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OUR COVER

The cover photograph is a vertebrae and base of the skull of the Bowhead Whale, one of hundreds of remains from past hunting in the Arctic waters off the Siberian coastline. The picture was taken by David Stirling who writes about his trip to the Arctic in our feature article, *Beyond Alaska — Bird Bazaars and Whale Graveyards*. Oriented the way it is, vertebrae also looks like the Inuit stone man, *Inukshuk*. Inukshuks have stood for thousands of years as directional or survival markers and serve as a symbol which greets travellers throughout the high Arctic.

We also have a couple of mystery birds from Dannie Carsen's trip to the Cariboo. On page eight is a flycatcher that Dannie describes in his article and, on page nine, is a photo of a bird not usually seen in tree tops — any thoughts as to their identification?



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Beyond Alaska — Bird Bazaars and Whale Graveyards

By David Stirling



Herald Island, Arctic Ocean bird bazaar. Photos: David Stirling

I am standing on the upper deck of the *Akademik Shokalskiy* under low clouds and a thin falling snow, 100 miles out from the Siberian coast. We are heading for Wrangell Island, summer home of the Snow Geese that visit the Reifel Refuge every November. Green seas all around and ice blink on the western horizon. Astern, a pair of those stubby miniature albatross of the Polar seas, Northern Fulmars, glide. The fulmars are a motley lot — most are white phase but some are really motley. Rarely, a dark bird joins the crew. A dark phase, at a distance in poor visibility, might be mistaken for a Short-tailed Shearwater, the only Shearwater I saw north of the Arctic Circle. Far from land the fulmar is usually the only bird in sight but, no, a half dozen little shorebirds land near the ship — Red Phalaropes, like tiny British Guardsmen in their striking red summer uniforms — then a lone Black-legged Kittiwake, a solitary Herring Gull and an express line of five Thick-billed Murres. Later, when we entered the pack ice, Pomarine Jaegers became common. I saw nine in one group.

Soon we were in dirty, old pack ice that got thicker and scarier as we searched for a passage north-west. On the bridge, the captain's directions to the helmsman sounded like "catsliver" and "cameroon", Russian for port and starboard, I think. Sometimes the ship's response to catsliver or cameroon wasn't quick enough and we hit a particularly dense chunk of ice a glancing blow, sending a grinding shudder from stem to stern. We passed over the grave of the

Chalouskin, a Soviet ice breaker that didn't make it in 1935. The rescue of its crew and colonists bound for Wrangell Island made world headlines. Video tonight: *The Titanic*.

In the pack ice at 2:30 a.m. we had splendid views of a mother Polar Bear and an almost-grown cub. Mother seemed to be oblivious to our ship, which was nosed into her ice shelf. After nearly an hour of interaction she curled up, covered her eyes with her paws and went to sleep. The only other mammals we saw here were Bearded Seals and several Walrus.

After eighteen hours in the ice we abandoned our attempt to reach Wrangell and instead turned east. We broke out into almost ice free waters and chose to go for Herald Island, an uninhabited, precipitous, ice-encrusted dome rising from the Chukchi Sea at 71.19 degrees north latitude. The *Shokalskiy* anchored off the eastern shore where there was some shelter from the howling north wind and drifting ice. In rather scary conditions we landed by Zodiac — I should say we clung precariously to footholds on slippery boulders and ice. We were, perhaps, the first persons to land on this island in recent times.

The vertical cliffs of Herald are truly a huge bird bazaar. Thousands of pairs of Thick-billed Murres balanced on tiny rock brackets, Black-legged Kittiwakes sat on vegetated nests on slightly wider shelves, hundreds of Black Guillemots underfoot, puffins galore and a some Pelagic Cormorants. High up, on a two-by-four meadow, a group of



Bowhead Whale jaw bone placed upright, perhaps as a navigation aid.

Snow Buntings frolicked. An awesome sight near the top of the world.

To back track: After a pleasant flight from Seattle to Nome, Alaska, where we spent the night, we shuttled in small planes the 330 miles across the Bering Sea to Provideniya, Siberia, just south of the Arctic Circle. Here, we boarded Marine Expeditions *Akademik Shokalskiy*, one of several Russian research vessels, complete with captain and crew, available for hire now that the cold war is over. With comfortable, but not cruise ship, accommodation and space for only 38 passengers, ships like the *Shokalskiy* are ideal for 'expedition' type travel to out-of-the-way places. This was the first and most extensive 'expedition cruise' ever to operate in the Russian Far East.



Long-tailed Jaeger, one of the three jaeger species seen.

One word describes Provideniya [Providence] — ugly. Soviet style construction, harsh climate and permafrost have combined to produce an atmosphere of utter dilapidation. Provideniya was maintained as a Far East sea port mainly because of its strategic location close to Alaska. It was a major military base with an entire Russian field army on standby. The army has now gone home, leaving the detritus of near-war — rusting oil drums, ruined buildings, scrap iron — littering the countryside. The airfield is still under military control. Like giant grounded birds, attack helicopters, with red stars and rust creeping through their camouflage paint, sat on their pads. Getting through immigration and customs was an experience, as the old system still survives in this isolated corner of the Far East, but a few cans of diet Coke helped lubricate the bureaucratic process.

After boarding our ship, it was anchors aweigh and north along the coast of the Bering Sea to our first landings — one we christened 'Puffin Island' because it was the nesting home to thousands of both Horned and Tufted Puffins. Above the carpet of solemn puffins there was an aerial mantle of noisy kittiwakes. A number ten spectacle.

The first night and most of the next day were noteworthy for fierce winds and high seas that separated the sailors from the landlubbers. Rounding Cape Dezhnev, at the top end of the Bering Strait, the wind-lashed sea was animated by numerous Kittlitz's Murrelets, Least Auklets, Crested Auklets, Red Phalaropes, two kinds of murres and Black-legged Kittiwakes. In the late afternoon we were able to anchor in the lee of impressive bird cliffs. The sun, now shining through piles of lenticular clouds, produced a spectacular seascape with hosts of flashing black and white murres, puffins and kittiwakes hurrying home after a day's fishing.

