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Where are Our Beacons in the Fog?

As the fog rolled through our neighbourhood, and we
listened to the plaintive mourning sounds of the
foghorns of ships passing in the darkness, we began to
wonder: "Where are our beacons to lead our society
through the fog and darkness that we face?"

When "experts" do battle in their specialist
dialects, we all tend to become confused by the facts
flying about. It gets worse when specialists from
different disciplines try to address the same issues in
different dialects that all sound like the same language
we speak in every day life. For those who try to listen,
it is like being out in a boat on a foggy night.

In many ways we cannot blame the people we put
in responsible positions if they make decisions that
impair our long-term ability to survive as members of
the biosphere. They too are probably lost in the fog of
"expert opinion."

Before humans began passively accepting that
providing beacons to guide travellers through the
foggy nights was an "official" function, they probably
provided fires on shore to warn of dangerous reefs and
shoals when they knew ships would be about (unless
of course they gained their livelihoods by salvaging
ships unfortunate enough to run aground).

We also began thinking about events like
Luminara, where everyday citizens, not heroes, each
add a small amount of light to illuminate the evening.
And, because there are many small lights close
together, there is a continuity of light that enables a
traveller to find his or her way even on a foggy night.
There are no gaps between the powerful, but
separated, heroic light stations.

And then we thought about all of us coming
together, each one of us holding our one little candle
to light the way through the fog of interest-based
"expert dialogue". All those many little candles
burning bright would soon burn away that fog and our
politicians could begin to see the route to the public
good rather than how to balance competing economic
interests at the expense of the biosphere we call home.

Marilyn and Ross

Helping Nature Help Itself

Suggestions from Richard Hebda, RBCM Curator of Botany and Earth History

Iwould like you to consider the role of your residence or property in affecting hydrology, and ask yourself the question: Am I treating our water right?

The water cycle is a basic one. Water falls from the sky onto various surfaces. Much of it evaporates right back into the atmosphere, especially here on the coast. Some of it runs off into streams and lakes and eventually into the ocean, sustaining aquatic ecosystems vital to many plants and creatures such as the salmon. The rest penetrates into the soil and either becomes ground water or is snatched up by plant roots and transpired out through leaf surfaces.

In the natural ecosystems of southwestern BC, much of the water that reaches the ground is soaked up and stored. This includes significant portions of the heavy winter rainfall. As the moisture-deficit season (the time when less rain falls than is lost by evaporation and transpiration) advances from April onward, plants and aquatic systems and even humans with wells depend on the water stored in the soil, ponds and lakes.

Natural ecosystems release water slowly through seepage to creeks and rivers, which flow nearly year round. We humans have the ecologically unwise habit of trying to get rid of our water as fast as possible via ditches, drains and channels. We furthermore love non-porous, hard surfaces ("impervious cover" in technospeak), which also shed water rapidly. The hydrologic long-and-short of these practices is that vital winter and spring water goes almost instantly to the sea or lakes and is no longer stored in the ground and wetlands to do its long-term wonders. Studies reveal that increasing impervious cover in a watershed to 20% has significant negative effects on natural aquatic systems.

What can you do then?

- Do not pave over or cover with hard surfaces (e.g. patio) more of your property than is absolutely necessary. If you need a firm surface, try permeable materials such as interlocking paving blocks. In many cases, a permeable gravel surface might work just as well.
- Foster natural, uncompacted soil with a loose, porous upper zone in which water can penetrate and be stored.
- Avoid straightening drainage courses to speed the flow of water. Instead, preserve and restore wetlands and natural detention areas where the water can take its time and do its vital work before heading out to sea.
- Do not fill in or drain wetlands. They store water and are vital habitats, especially for birds and rapidly diminishing native amphibians.
- Encourage your local government to avoid making paved roads any wider than needed.
- Get involved in the watershed mapping, planning and restoration projects in your area. Discover where water comes from, how it moves through your watershed, how much area is impervious and where the wetlands are.

I am sure there are many more good ideas out there to help retain water. With increasing populations and the advance of climate change, water will become a more and more precious resource. Do your part to keep it around.

RICHARD HEBDA is Curator of Botany and Earth History at the Royal B.C. Museum. This article previously appeared in "Discovery" published by the Friends of the Royal B.C. Museum; reprinted with slight changes by permission.



Laughlin Lake, Galiano Island.
Photo: Bruce Whittington

What Does a Parking Lot Have to Do with Aquatic Environments?

By John Defayette

Do we see oil dripping, brake dust, and exhaust when we look at cars in a parking lot? The run-off from rain or snow washes into streams, ponds, lakes, rivers, and the ocean, affecting birds, mammals, marine life, and even humans.

At the new technology business park at the site of the old Glendale Hospital, there is a different-looking parking lot. Cars are parked on 'green grass' — a surface called "Grasspave."

Not far from the business park at the bottom of the hill, the freshwater marsh, Quick's Bottom shows no signs of runoff pollution. Near the flowing stream, we recently heard birds singing in many of the surrounding trees and we spotted a kingfisher, a grey jay, a hummingbird, a meadowlark, many blackbirds, and swallows. In the ponds were trumpeter swans, Canada geese, widgeons and a great blue heron.

