14A	14B	15A	15B	16A	16B	17A	17B
Spotted Sandpiper											1	
Black Oystercatcher												
Killdeer											11	
Mew Gull	2											
Ring-billed Gull												
California Gull												
Glaucous-winged Gull	39	15	2	5	9	25	17	10	24	19	7	2
Western Gull												
Bonaparte's Gull												
Caspian Tern												
Common Murre						30						
Pigeon Guillemot	6				3		6	5				
Marbled Murrelet	1					1	4					
Rhinoceros Auklet	3				1	30	6					
Tufted Puffin												
Rock Dove		3							4	12		3
Band-tailed Pigeon					3							
Mourning Dove												1
Western Screech-Owl												
Great Horned Owl												
Barred Owl												
Anna's Hummingbird	2	1	3		3			1			1	
Rufous Hummingbird					1	1		18	1	1	8	2
Belted Kingfisher					2			1				
Red-breasted Sapsucker												
Downy Woodpecker		1		1				1	1	3	3	
Hairy Woodpecker									2			
Northern Flicker		1	1					2				2
Pileated Woodpecker	1					1		1				
Olive-sided Flycatcher			2		7	1		3		1		
Western Wood-Pewee					1							
Willow Flycatcher												
Hammond's Flycatcher												
Pacific-slope Flycatcher					2	2		10			2	
Steller's Jay												
Northwestern Crow	37	36	10	30	18	13	7	23	65	45	5	13
Common Raven	2			2	1	4		2			3	
Hutton's Vireo												
Solitary Vireo												

1996 Spring Bird Count

18A. Cordova Bay	18B. Elk/Beaver Lakes	18C. Rithet's Bog	19A. Observatory Hill
19B. Prospect Lake	19C. Quicks Bottom	19D. Trevlac Pond	19E. Viaduct Flats
20A. Bear Hill	20B. Island View Beach	20C. Martindale Flats	21A. Oak Bay Islands

BIRD SPECIES	18A	18B	18C	19A	19B	19C	19D	19E	20A	20B	20C	21A	TOTAL	COMMENT
Spotted Sandpiper			2					3			1		7	
Black Oystercatcher												3	33	
Killdeer	1				1	2			7		8		157	
Mew Gull													8	
Ring-billed Gull													1	
California Gull													12	
Glaucous-winged Gull	99	6	5			2		1	4	8	13	1,475	3,048	
Western Gull													2	
Bonaparte's Gull													1	
Caspian Tern													4	
Common Murre													59	
Pigeon Guillemot	41									2		52	124	
Marbled Murrelet	4											3	55	
Rhinoceros Auklet	16									1		39	285	
Tufted Puffin													1	
Rock Dove													275	
Band-tailed Pigeon											10		98	
Mourning Dove						4		1					4	
Western Screech-Owl													2	
Great Horned Owl													6	
Barred Owl	2							1					4	
Anna's Hummingbird			2										19	
Rufous Hummingbird	8	5	1	1	10	2	1	2			1		232	
Belted Kingfisher													15	
Red-breasted Sapsucker													3	
Downy Woodpecker	4		3	3									48	
Hairy Woodpecker	2	1						1					19	
Northern Flicker	7			3	3	1	1						69	
Pileated Woodpecker	3				2			1		1			25	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	6			3	1			1			3		51	
Western Wood-Pewee							1				2		6	
Willow Flycatcher	1							2		2	8		28	
Hammond's Flycatcher												1	6	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	21	8		6		1				11		3	265	
Steller's Jay					1								24	
Northwestern Crow	78	27	14		12	6		2	52	21	99	5	1,493	
Common Raven	11	1		2	2	1	4	1					121	
Hutton's Vireo							1						3	
Solitary Vireo	4			5		1			4				34	