We landed at several places along the Siberian Arctic coast. This was old Beringia, eastern anchor of the land bridge connecting Asia and North America during the ice age. It was no narrow bridge. The continental shelf, extending 700 miles north, joined the two lands in one ice-free super continent extending along the top of the world from

Asia to the Yukon. In my imagination I conjure up scenes of what it was like during the last ice age. Instantly transported back in time, I am standing on the tundra steppe hundreds of miles inland, looking in awe at a herd of Woolly Mammoth and, perhaps in greater awe [scared spitless], at a pair of Sabre-toothed Cats and a wandering Short-faced Running Bear! The megafauna is gone now but wild flowers such as Monkshood, Drummond's Anemone, Arctic Coltsfoot and River Beauty, to name just a few, and the birds — Sandhill Crane, Pacific Loon, Oldsquaw, Yellow Wagtail and Northern Wheatear, are the same as I saw in the northern Yukon.

Perhaps the most mysterious place we visited was Whale Alley, a long deserted site on Yttygan Island. The 'alley' consists of two parallel rows of Bowhead whale skulls set in the ground in groups of twos and fours for a distance of 550 metres. Bowhead jaw bones, four to five metres in length, stuck upright throughout the complex, probably served as navigation markers. Behind the skulls, in a rocky slope, there are over a hundred funnel-shaped stone-lined pits, each one to two metres deep, which served as deep freeze meat caches. In the bottoms of some, layers of frozen meat and blubber are still identifiable. This was a monumental whale butchering site and in conjunction with the slaughter there were some religious rituals. Eerie.

Other sites we visited were practically paved with whale bones. We saw the remains of semi-subterranean houses, like Shuswap Indian kikooli abodes, but sides and roofs were

BRITISH COLUMBIA: A NATURAL HISTORY

by Syd and Dick Cannings

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made of whale skulls and jaw bones covered with walrus hides, instead of poles and turf. Pieces of dried skin were still there. Recently, a Russian research team counted 1500 Gray Whale skulls and the remains of 30 Bowheads at another site. Most of the Gray Whale remains were of calves, the young being easier to harpoon and drag to the beach. The same team counted 80 Gray Whale calf skulls and 40 Polar Bear skulls at yet another location. After the land megafauna was eaten to extinction, paleohunters turned to the sea where a vast supply of protein remained unexploited. In the middle of the nineteenth century European and American whalers, using superior technology, quickly brought an end to the whales. Nevertheless, native exploitation might have done the same but over a longer time.

Today, Walrus are still fairly common but they are subjected to heavy hunting pressure. We met friendly Walrus hunters along the shore at several places. At one camp the hunters had just shot an Asian Brown Bear. We had many good sightings of Gray and Humpback Whales but no Bowheads. Both Gray and Humpback have made good progress back from the road to extinction. Siberian natives are allowed a quota of 200 Grays each year. Unfortunately, there is virtually no enforcement of hunting quotas and to make the situation worse, most of the meat goes to feed Arctic Foxes raised for their fur in 'battery chicken' style farms.

The two most numerous native groups in eastern Arctic Siberia are the Chukchi and the Inuit. The Chukchis have taken to reindeer herding on a large scale while the Inuits still depend on marine mammals with fox farming providing a cash crop.

We stopped at several inhabited villages. At a large one, where Affinassi, our interpreter, had contacted the people in advance, we were entertained with open air music and dance. While the men thumped Walrus inner-stomach-lining parchments stretched over large hoops, the women performed short but intricate dances. We were treated to a "harpooning the whale" dance, "butchering the walrus dance" and finally, "talking on the telephone" dance! Bits of blubber and the skull from a recently captured Gray Whale littered the beach, a Brown Bear's hide was curing on a stretcher and the innards of a couple of Walrus were drawing flies and Glaucous Gulls. While I was peering at a sparrow-like bird lurking behind a house, the school master, his wife and daughter, invited me in. All three were smoking powerful Russian cigarettes. Outside, the house was protected from the wintry blasts by double rows of sand-filled oil drums; inside, it was small, neat and cosy. Books, some by well known Russian authors, covered two walls from floor to ceiling. On a large black and white TV screen the Olympic Games were in full swing.

Well, I can't resist quoting that old worn cliché, "It's a small world!"

The bird was an immature Red-throated Pipit.

DAVID STIRLING was employed in the Nature Interpretation and Research Division of British Columbia Parks. He is now involved in organizing and leading world nature tours.

Brigham Creek — a Birder's Paradise

By Dannie Carsen

On the front of the house was a board, around 18" square. It was covered in sheet metal and it had an arrow attached by a nail in its centre. The arrow described a circle, pointing at destinations the owner might be visiting. Inscribed in the sheet metal, on the outside of the circle, were Dog Creek, Brigham Lake, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, Clinton and Home Sweet Home. I knocked on the door. A man with dark hair and a substantial stomach opened the door.

"Hello. Could you tell me how far Brigham Creek is?"

He smiled, "Just down the road 10 or 15 minutes, go a bit past the cattleguards and turn right into the campground."

"Thanks." As I walked down the path to the van I called back "I like your message board, maybe I'll have to make one like it." "I'm getting a patent on it," came the reply, with a big belly splitting laugh.

Susan and I kept driving down the 15 kilometres of winding gravel road that led from Dog Creek to Brigham Creek. We passed the remains of an old flume system carrying water down from the hills. Finally, we could see the creek between the trembling aspens as we came over a little rise. To the left was a slough next to the road that led to Brigham Dam Lake. The book entitled *Hotsprings of Western Canada*

describes Brigham Springs as a cool mineral spring on the road between 57 Mile and Williams Lake. We never found the springs but we found a little paradise at Brigham Creek.

A kingfisher chattered at us as we turned right into the campsite. Directly above the slough, a rounded hillside covered in bunchgrass rose above the slough and snaked northward towards Brigham Dam Lake. We crossed the creek to get into the Brigham Creek Forest Service Site. There were three or four picnic tables beside the little creek that wandered through the site. The soothing sound of the brook was only interrupted by birdsong. We both badly needed a shower and we had the campsite all to ourselves. Here was our chance to try out the black bag shower we had heating up on top of the van. With the warm spring sun beating down on us we each savoured an outdoor shower.

The refrain from Sawyer Brown's "All These Years" trickled out from the van as we cooked supper. The music attracted a territorial flycatcher. Susan glanced up from the potato cauliflower curry and said, "What's that bird on the picnic table, Dannie?"