1996 Spring Bird Count

BIRD SPECIES	1A. Central Saanich					1B. Maybor's Flats					1C. Mount Work				
	1A	1B	1C	1D	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	5A			
Warbling Vireo	1	2	2	2	6	6			5	1	1				
Cedar Waxwing	11	10				2		15	2	6					
Swainson's Thrush	20		2	8	3	10			10	2					
American Robin	152	39	77	13	15	23	82	50	37	20	37	39			
European Starling	160	100		22		3	50		23			8			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1														
Golden-crowned Kinglet	8		2					14	3	4	21				
Varied Thrush			1				2								
Red-breasted Nuthatch	28		14	4	11	4	3	9	12	5		7			
Brown Creeper			1			1		5	8	2	19	2			
Marsh Wren															
Bewick's Wren	13			7	5	5	2	3	15	4	2	3			
Winter Wren	10		13		4	24	19	3	4	4	3				
House Wren		2	1	5	5	5			2	8	3				
Bushtit	15	12	4			5	1	7	3	2	2				
Tree Swallow	3	2					30								
Violet-green Swallow	105	20	21	14		11	5	12	45	15	13	16			
Purple Martin						2									
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		2				1			2						
Barn Swallow	66	25	4	9		6	10		14	3		4			
Cliff Swallow	3	1		4					4						
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	66	9	62	4	6	9	1	36	29	4	29	10			
Eurasian Skylark		3													
House Sparrow	8			10					57			8			
Pine Siskin	49	15		4	1	2		9	12	2	6				
American Goldfinch	20		1	7	3	5			10	6		2			
Purple Finch	4			1	2	7		1	1	7	4				
House Finch	22	6		2					14	1		7			
Red Crossbill		40		10					19	4	17	30			
Evening Grosbeak		2				3			8	4					
Orange-crowned Warbler	60	3	14	11	7	10	2	15	9	6	30	5			
Yellow Warbler	2					3	2		1						
Yellow-rumped Warbler			3	1	7			3	2	5	7				
Black-throated Gray Warbler	5														
Townsend's Warbler	2		9		5	1		3		5	19	1			
MacGillivray's Warbler	1			3	6	1				3					
Common Yellowthroat	1	1	2	12		1			4	1					
Wilson's Warbler	1		5			4				4	17	1			
Fox Sparrow															

1996 Spring Bird Count

BIRD SPECIES	5B. Glen Lake				5C. Langford Lake				6A. Albert Head				6B. Triangle Mountain			
	5B	5C	6A	6B	6C	7A	7B	7C	8A	9A	9B	10A	11A	11B	11C	12A
Warbling Vireo	1		4	20	4			1					1			
Cedar Waxwing	7	35	10	17	12			1			14	3		4		1
Swainson's Thrush	2			5	2											2
American Robin	42	132	22	110	32	5		6	116	45	59	23	70	10	47	8
European Starling	17	74	11	20	29	1	3		472	45	146	385	37	98	68	70
Ruby-crowned Kinglet																1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3		5	8	15			4	38							
Varied Thrush	2	2	6	6	6	1		4	11	1		1	8		3	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		7	6	12			2	12	1			8		1	
Brown Creeper																
Marsh Wren	1															
Bewick's Wren	20	5	14	14	7	1			30	1	5	11	16		4	1
Winter Wren	4	1		5	4			2	8				1			
House Wren	1		2	12				1								
Bushtit	6	18	3	19					53	18	12	43	50		20	3
Tree Swallow				4												2
Violet-green Swallow	20	38	11	87	32	8		2	29	69	11	2	23	4	17	35
Purple Martin									40				15			
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			4		2				1							
Barn Swallow	8	19	12	29	36	2			48	8	18	11	18	11	2	19
Cliff Swallow			2													
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	33	48	21	37	21	2		5	73	18	20	11	91		26	5
Eurasian Skylark	15	19	8	21	39	1	4		69	9	76	157	32	64	195	8
House Sparrow	1		13	39	21	2			36	26			22	6	8	10
Pine Siskin																
American Goldfinch		2	10	12	6				1	2				2		
Purple Finch			7	9	6					3					2	6
House Finch	10	16	3	15	10	5			49	36	14	31	30	7	14	8
Red Crossbill	25		27	13	36				3	32			10			40
Evening Grosbeak			6	7												
Orange-crowned Warbler	24	12	14	23	7				6	52						1
Yellow Warbler	2		2	7						2	1					1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	1		4	2					1						
Black-throated Gray Warbler				3						2						
Townsend's Warbler	3		3	7	7				1	2						
MacGillivray's Warbler	2			1												
Common Yellowthroat	5	6		7												
Wilson's Warbler				3	2	1			3							1
Fox Sparrow																