"Willow Flycatcher" I diagnosed, without hesitation. Since the bird was so close, I grabbed my camera and slowly moved it towards the open window of the van. The empid

Dog Creek, location of Canoe Creek Band store. Photos by Dannie Carsen





Flycatcher on nest near Brigham Dam Lake

cocked its head and jumped up into a tree a few feet away. The bird looked suspicious at this strange intruder. I whistled. The bird turned its head and I snapped a shot. Then it flew. Just for fun, I showed Susan the page of empids in Peterson's *A Field Guide to Western Birds*. We looked at Willow, Alder, Hammond's, Dusky, and Least; they all had white wing bars, eye-ring and gray-brown colour. My bet was still Willow because "fitz bew" is all we heard since 100 Mile House. As we sat eating our curry, the empid returned to the picnic table and entertained us during supper hour.

After supper, we sat quietly in our chairs, enjoying the fresh air. Northern Rough-winged Swallows snatched insects and Red-breasted Nuthatches and Black-capped Chickadees passed by in little groups. We looked up and saw a hawk flying over. I saw mostly a silhouette flying with the wind. Susan saw a falcon with light head and dark shoulder patches on the wings. Prairie Falcon! We were expecting to see Prairie Falcon due to previous sightings near Dog Creek Dome. It was a life bird for both of us.

The hills glowed red in the evening light as we took a stroll across the creek and down the road. As the light faded, we enjoyed sitting around a little fire. This was the place we'd been heading for: warm sun, babbling brook and a campsite with just birds for company.

Early the next morning we stepped out for a little campsite walk and heard a Dusky Flycatcher singing. "Chipt whee, cheept whee." A Western Wood Peewee gave a "peeur" and watched us as we walked along the Brigham Lake road; McGillvray's and Nashville Warblers flitted from tree to tree. A small, plain, gray-brown flycatcher whistled a "whit, whit, whit" call.

Our supper of baked potatoes, corn-on-the-cob and

sausages was in the perfect setting: the glade of trembling aspen framing a meadow next to the creek. That evening our Willow Flycatcher scolded us "bzzzbzzzbzz" from the branches above as we crossed the creek for a view of the hills. Red-naped Sapsuckers flew to a nest tree near the creek and I waited patiently to watch them feed their young. You could hear the noisy Belted Kingfishers and the insistent call of Spotted Sandpipers across the road.

Next morning, we decided to drive the 5.2 km into Brigham Dam Lake. I'd call it a truck road with lots of ups and downs and a creek crossing. We started at 6:45 a.m., and in the next two hours observed 27 species of birds and four species of mammals (White-tailed Deer, marmot, mink, and chipmunk). The highlight of the drive was observing a Gray Flycatcher calling. "Chelip ri, chelip vu." The bird was light gray on the belly with a darker head and a flash of brown on the bill. We heard six different flycatchers on this road — Western Wood-Peewee, Willow, Alder, Dusky, Olive-sided and Gray. Some of the other species we observed were Mountain Bluebird, Vesper's Sparrow, Swainson's Thrush, Bald Eagle, and Cooper's Hawk.

I unloaded the canoe at the lake and launched into a stiff wind blowing down the valley. You could see the huge rainbow trout in the shallows but they weren't having anything I threw on the water. That evening, a pair of Cooper's Hawks flew by at dusk and a Common Nighthawk worked the lakeshore for insects. We decided to drive down the road a bit and camp near a little pond to catch the dawn chorus.

The morning was cool but perfect for an early jaunt down to the pond. I brushed mosquitoes off my face and hands as I walked. Funny calls rang out among the snags in the pond. It sounded like "che beer, jurve, cheebee, chechee,



Mystery tree-hugging shore bird, upset over our entry into its territory (Chilakno Marsh Wildlife Management Area)

whechu". Maybe a Warbling Vireo? I watched a young song sparrow being fed by its parents "Chi, chi, chi" it called. A flycatcher flew out from a snag in the pond. It fluttered for a second and flew back to its perch. "Peeit. Pueer." It sounded like a Western Wood-Peewee. As I watched, another flycatcher flew into a tree. Through the binoculars, I could make out a nest on a tree branch only six or seven feet off the ground. Neat!

I walked back up to the van and got my camera. As Susan and I walked up a little hill close to the nest, I watched a flycatcher leave. One of them made this little "peure" call around the nest. I set my camera on the tripod with the 25' pneumatic release leading behind a tree. The flycatchers chased each other around the trees and around hills; it looked a lot like mating behaviour! "Jeee" one said. Finally the female came back and perched on the nest. Click. After 40 minutes she came back again and sat crossways on the nest. Click. The mosquitoes were really bad by now, so I regretfully left the little family and we trundled on back down the road to Brigham Creek.

For the remainder of the trip to Bella Coola we used Brigham Creek like a yardstick, and not many places measured up. The interesting landscape near Dog Creek Dome, and the natural campsite on babbling Brigham Creek, were the most memorable places of our one month trip.

You can get to Brigham Creek Forest Service Campsite by driving 105 km down the Meadow Lake road from 59 Mile on Highway 97 or by driving 110 km from Williams Lake on the Alkali Lake-Dog Creek road. From Dog Creek, drive east about 15 kilometres. Most of the driving is on

good gravel roads but there are some winding and hilly stretches coming down into valleys.

The complete list of birds we saw in the Brigham Creek-Brigham Dam Lake vicinity includes:

- Common Loon
- Mallard
- American Widgeon
- Common Merganser
- Bald Eagle
- Cooper's Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Prairie Falcon
- Killdeer
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Common Nighthawk
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-naped Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker
- Willow Flycatcher
- Alder Flycatcher
- Dusky Flycatcher
- Gray Flycatcher
- Western Wood-Peewee
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Violet-green Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Mountain Chickadee
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- House Wren
- Mountain Bluebird
- Townsend's Solitaire
- Swainson's Thrush
- American Robin
- Cedar Waxwing
- Solitary Vireo
- Warbling Vireo
- McGillvray's Warbler
- Yellow Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Yellow Warbler
- Nashville Warbler
- Western Tanager
- Chipping Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Cassin's Finch
- Pine Siskin

DANNIE CARSEN is a birder who enjoys roaming the backroads of British Columbia looking for that perfect campsite.

Hat Tricks

A bimonthly report on the HAT Acquisition Trust

We are throwing the HAT on the ground for all budding (or professional) artists. If you have not already done so, get your pencils and pens out and start drawing a piece of HAT history. The VNHS Habitat Acquisition Trust Foundation Board of Directors is looking for a logo. To encourage ideas, we are offering a prize to the person who submits the "best" logo.