1996 Spring Bird Count

12B. Uplands Park	13A. Cadboro Bay District	13B. Mount Tolmie
13C. University of Victoria	14A. Finnerty Cove	14B. Ten Mile Point District
15A. Gordon Head District	15B. Mount Douglas	16A. Cedar Hill
16B. Swan Lake	17A. Blenkinsop Lake	17B. Panama Flats

BIRD SPECIES	12B	13A	13B	13C	14A	14B	15A	15B	16A	16B	17A	17B
Warbling Vireo								7			1	
Cedar Waxwing	7	1			2		2	55		31	37	6
Swainson's Thrush								6				
American Robin	32	23	23	28	86	19	10	68	59	40	22	3
European Starling	35	105	5		14	57	85	30	315	20	44	6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet												
Golden-crowned Kinglet								13				
Varied Thrush												
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4				9	1		3			1	
Brown Creeper					1	1		9				
Marsh Wren										8		
Bewick's Wren	5	7	11	9	11	3	1	7	14	14	7	2
Winter Wren					3	4		17	1			
House Wren								4				
Bushtit	4		25		5				33	27	11	8
Tree Swallow											1	
Violet-green Swallow	13	17	5	18	15	5	7	21	60	64	16	17
Purple Martin												
Northern Rough-winged Swallow												
Barn Swallow	5	9					1	2	24	36	13	4
Cliff Swallow												
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	65	10	23	4	8	8	8	27	9	3	21	
Eurasian Skylark												
House Sparrow	12	8		12	13	2	55	5	170	70	12	16
Pine Siskin	1		16	2	8	10		16		4	5	2
American Goldfinch					4	4	2	14	2	9	2	1
Purple Finch	5				2						2	
House Finch	10	20	20	5	27	10	8	1	27	25	14	5
Red Crossbill	6				61	20		62				
Evening Grosbeak								8				
Orange-crowned Warbler	6		3		13	2		11	1			1
Yellow Warbler							1				6	
Yellow-rumped Warbler								2		7		
Black-throated Gray Warbler												
Townsend's Warbler								1				
MacGillivray's Warbler												
Common Yellowthroat			1							24	5	1
Wilson's Warbler								3		1	1	
Fox Sparrow	1								1			

1996 Spring Bird Count

18A. Cordova Bay	18B. Elk/Beaver Lakes	18C. Rithet's Bog	19A. Observatory Hill
19B. Prospect Lake	19C. Quicks Bottom	19D. Trevlac Pond	19E. Viaduct Flats
20A. Bear Hill	20B. Island View Beach	20C. Martindale Flats	21A. Oak Bay Islands