On the paper work front, the VNHS Board of Directors, at its September meeting, passed a resolution enabling HAT to pursue its path towards being a separate but connected organization. As mentioned in previous articles (e.g., *The Victoria Naturalist*, July/August, 1996), this separation is necessary to ensure that the individuals (i.e., HAT Board of Directors) making decisions about HAT have the legal responsibilities for those decisions and to ensure that HAT did not add a large time commitment to the VNHS Board. In this direction, HAT submitted in August an application to Revenue Canada for an opinion on its own charitable status. After we receive an official nod from Revenue Canada, we will proceed with the incorporation of HAT as a British Columbia Society.

The interim Board of Directors is not sitting idle waiting for official recognition as a society. There is a lot of back-

ground work to be done. On the fund-raising side, a number of activities are in the initial planning stages. Details about these activities should be surfacing soon (see details on this page on our upcoming trip to Texas).

If you have any suggestions, or would like to volunteer your time, please contact any of the interim HAT Board members: Jan Garnett, Marilyn Lambert, Colleen O'Brien, Leah Ramsay, Mike Shepard, Jeff Stone and Bruce Whittington.

We need a logo to hang our HAT on ...

The Habitat Acquisition Trust executive has launched a contest for VNHS members and friends. HAT, now a Foundation of the Victoria Natural History Society, exists for the purpose of conserving habitat of all kinds throughout southern Vancouver Island, by means of conservation covenants or, when possible or necessary, by outright purchase of land. The brochure to represent HAT is now in the works, and we need a logo that will be immediately identified with HAT over the years.

Don't be shy about your artistic ability. What we're looking for is a concept to give to the graphic artists. The logo needs, above all, to be simple so that it will reproduce well in different sizes and different media. Beyond that, we leave the creativity up to you. All entries should be submitted to The Field-Naturalist store, 1126 Blanshard St., Victoria, V8W 2H6, by November 30th. The designer of the winning entry will receive *British Columbia: A Natural History* by Syd and Dick Cannings.



HAT'S OFF AGAIN!

The second annual birding tour to raise funds for the Habitat Acquisition Trust of the Victoria Natural History Society is in the planning stage. **Tentative dates: April 5 - 17, 1997.** Cost: TBA

Join David Stirling and Bruce Whittington on a tour of the birding hotspots of **Southern Texas**. This tour will feature Green Jays along the Rio Grande, Whooping Cranes at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and migrating warblers at High Island. We will also look for those honorary birds, the Mexican Free-tailed Bats that roost by the millions in the hill country of southern Texas.

If this tour interests you, please call Marilyn at 477-5922.

VNHS Rare Bird Committee

By David Pearce

A meeting of the VNHS Rare Bird Committee was held on September 23, 1996. Members present were Bryan Gates, Hank VanderPol, Barbara Begg and David Pearce. It was agreed that all rare bird sightings will be numbered within each year of sighting followed by a letter for each report received. For example, 96-002-C would mean the third report for the second rare bird sighting in 1996.

The following rare bird sighting documents were reviewed:

Hooded Oriole	96-001-A	Mr. and Mrs. R. Wallis
	96-001-B	Bryan Gates
	96-001-C	Barbara Begg
	96-001-D	David Pearce

First reported by Mr. & Mrs. Wallis in their garden at 2072 Weiler Avenue, Sidney, on May 6, 1996 this bird remained until May 8, 1996. This is the first record for British Columbia and the second for Canada. Based on photographs supplied by Mr. & Mrs. Wallis and seen by many expert observers this new species to the checklist area was **ACCEPTED**.

Blank-vented Shearwater 96-002-A Jo Ann MacKenzie
Seen from the ferry M.V. "Queen of Saanich" midway between Active Pass and Tsawwassen by Jo Ann MacKenzie on May 26, 1996. After reviewing her excellent report this 4th record for the checklist area was **ACCEPTED**.

American Avocet	96-003-A	Lorne Dyrda
	96-003-B	Bryan Gates
	96-003-C	Marie O'Shaughnessy
	96-003-D	David Pearce

This bird was found by Lorne Dyrda at Rithet's Bog on June 4, 1996 and remained until June 7, 1996. It was seen by many experienced birders and the 4th record for the checklist area was **ACCEPTED**.

Dusky Flycatcher 96-004-A Jo Ann MacKenzie
Else Holzken

This bird was found on June 21, 1996, at Sooke Potholes Provincial Park by Jo Ann MacKenzie, an experienced birder familiar with this species. She provided an excellent report, but it could not be relocated by anyone else. This would be the first record for the checklist area following two other hypothetical observations of Dusky Flycatcher by Mike Shepard at Rocky Point on September 29, 1994 and May 17, 1996 respectively. It was proposed to follow up on all three sightings and put this sighting **ON HOLD**.

Prairie Falcon 96-005-A David Pearce

This bird was found by Brent Diakow on August 3, 1996, at the farm beside MacIntyre Reservoir at Martindale Flats. It stayed until August 4, 1996 and was seen by many observers. It was an immature bird and although no jesses or bird bands

could be seen it was considered to be too early for an immature to arrive from the interior and birds like this one are held by local falconers. We therefore considered it to be an escaped bird and the record was **REJECTED**.

Bar-tailed Godwit	96-006-A	Bryan Gates
	96-006-B	David Pearce

This bird was found by Ron Bates and Roy Prior on September 3, 1996, at Clover Point. It was seen by many observers and the 5th record for the checklist area was **ACCEPTED**.

Red-throated Pipit	96-007-A	Bryan Gates
	96-007-B	David Pearce

This bird was found by Keith Taylor on September 22, 1996, at Esquimalt Lagoon. It was seen by many observers and the 2nd record for the checklist area was **ACCEPTED**.

Everyone is encouraged to complete a Rare Bird Report Form if they discover a bird that is shown as "accidental" or is outside the time of year range or does not appear in the current Victoria & Southeastern Vancouver Island Checklist of Birds.

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Christmas Bird Count — December 21, 1996

By David Pearce

The Victoria Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 21, 1996. The purpose of the C.B.C is to count birds observed within a 15 mile diameter circle covering the Greater Victoria area centred on the intersection of Grange Road and Jasmine Avenue in Marigold. The circle is divided into 22 land areas and two ocean areas, each having an area leader.

Victoria Natural History Society members are encouraged to participate in the Christmas count in one of two ways, either as an active "counter" in the field or as a feeder watcher.

If you participated as a "counter" in the Christmas count last year, you will be contacted and asked if you would like to participate this year. If you did not take part in the Victoria count last year but would like to participate, please contact David Pearce, Count Coordinator, at 658-0295 by November 30, or sign up at the November Birder's Night.

If you have a feeder in your yard and wish to participate as a feeder watcher, simply watch your feeder on December 21 and record all bird species and number of individuals of those species. Mail or bring your list into the Field-Naturalist,

1126 Blanshard Street, Victoria. Please put your name, address and telephone number on the list. Your report must be received by Tuesday, December 24 in order to be included in the count records.

If you see a rare bird at your feeder on December 21 (see the Victoria Area Checklist of Birds or last year's Christmas count results in the March/April issue of the Victoria Naturalist to find out what is rare in December), please phone your sighting immediately to the Rare Bird Alert at 592-3381 and leave a message on the tape.

Victoria currently holds the Canadian Christmas Bird Count record of 152 species, set in 1991. This was achieved by getting an exceptionally good coverage with over 150 people taking part. So please mark December 21 in your calendar and join us in trying to set another record!

After the count we are planning to hold a meeting at the Gordon Head United Church starting at 7:30 p.m. This will be the same format as a regular Birder's Night, where coffee, tea and biscuits will be served, and we will discuss the day's count results. Please bring a dessert to share if you wish.

Birding on the Web

By Dannie Carsen

Birding is everything about being outside, feeling the wind on your face, enjoying the observations and the behaviour, as well as the thrill of the chase. If you read in advance, use a field guide, or pore over specialized books about alcids, raptors, or shorebirds, you improve your abilities in the field. Nothing replaces that field experience, but learning what others know can help.

Birders are getting access to the World Wide Web in increasing numbers. One day, I decided to do a search (I usually use a search engine like Alta Vista or WebCrawler) for birding sites in the southern states. There was a lot of information about Texas and Arizona. There is a fair bit of information on British Columbia as well, if you know where to look. I saved the addresses of my favourite sites and list them below for you to try. If anyone else has a favourite site or two, please E-mail Warren Drinnan at: wdrinnan@dataflux.bc.ca and he will list the URL's in coming editions of the magazine.

Hope everyone has fun birding on the web!!

Some addresses to start with:

- <http://www.ornith.cornell.edu/birdlab.html>
(Cornell Lab of Ornithology)
- <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~dvictor/digest.html>
(Tweeters Digests)
- <http://qb.island.net/~bfest/activity.htm#Office>
(Brant Festival)
- <http://www.interlog.com/~gallantg/canada/>
(Birding Canada)
- http://www.excite.com/Subject/Hobbies/Birds_and_Birding/s-index.msn.html
- <http://www.cis.uoguelph.ca/rosella/events.html#bc>
(Events List)
- <http://www-astronomy.mps.ohio-state.edu/~ignaz/birds/ABA/ABA.html> (Map)
- <http://www.io.com/~pdhulce/>
(Texas Birding)
- <http://www.birder.com/birding/alert/>

Natural Greece

Off the beaten track in comfort with expert local naturalists

28 April - 13 May, 1997

Eyros Hills, Lakes of Thrace, Mount Olympus, Skopelos Island and Mount Parnassus

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.

Our 16-day trip this Spring will leisurely explore the most outstanding natural areas in Greece, including the richest reserve for birds of prey in Europe at Dadia. We'll watch the spectacular migration of pelicans, flamingos and shorebirds in the lagoons of Thrace. On Mt. Olympus the diverse flora and birdlife complements the scenic alpine grandeur. Legendary Mt. Parnassus has stunning orchids and Greek fir forests! Skopelos Island is home to Eleonora's falcons, Yelkouan shearwaters and wild "rock gardens" full of wildflowers and migrant songbirds. On this trip last Spring we saw 172 bird species, hundreds of wildflowers and dolphins five times!

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.

Tour cost is very reasonable and includes all flights and transportation, all accommodation in superb "B" Class hotels and lodges. Please book early, space is limited.

For booking and information, please call Patti at Omega

Telephone: 738-7161 or 1-800-663-2669

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Arizona and the Grand Canyon

Christmas
Desert
Charm
Dec. 21-28

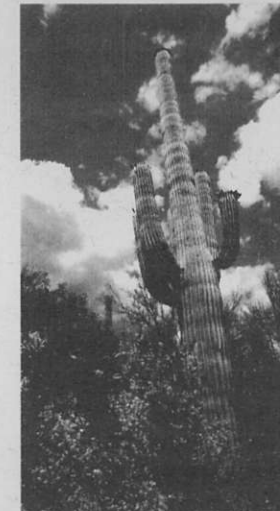
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as leaders

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Burrowing Owl

• Point Pelee - May
with Peter Burke

• Southern BC - May
with Bryan Gates

• Okanagan - June
with Dick Cannings

• Manitoba - June
with Brian Henshaw

• Churchill - June
with Brian Henshaw

• Alberta - July
with Alvaro Jaramillo

• The High Arctic - July
with Peter Burke

• Nova Scotia - September
with Ian McLaren

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Letters

This letter was received by the Board of Directors in August:

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a cheque which we would like put towards any scholarship fund you might have in connection with the study of birds. It is being sent as a donation in memory of a good friend of ours, Mr. Frank Baines, who died in Newbury, Berkshire in June, 1996. He and his late wife came to visit us in 1990 and whilst Frank was here he went on a birdwatching trip to Quick's Bottom. He was very impressed with the friendliness of the people with whom he spent the morning and at the end of his two weeks on the Island had recorded 52 bird sightings. He gave an account of his trip to his own birding group upon his return to the UK. On our subsequent visits to him during the last few years, he always had very fond memories of his one and only trip to Canada at the age of 76. His enthusiasm for his lifelong hobby sparked my interest and I lately told him of identifying a Rufous-sided Towhee — the intriguing call was what attracted my interest. I didn't think it was a Black-headed Grosbeak! "I am proud of you", is what he wrote in his last letter to me.

Tony and Frances White

The VNHS Board has sent notice of this contribution in Frank Baines' honour to his sons John, Charles and Richard Baines.

Editor, The Victoria Naturalist

I was very pleased to see a reptile on the cover of your July/August, 1996 issue of *The Victoria Naturalist*. The accompanying article by Heather Waye was very interesting and informative, with a much needed conservation message at the end. My only criticism of Heather's article is her usage of the common name "Western Terrestrial Garter Snake".