BIRD SPECIES	18A	18B	18C	19A	19B	19C	19D	19E	20A	20B	20C	21A	TOTAL	COMMENT
Warbling Vireo	4			4				2	3				78	
Cedar Waxwing	14	12	15		5	10	2	9	6		2		368	
Swainson's Thrush	5	6		1			2		5	2	3		94	
American Robin	101	50	12	40	36	8	11	12	82	14	41		2,131	
European Starling	22	10	17		10	15		15	82	27	70	3	2,829	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet													2	
Golden-crowned Kinglet							1						139	
Varied Thrush													3	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	5			27	2	3	2	12		2		228	
Brown Creeper	6			3	1	1			6				116	
Marsh Wren			3			7							19	
Bewick's Wren	21	6	8	3	10	5		1	7	2	3		345	
Winter Wren	4	4		1					2				145	
House Wren	2			7	2		2		16				80	
Bushtit	68					7	1		7				492	
Tree Swallow		1			2	7	4	2	12		5		75	
Violet-green Swallow	49	50	64	9	60	26	12	12	33	8	20		1,266	
Purple Martin													57	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4												16	
Barn Swallow	38	24	32		4	8	2	5	46	6	33	2	676	
Cliff Swallow		15				6					8		43	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	113	50	15	13	45	14	8		25		16		1,161	
Eurasian Skylark											2		5	
House Sparrow	20		3			3			30		13		1,244	
Pine Siskin	15	5		2	40	4	2	2	13		4		435	
American Goldfinch	11		6	7	26	3	2	6	3		3		194	
Purple Finch	2			1	16		2	1					91	
House Finch	17	1	6	7	24	6	4	15	6				558	
Red Crossbill	22			4	5	5			8				516	
Evening Grosbeak	11			7	6				2				64	
Orange-crowned Warbler	9	11	2	20	5	2	1	2	17	1	1		419	
Yellow Warbler							1	1	2				34	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6				1		1		2		2		61	
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1	2							7				20	
Townsend's Warbler	1	2		9	1	1	1						84	
MacGillivray's Warbler													17	
Common Yellowthroat		1	11			11	1	7	3	3	14		122	
Wilson's Warbler	3	1	1										52	
Fox Sparrow													2	

1996 Spring Bird Count

BIRD SPECIES	1A. Central Saanich				1B. Maybor's Flats				1C. Mount Work			
	1A	1B	1C	1D	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	5A
Song Sparrow	30	15	11	8		8	14	1	1	5	22	8
White-crowned Sparrow	6			7	11	10		7	8	10		
Dark-eyed Junco	25	3	10	1	42	8	1	8	5	2	18	
Savannah Sparrow	1	6										
Chipping Sparrow	11	2	1			3			7	1	14	3
Spotted Towhee	28	4		10	9	11	4	4	12	8	11	8
Western Tanager						1	3				1	
Black-headed Grosbeak												
Bullock's Oriole												
Yellow-headed Blackbird												
Red-winged Blackbird	25	25	1	7		3			3			10
Brewer's Blackbird	12	18		10		1			14			
Brown-headed Cowbird	7	1	1	2					2	2	4	2
TOTAL	1,315	576	371	303	187	272	393	237	590	213	391	233
	68	49	41	44	29	52	36	28	52	47	45	38

1996 Spring Bird Count

BIRD SPECIES	5B. Glen Lake				5C. Langford Lake				6A. Albert Head				6B. Triangle Mountain			
	5B	5C	6A	6B	6C	7A	7B	7C	8A	9A	9B	10A	11A	11B	11C	12A
Song Sparrow	11	23	1	11	2		1		3	11		4		9		7
White-crowned Sparrow	3	5	4	3	4	1			13							
Dark-eyed Junco		1	5	15	3			13	2							
Savannah Sparrow																
Chipping Sparrow	1		4	7	3	2		8	5							
Spotted Towhee	4	9	14	18	2			3	36	3	3	1	9		1	5
Western Tanager				2												
Black-headed Grosbeak		2		4												
Bullock's Oriole	1															
Yellow-headed Blackbird																
Red-winged Blackbird	15	42	4	27	12	4	2		4	12				2		
Brewer's Blackbird	10	6		11	3	4	2							1		
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	7	4	12	6	1			9		8	3	8			
TOTAL	413	642	726	890	643	53	358	85	1,767	469	573	1,091	966	785	489	388
	50	39	62	63	57	21	21	26	56	24	23	37	32	28	22	32

Welcome to New Members

JUNE

Marc and Gerd Bell
of Pipeline Road

Janet Komars
of Quadra Street

Graham Pupak
of Grant Street
enjoys field trips

Diane Mothersill
of Ambleswood Drive

Cynthia and Edward Sinclair
of Goldstream Avenue

Alastair Urquhart and Family
of Montreal Street
interested in birding

JULY

Grant and Janet MacKenzie
of Montford Crescent
enjoy birding



Returning the Loon to Prospect Lake

The Prospect Lake Community Association has published the 16-page environmental pamphlet "Returning the Loon to Prospect Lake" to raise environmental awareness and suggest positive actions residents can take to reduce their impact on the fragile ecosystem of the Prospect Lake/Tod Creek watershed.