Robert C. Stebbins coined the name in his 1966 version of the Peterson's "A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians". In the



accompanying species note, Stebbins poorly justifies his action with "... habits chiefly terrestrial but also aquatic, depending upon the subspecies."

In her article, Heather Waye makes the following observations: "... the other group lived by the river and foraged for fish at low tide; ... is perfectly at home in the water as well as on land; ... they go into the river and catch fish; ... they swim along the surface, then dive down into the weeds and poke around with their heads; ... with their bodies anchored in the weeds, they would poke their heads above the surface, like little periscopes."

Consequently, there can be no sillier name for *Thamnophis elegans* than "terrestrial" because, in British Columbia at least, this species is primarily an aquatic forager. In "*The Vertebrates of British Columbia: Scientific and English Names*" (1990), I referred to this species as the Western Garter Snake. It is a name that does not confound people's understanding of this snake's habits by inaccurately characterizing its normal behaviour. If another descriptive must be added to the common name for *T. Elegans*, why not call it the Western 'feisty' Garter Snake. I could live with that.

Stan A. Orchard

The preceding letter points out a frequently-encountered problem with the use of common names. Often, the descriptions used mean different things to different people and make no sense to others. The Ring-necked Duck has no visible ring around the neck but quite a prominent one around the bill; the crests on the Double-crested Cormorant are rarely seen; and, The Mountain Lion (or cougar or puma) can also be found in deserts and the swamps of Florida. For this reason, we try, as best as possible, to include the scientific name (genus and species) at least once where there might be some confusion. Editor.

Editor, The Victoria Naturalist

Dear fellow naturalists,

One of the biggest problems emerging from our consumer way of life is climate change, which threatens to displace habitats, warm rivers, increase forest fires, and bring more storms, hurricanes, droughts and heatwaves. As humans, we can adapt, but if you are a salmon, a wolf, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher or even a Douglas Fir, it is much harder to adapt. One of our biggest responsibilities, as humans, is to cut back on our use of fossil fuels, and the other chemicals that are responsible for climate change.

One way we can do this is to drive less, and to walk,

cycle and take the bus more. To make it easier for people to give up their cars, a small group of us is launching the Victoria Car Share Co-operative. This will involve some 40 people, initially, who will share five cars, based in James Bay.

Basically, you pay a \$500 deposit (\$400 returnable), and then a monthly membership fee, and a usage rate per mile and per hour. When you want a car, you simply call the car share manager and book one. The evidence from Europe, where over 20,000 people use car share co-ops, is that membership brings a 66% average reduction in vehicle miles travelled, and an equivalent reduction in pollution and greenhouse gases, and urban stress.

If you would like more information, please call Kathryn Molloy, at 995-0265. We're looking for members!

I know this is an unusual topic for the Naturalist, but as some sage said, "all things connect". The way we travel today is intimately connected with the way many birds, trees and mammals will live, tomorrow.

Guy Dauncey

Guy Dauncey is Author of After the Crash: The Emergence of the Rainbow Economy, a member of the Victoria Car Share Co-operative and Editor, EcoNews. He can be contacted at (250) 592-4473 or on the Internet at: <http://www.islandnet.com/~gdauncey/econews/>.

Welcome to New Members

AUGUST

Edward Yeates
of Belmont Avenue

John Brandy
of Simcoe Street
is interested in conservation,
hiking and kayaking

Ursula Broermann
of Townley Street
enjoys botany, animals and
the protection of the environ-
ment

Margaret Mallory
of Torquay Avenue
is interested in all areas of
natural history

Suzannah Weed
of Townsend Drive

Derrick Ditchburn
of Gamble Place
enjoys birds and mammals

Mary Jill McCulloch
of Old West Saanich Road
is interested in family field
trips

SEPTEMBER

Paul Chytk
of Johnson Street
interests include birds and
plants

Jane Ferris and Keith McCully
of Washington Avenue
are interested in birds,
mushrooms and natural
history in general

Agnes Gouws
of Victoria
is interested in birds and
indigenous flowers

Bruce Hardy and family
of Viaduct Road
are interested in all aspects
of environmental sciences

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award was established by the Victoria Natural History Society's Board of Directors in 1988. This prestigious award is granted to a member who has contributed in some outstanding way to the aims and objectives of the Society. Awards are made at the annual banquet in February. All members of the Society can nominate any other member, who in their opinion merits this honour.

Nominations should be forwarded by January 15, 1997 to Wally Macgregor, Awards Committee Chairperson at 1005 Westport Place, Victoria, B.C., V8Y 1G3.

All nominations must be in writing and should be signed by at least two other members of the Society. A brief biographical sketch and a description of the contributions and achievements of the nominee, along with his or her address and telephone number, should be included. The Awards Committee reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, which grants the awards. For more information, contact Wally Macgregor at 658-8956.

Winter Holiday of a Lifetime

Come and enjoy our "fly-in only" lodge in beautiful North-Central British Columbia.

Features include:

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through sub-alpine forests

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likely glimpses of timber wolves

Prices are from \$950.00 per person, per week
(F.O.B. Whitehorse), depending on group size.

For information, contact:

Derek and Darcy Drinnan

#8 Marion Crescent, Whitehorse, Yukon

Phone: 403-633-3779

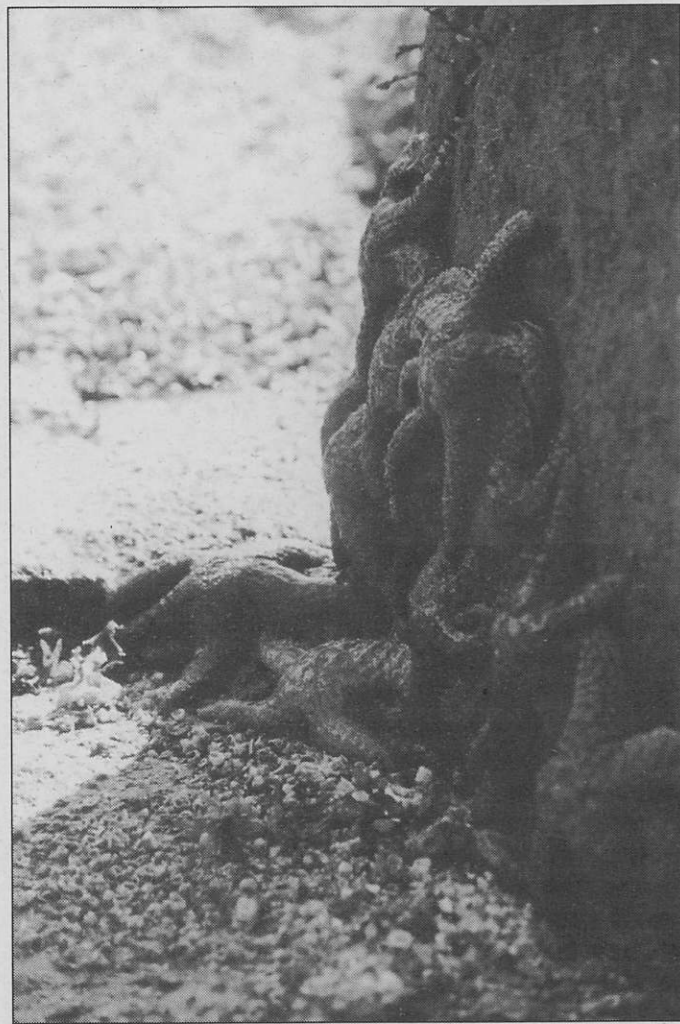
Fax: 403-668-7761

Pacific Octopus

by Pamela Thuringer

Long weekend ferry lineups are a part of life as an islander on the west coast, where early fall storms can really play havoc on a person's travelling plans. Fortunately, we have a marine playground available at our fingertips to pass the hours. Whether you are stranded at Swartz Bay, with a rocky shoreline available to show off the spectacular predominantly intertidal Purple Seastar, *Pisaster ochraceus*, or on the Tsawwassen side, with extensive eelgrass beds along the north side of the causeway to the terminal, both ecosystems provide fantastic visual entertainment as well as food for the imagination.

A common sight along mudflats and shallow bays in nearshore waters is the hunched appearance of the rather



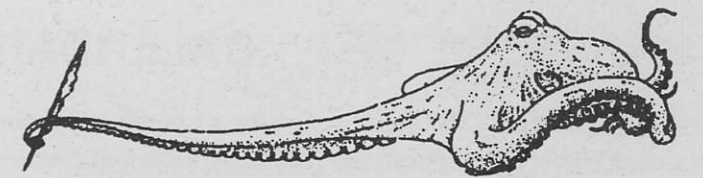
Pisaster ochraceus, a multi-coloured species of starfish in which purple, orange, yellow or brown individuals can be found.

large grey/blue avian, the Great Blue Heron. This seabird is often seen looming over the shallows, hoping to catch a glimpse of a small fish such as juvenile salmon, sticklebacks or a tube snout. Imagine yourself emerged within the eelgrass beds of Tsawwassen which provide ideal habitat for fish to forage and find protection amongst the long green blades.

Depending on the dynamics of the system eelgrass is growing in, the length and thickness of the blades will vary, with heights reaching towards 2 m tall. Typically, the species of eelgrass found in the shallow subtidal waters, *Zostera marina*, grows from zero tide to -3 m (relative to chart datum or lowest normal tides). This marine plant is one of the two genera of marine angiosperms found on our coast, which means it produces seed and therefore is not an algae as is commonly thought.

I have had the pleasure of diving amongst the flowing blades of sea grass and filming this ecosystem in a number of locations along coastal British Columbia, and have always been amazed at the activity and productivity of this underwater marine environment. During the summer months, it may be hard to recognize eelgrass blades as there tends to be a heavy diatomaceous growth present, making them appear a dingy brown. Often a small red bladed algae, *Smithora naiadum*, will also grow epiphytically on the blades, once more obscuring the typical look of the eelgrass. The invertebrate community is quite diverse ranging from the highly visible and at times very lively Dungeness (*Cancer magister*) or Red Rock (*Cancer productus*) crabs to the more sluggish but beautiful Moon-snail, *Polinices lewisii*. To a more patient eye for some of the smaller inhabitants, a number of sometimes elaborately coloured nudibranchs (sea slugs or naked snails) will be found on the sandy substrate or clinging to the leaves. Nudibranchs are soft-bodied molluscs ranging in size from 5 mm to over 30 cm.

One of the most common species nestled within this eelgrass habitat is an aeolid nudibranch, *Hermisenda crassicornis*, with the looks of an artist's paintbrush that has delicately highlighted the tips of the cerata (external respiratory structures) with orange and blue colours of the rainbow. My personal favourite is the Hooded Nudibranch, *Melibe leonina*, with its rather distinctive, yet innocuous looking, large oral hood, which is used for feeding on small crustaceans. Although this nudibranch is found on a wide variety of bladed kelps such as *Laminaria saccharina*, *Agarum* spp. and *Nereocystis Luetkeana* (Bull Kelp), it is often seen perched on the blades of eelgrass. The beauty of *Melibe* lies in the witnessing of this nudibranch swimming in the water column, a spectacular underwater dance, so delicate yet purposeful, with movements of the undulating translucent torso absolutely breathtaking.



This past Thanksgiving weekend, I was able to relay this story of eelgrass ecology to one family during our rather long wait at the Tsawwassen terminal. It was encouraging to hear them comment on walking away, "It's not just grass. Maybe we should pay more attention and be aware of what's happening in the water. We think of it as just a mode of transportation." Food for thought.

PAMELA THURINGER is a marine biologist working with a local environmental consulting firm.

Hooded nudibranchs (*Melibe leonina*) perched on Bull Kelp (*Nereocystis Luetkeana*)



Can you help us

Sweep the Broom
From Christmas Hill

Sunday, November 17
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meet at the Nature House Parking Lot
Bring gloves and sturdy footwear
Refreshments back at the Nature House at
3:30 p.m. This project is for all ages, so families
are encouraged to participate.
Hope to see you there!

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria Phone: 479-0211



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. **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. **NOTE:** There will be no **Birders' Night, Botany Night, Marine Night** or **Parks and Conservation** meeting in December.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Friday, November 1

Birds of the Night

An evening devoted to our night hunters of the bird world at the Francis King Regional Park on Munns Road. For further information phone CRD Parks at 478-3344.

Saturday, November 2

Fungus among us (8-13 yrs)

Join this intriguing workshop on identifying mushrooms. For registration information phone CRD Parks at 478-3344.