If you would like to receive a copy please call Frances Hunter at 479-1956

Volunteers Needed

The Royal B.C. Museum loans to educational institutions, researchers, and artists approximately 600 natural history specimens each year. Volunteers are needed to work in the collections area of the museum to assist with the coordination of the loans program. Duties would include assisting borrowers select specimens, recording the loan and working with museum staff to prepare the materials for loan. Training about natural history collections and computer database will be offered. Shifts will be approximately 2.5 hours per week, Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Due to the training required, volunteers are asked to consider a commitment of at least one year for this project.

For further information
please call Gail Miller
Volunteer Services Manager
Royal B.C. Museum
Phone 387-7902

1996 Spring Bird Count

12B. Uplands Park	13A. Cadboro Bay District	13B. Mount Tolmie
13C. University of Victoria	14A. Finnerty Cove	14B. Ten Mile Point District
15A. Gordon Head District	15B. Mount Douglas	16A. Cedar Hill
16B. Swan Lake	17A. Blenkinsop Lake	17B. Panama Flats

BIRD SPECIES	12B	13A	13B	13C	14A	14B	15A	15B	16A	16B	17A	17B
Song Sparrow	6	5			7	1	5	1	3	16	20	
White-crowned Sparrow	2		1	2	1			6				5
Dark-eyed Junco	2			1				5			2	
Savannah Sparrow										1		2
Chipping Sparrow				2								
Spotted Towhee	38	5	18	11	25	8	3	32	24	5	6	4
Western Tanager											3	
Black-headed Grosbeak												
Bullock's Oriole					1							
Yellow-headed Blackbird												
Red-winged Blackbird		3					20	2	27	61	10	16
Brewer's Blackbird			2						34			
Brown-headed Cowbird	27				5	4	2	7	2	7	6	
TOTAL	402	305	185	144	399	280	265	603	1,009	587	345	142
	38	25	21	19	40	32	25	51	29	33	43	28

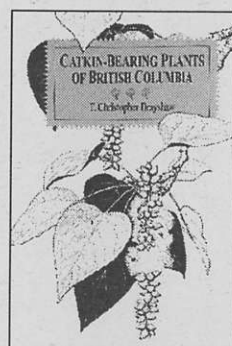
1996 Spring Bird Count

18A. Cordova Bay	18B. Elk/Beaver Lakes	18C. Rithet's Bog	19A. Observatory Hill
19B. Prospect Lake	19C. Quicks Bottom	19D. Trevlac Pond	19E. Viaduct Flats
20A. Bear Hill	20B. Island View Beach	20C. Martindale Flats	21A. Oak Bay Islands

	18A	18B	18C	19A	19B	19C	19D	19E	20A	20B	20C	21A	TOTAL	COMMENT
	19	11	10	2	6	8		3	19	4	9		361	
	4	5		3	6				4				131	
	7			7	14	3	2		12				217	
		1							4		47		62	
	8			6	4				16				108	
	16	20	6	10	26	6	7		24	1	3		515	
		1		4				2					14	
		6					1						16	
								2					4	
								1					1	
	4	15	71		24	55	6	24	26	5	14		581	
									8		7		143	
	27	5	5	8	4		3	9	14		5		221	
	1,119	524	364	208	510	258	133	325	761	118	495	2,040	26,940	
	65	40	30	35	42	41	39	45	46	20	37	14	130	

Two New Publications from the Royal British Columbia Museum

Catkin-Bearing Plants of British Columbia T. Christopher Brayshaw



Catkin-bearing trees and shrubs are found almost everywhere in British Columbia. They are alders, birches, oaks, poplars, willows and more — 67 species in all. Since the first edition of this work was published in 1976, much research has been conducted on the identity, taxonomy and distribution for these plants, especially for the willows.

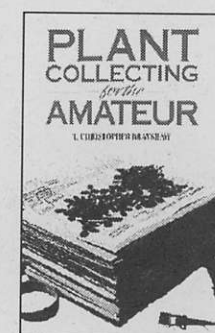
This revised edition is the most

comprehensive and current work on catkin-bearing plants. The author describes all 67 species — and many subspecies and varieties. Each description is accompanied by a detailed line drawing, making identification easy, and a distribution map. Diagnostic keys to the families, genera and species are also included.

Catkin-Bearing Plants is an essential guide for biologists and naturalists studying this plant group, and useful for anyone interested in trees and shrubs.

\$24.95, 22 pages, 6 x 9"; paperback, illustrated, March 1996. Revised edition ISBN 0-7718-9458-9

Plant Collecting for the Amateur T. Christopher Brayshaw



First published in 1973, this remains the only comprehensive guide to collecting, drying and storing plant specimens for study. Intended for naturalists and amateur botanists who do not have access to herbarium equipment, *Plant Collecting* makes use of common household items to dry, press and store plants.

Revised text and smaller format make this edition easy to use in the field or at home.

\$8.95, 48 pages, 5-1/2 x 8-1/2"; paperback, illustrated, February 1996. Revised — new format. ISBN 0-7718-9439-2

These titles are available from:

Royal Museum Gift Shop
675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4
Tel: (604) 356-0505 Fax: (604) 356-8197

If you would like to be on the Royal British Columbia Museum's publications mailing list, please write or call us at 675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4, (604) 387-3701.

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Did you know that Greece sustains some of the richest wildlife and flora in Europe? Now is the time to discover Greece's off-the-beaten-track landscapes and culture on an educational tour led by expert Greek naturalists!

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This nature tour is designed and led by Biogeographer, Stam Zogaris and Educator Vasso Vlami. These experienced leaders have worked on research and conservation in Greece for over a decade. This Ecotour promotes nature conservation in Greece.

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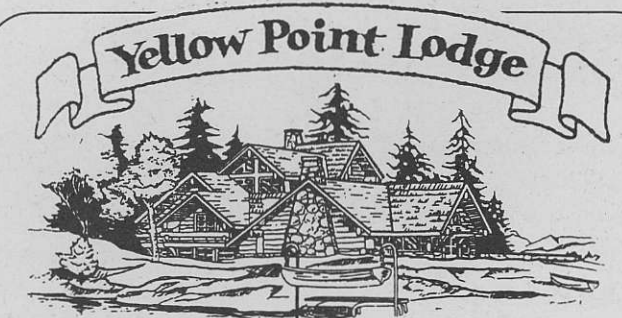
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGULAR MEETINGS are generally held on the following days. **Board of Directors:** the first Tuesday of each month. **Natural History Presentations** (Formally known as the General Members Meeting): the second Tuesday of each month. (Please note that for the remainder of this year only (September to December), the Natural History Presentations will be held in Room A240 of the Human and Social Development Building, University of Victoria, NOT the Begbie Building.) **Botany Night:** the third Tuesday of each month. **Birders' Night:** the fourth Wednesday of each month. **Marine Night:** the last Monday of each month. Locations are given in the calendar listings. Telephone the VNHS Events Tape at 479-2054 for further information and updates.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday, September 3

Board of Directors' Meeting

Clifford Carl Reading Room, Cunningham Building, University of Victoria at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 7

Birding at Witty's Lagoon

One of the best locations to see the shorebird migration is at Witty's Lagoon. Car pool at the Helmcken Park and Ride at 8:10 a.m. or meet at the Witty's Lagoon parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Leader David Pearce (658-0295).