Sunday, November 3

Ha-bat-itat

Discover the weird and wonderful world of bats. Join in this exploration of this strange flying mammal and learn how to house our local bats. For information phone CRD Parks at 478-3344.

Sunday, November 3

Broom Bash

Come and help rid Mount Tolmie of the "unnatural" broom plant, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., rain or shine. Follow the flagging tape from Mayfair Drive parking lot to the work area. For further details contact Eric Redekop, of the Mount Tolmie Conservancy Association, at 595-7270.

Tuesday, November 5

Board of Directors' Meeting

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

Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10

Outdoor Survival

This is for those 8 to 13. Learn survival skills, how to use map and compass, hiking, shelter building and games at Francis King Regional Park. For further information call the CRD Parks Nature Program at 478-3344.

Sunday, November 10

Snow Geese and the Fraser Delta

Join David Allinson on our annual excursion to view the wintering waterfowl of the Fraser Delta. We expect to see huge flocks of Snow Geese and a variety of shorebirds, raptors and song birds. If we can pool effectively, travel costs should be approximately \$30 per person. To sign up call David Allinson at 478-0493.

Sunday, November 10

Broom Bash at Mount Tolmie Park. See November 3 for details.

Sunday, November 10

Cedar, Tree of Life

From the cradle to the grave, the cedar has been important to coastal BC's First Peoples. Find out why with a CRD Parks Naturalist as your guide. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Francis King Regional Park Nature House on Munns Road.

Tuesday, November 12

VNHS Natural History Presentation

Jim Cosgrove, of the Royal BC Museum, will present a slide-illustrated talk on "*Skin Deep Beauty and Motherly Love*". Room A240, Human and Social Development Building, NOT the Begbie Building, University of Victoria, 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Bring your coffee cup and a friend.

Wednesday, November 13

Parks and Conservation Committee

All VNHS members are welcome to join in discussions and express their concerns about local conservation issues. Due to prior booking, our normal November meeting is being held on the second, rather than the third, Wednesday. Swan Lake Nature House, 7:00 p.m. Contact Jeff Stone at 370-249 for further information.

Saturday, November 16

Mount Tolmie Celebration Planting

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of Mount Tolmie, a volunteer work event is scheduled to plant native species in selected locations where volunteer work crews have removed Scotch Broom from the park. For further details, contact Eric Redekop at 595-7270.

Tuesday, November 19

Botany Night

Hans Roemer and Adolf Ceska will present a slide-illustrated talk *New plant discoveries in British Columbia — Summer 1996*. Swan Lake Nature House, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 23

Birds of the Night

An evening devoted to our night hunters of the bird world at the Francis King Regional Park on Munns Road. For further information phone CRD Parks at 478-3344.

Sunday, November 24

Pelagic Birding on the "Coho"

Join Hank VanderPol for our third Pelagic Birding trip of the autumn between Victoria and Port Angeles. Meet at the Coho Ferry Terminal at 10:00 a.m. for the 10:30 a.m. sailing.

Sunday, November 24

Winter birds at Island View Beach

This is a winter hotspot to birdwatch for hawks, owls, seaducks, loons and more. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the end of the far parking lot on Homathko Drive, off Island View Road in Central Saanich.

Sunday, November 24

Broom Bash at Mount Tolmie Park. See November 3 for details.

Monday, November 25

Marine Night

Are you are still wondering about the dumping of 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 Capital Regional District — *The Facts about Sewage*. Swan Lake Nature Centre, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday, November 27

Birders' Night

Kathy Martin of University of British Columbia, will present a slide-illustrated talk on ptarmigan, including the White-tailed Ptarmigan of Vancouver Island. Room 159, Begbie Building, University of Victoria, 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Bring your coffee cup and a friend.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Sunday, December 1

Broom Bash at Mount Tolmie Park. See November 3 for details.

Tuesday, December 3

Board of Directors' Meeting

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

Sunday, December 8

Goldstream River Birding

Come and witness the annual spectacle of spawning salmon and the hundreds of eagles and gulls that are attracted to it. Practice your gull identification before the Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the

Volunteer Opportunities

Nature House Receptionists are needed at the Swan Lake-Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary on Friday mornings and afternoons. Orientation and training is provided for all volunteers. For more information, call Joan Cowley at the Sanctuary at 479-0211.

The Olympic Vulture Study

Each year, approximately 1000 vultures have been counted coming in off the Strait of Juan de Fuca at various points west of Port Angeles. This is an ongoing study to locate all the water routes these large birds take, where they leave from and where they come ashore. Birders who are interested in participating in this annual survey, or in providing to their database, should contact Diann MacRae, Coordinator, Olympic Vulture Study, 22622 - 53rd Avenue S.E., Bothell, Washington 98201, U.S.A.

Goldstream Nature House at 10:00 a.m. Leader is Darren Copley at 479-6622.

Sunday, December 8

Broom Bash at Mount Tolmie Park. See November 3 for details.

Monday, December 9

Marine Exploration

Join Phil Lambert of the Royal BC Museum for a beach seine at Willows Beach, Oak Bay. Meet at 8:00 p.m. at the north end of the beach closest to Cattle Point. Last year we collected a number of unusual and common species of fish and invertebrates, including some Spiny Lumpsuckers. Bring your rubber boots, a flashlight, and dress warmly. For further information contact Phil at 477-5922 or by E-mail: plambert@pacificcoast.net

Tuesday, December 10

VNHS Natural History Presentation

December is Members' Night. Sip hot apple cider and meet with friends for an evening of Christmas cheer and slide presentations on interesting topics and destinations by our many talented members. Room A240, Human and Social Development Building, NOT the Begbie Building, University of Victoria at 7:30 p.m. If you wish to make a presentation, contact David Allinson at 478-0493.

Sunday, December 15

Martindale Birding

Martindale Flats is one of Canada's winter birding "hot spots" with over 100 species recorded on previous Christmas Bird Counts. Meet at the Farmers' Market (Pat Bay Highway and Island View Road) at 8:00 a.m. Don't forget your rubber boots! Leader is Brent Diakow at 656-3190.

Sunday, December 15

Broom Bash at Mount Tolmie Park. See November 3 for details.

Saturday, December 21

Victoria Christmas Bird Count

Join your respective leaders to help maintain Victoria's record as the best CBC location in Canada! Our current Canadian record is 152 species, so let's see if we can better it. See article page 12.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

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.



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