Tuesday, September 10

VNHS Natural History Presentation

7:30 p.m. Please note that for the remainder of this year only (September to December), the VNHS Natural History Presentations will be held in Room A240 of the Human and Social Development Building, University of Victoria, NOT the Begbie Building. Program to be announced. Check the VNHS Events Tape at 479-2054.

Tuesday, September 17

Botany Night

Program to be announced. Check the VNHS Events Tape at 479-2054. Swan Lake Nature House, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25

Birders' Night

Room 159, Begbie Building, University of Victoria, 7:30 p.m. Everyone Welcome. Program to be announced. Call Bryan Gates for more information at 598-7789 or the VNHS Events tape at 479-2054. Bring a friend and your coffee cup.

Saturday, September 28

The East Sooke Park Hawk Watch

The annual Hawk migration over East Sooke Park should not be missed. In previous years up to 13 species of raptors, including Broad-winged Hawk, have been seen from the Beechy Head overlook. Car pool at the Helmcken Park and Ride at 9:30 a.m. or meet at the Aylard Park entrance at 10:00 a.m. Leader David Allinson (380-8233).

Sunday, September 29

Pelagic Birding on the "Coho"

Hank vanderPol will lead a series of trips on board the M.V. Coho. The crossing takes 1-1/2 hours and there is the possibility of seeing shearwaters, alcids and phalaropes. We will be birding from the

bow of the boat so dress warmly. Bring proof of citizenship and the \$17.70 return ferry fare. Meet at the Coho Ferry Terminal at 10:00 a.m. The ferry arrives back in Victoria at approx. 2:15 p.m.

Monday, September 30

Marine Night.

Nikki Wright of the B.C. Marine Awareness Society will speak to us on Kelp Forest Ecology. Nikki often volunteers her time to educate the public on the wonders of our underwater environment. She was also instrumental in getting our Marine Night going back in April, 1995. Swan Lake Nature Centre, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcomed.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Tuesday, October 1

Board of Directors' Meeting

Clifford Carl Reading Room, Cunningham Building, University of Victoria at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 5

Workshop on Broom Removal and Native Plant Reintroduction

The workshop focuses on the southern Gulf Islands and will be held at the South Galiano Hall, Galiano Island from 1 to 5 p.m. A shuttle bus will be available from Sturdies Bay. The program includes speakers, broom pull demonstrations and displays. Admission is by donation but please pre-register. And bring your own snacks. For more information and registration call the Galiano Conservancy Association at 539-2424 or Dianna Colnett at 738-9384 (Vancouver).

Tuesday, October 8

VNHS Natural History Presentation.

7:30 p.m. Please note that for the remainder of this year only (September to December), the VNHS Natural History Presentations will be held in Room A240 of the Human and Social Development Building, University of Victoria, NOT the Begbie Building. Chris Czajkowski will present a slide-illustrated talk on *Alpine Flowers of the Chilcotin*. Chris is the author of two books on wilderness living in British Columbia. Everyone welcome. Bring your coffee cup and a friend.

Sunday, October 13

Birding Big Day at Duncan

Derrick Marven invites you to enter the Birding Big Day in Duncan as part of Duncan's Great Blue Heron Festival, October 11-13. Teams will consist of 3-5 people and the area covered will be Somenos Marsh, Duncan Sewage Lagoons, Cowichan River and Maple Bay. Tentative times are from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; there will be a post count gathering at Duncan Rail Museum at 3:00 p.m. Phone Derrick at 748-8504 to register your team and confirm the times.

Tuesday, October 15

Botany Night

Program to be announced. Check the VNHS Events Tape at 479-2054. Swan Lake Nature House, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 23

Birders' Night

Room 159, Begbie Building, University of Victoria, 7:30 p.m. . Everyone Welcome. Program to be announced. Call Bryan Gates for more information at 598-7789 or the VNHS Events tape at 479-2054. Bring a friend and your coffee cup.

Sunday, October 27

Pelagic Birding on the "Coho"

Mini Pelagic Trip. See September 29 for details. Meet Hank vanderPol at the Coho Ferry Terminal at 10:00 a.m. This trip returns to Victoria at 3:30 p.m.

Monday, September 30

Marine Night

What's happening in our area in the field of marine mammal research? Join us for a talk by Tamara Gunther of the Marine

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed for the nature interpretation programs with visiting school children at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. A keen interest in local flora and fauna, as well as a background working with children is an asset. Programs start in late September. Orientation and training is provided for all volunteers. For more information, call Joan at 479-0211 before September 13th.

Gorge Waterway Action Society

The Gorge Waterway Action Society is a non-profit society dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Gorge Waterway, a unique and priceless geographic feature of natural beauty. Help us to ensure the water quality and wildlife habitat of the Gorge is preserved and that the Waterway is developed as a scenic area for the use and pleasure of everyone. New members are welcome. For membership information, please contact Norman Clark at 383-7190.

VNHS Conservation Volunteers Wanted

Are you concerned about the future of Greater Victoria's natural heritage? Want to do something to help? The VNHS Parks and Conservation Committee would like to know about your concerns. We are also interested in members who would like to be involved with the VNHS Parks and Conservation Committee or to volunteer time on specific projects. To voice your concerns or to volunteer your time (even a single hour is helpful), please contact Jeff Stone at 370-2449.

Volunteer Needed

The Parks and Conservation Society has a small project for a willing volunteer. Someone is needed to gather information and fill out an application for a grant proposal for money to complete work on projects such as our inventory of Sensitive Areas. If this interests you, contact Tony Embleton at 595-6812.

Mammal Research Group and hear the latest on Transient Killer Whales. Swan Lake Nature Centre, 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcomed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, November 25

Marine Night

Are you still wondering about the advisability of dumping raw sewage into Juan de Fuca Strait? Then you will be interested to hear the scientific basis for that decision from Laura Taylor of the CRD — The Facts about Sewage. Swan Lake Nature Centre, 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcomed.

December, 1996

Marine Field Trip

We are planning a beach seine with Alex Peden of the Royal BC Museum in the Sidney area. Last year we had a good turnout at Willow's Beach and collected a number of unusual and common species of fish and invertebrates. Date and time to be announced in the next Victoria Naturalist.

BULLETIN BOARD

Living in Heron Bay
Lebowitz
Diary of a Wilderness One

Birders Wanted

Share your birding knowledge and enthusiasm. Be a part of a volunteer team to lead bird walks on Sunday mornings at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary. Birders are invited to sign up for one or more days per month. These popular Sunday events are held between 9 and 11 a.m. and usually have 6-12 participants of all levels. For more details contact Joan at the Nature House (479-0211) or FAX 479-0132.

Reminder!

The Swan Lake Nature Centre holds birding walks regularly on Wednesdays & Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Announcement!

BEN — Botanical Electronic News — is an electronic botanical newsletter distributed on Internet by Adolf Ceska in about bi-weekly intervals. To subscribe to BEN send a message to: <aceska@freenet.victoria.bc.ca>.

For Sale

National Geographic's *Field Guide to Birds*; the *Naturalist Guide to the Victoria Region*; *Birds of Victoria*; the Victoria Area Bird Checklist; and, the Victoria Natural History Society's Window Decals are for sale. Contact Lyndis Davis at 744-5750.

Back Issues of the Victoria Naturalist

Copies of back issues and indices of the *Victoria Naturalist* are available from Tom Gillespie (361-1694).

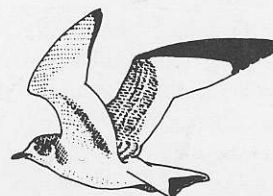
Garry Oak Meadow Society Membership

The Garry Oak Meadow Society aims to promote, conserve and restore our native oak meadow lands. You can help them to preserve our rarest Canadian habitat by joining the Society or through donations to any branch of Pacific Coast Savings Credit Union. For further information contact Tom Gillespie at 361-1694.

expire: 31-12-96

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