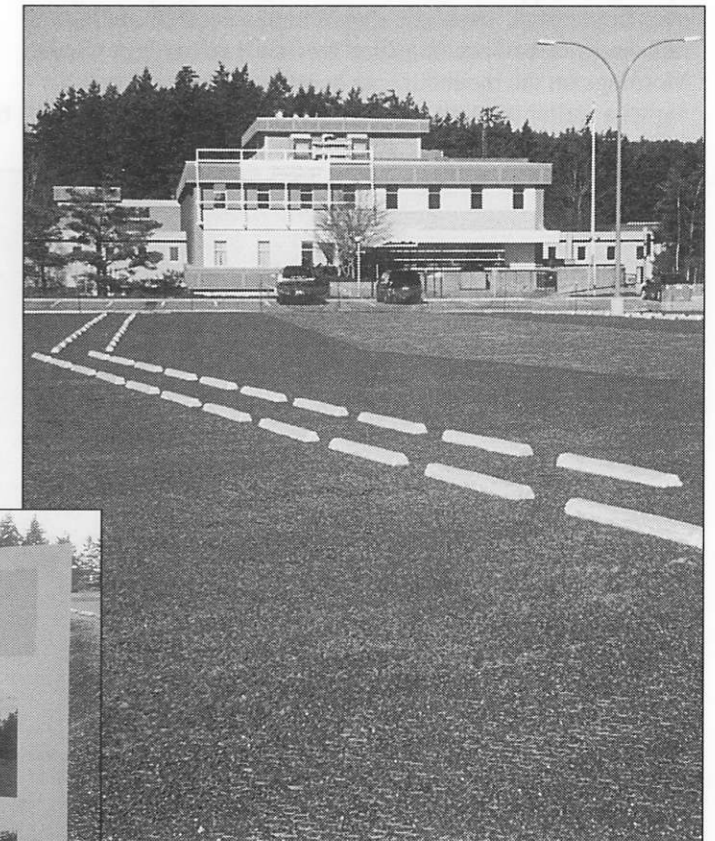
Viaduct flats are actually closer to the new parking lot and are surrounded by forest and grassland. Birdhouses have been located on the edge of the pond in the lower flats and we often see raptors in the area and many other bird species. At one time, the grassland was used commercially for growing daffodils, which we still see in the spring, but native plants are also abundant and the area has been designated a nature reserve. Obviously the environmentally friendly parking lot is intended to preserve the area.

Developed in Colorado and manufactured in Sidney, BC, "Grasspave" consists of black resin rolls laid on end and filled with sandy gravel soil and grass seed. Grass grows out of the interlocking rings and needs to be cut occasionally, but does allow what would otherwise be runoff

to percolate into the ground. It was raining on our visit, and runoff from the "Grasspave" looked minimal so there does not appear to be the concentration and torrential discharge of water that paved surfaces like asphalt create.

A sign in the parking lot described, as well, another product, "Gravelpave," that is similar but with gravel instead of grass as a filler. This product allows the rain to percolate into the soil, thus providing water for tree root systems.

Even as we walked through the woods, we noted that the more people stray from paths, the more we destroy the natural environment we enjoy. The municipality of Saanich uses wood/bark chips for the designated paths and these 'natural' surfaces for parking lots seems to be an extension of this. The bottom line is that we humans need to be more careful and tread lightly.



Grasspave demonstration site at new technology centre near Viaduct Flats.
Photos: John Defayette



Mountain Moods

By David Stirling

The United Nations has designated 2002 the "International Year of the Mountain". If you have flown even once between Vancouver and Calgary you must have been impressed with the vast expanse of vertical terrain below. A whole world of scenery, wildlife and the potential for outdoor adventure lies below the silvery wings.

In recent years, access to the high country has become much easier. Tongues of logging roads reach up to the edges of alpine meadows. Ski resorts provide popular winter access to back country areas. Elsewhere, in summer, hiking trails, especially in parks, enable energetic people to enjoy high country.

The mountain is like the nursery rhyme little girl with a curl right in the middle of her forehead; 'when she was good she was very very good but when she was bad she was horrid.' The mountain makes its own weather. Warm air moving up-slope from the valley becomes a top-heavy cumulus cloud over the summit. Later, the moisture squeezed out, falls as rain, snow or hail accompanied by a chill down draft wind. Mornings on the mountain can be sunny, warm and calm; nights a welter of wind, mist and rain.

In early May the first dandelion leaves are greening the trail verges but drifts of sodden, dirty snow still lurk under the shade in the ancient spruce forest. In the sun it is warm and promising but in the shadows there is still winter's bite in the air. Skiers have gone; summer vacationers have not yet arrived. Streams are rolling, bank full with melt water surging down to the Columbia River.

At Strawberry Flats just below the ski runs, the air seems to vibrate with the hooting of male Blue Grouse, the organ notes of the Varied Thrush and the distinctive 'rap tap tap' of the Red-naped Sapsucker. The sharp clapping of the Spruce Grouse as it leaps into the air and slaps its wings seems to be applauding the spring orchestra. The Earth's rotation brings a mountain across the sun. In the early twilight, a Great Horned Owl's booming call echoes down the valley where its mate answers.

Next morning there has been an overnight fall of small birds, migrants on their way north and up slope. There are warblers galore — Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, Orange-crowned, Wilson's — Hammond's Flycatchers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Chipping Sparrows and White-crowned

Sparrows. All are massed at eye level in the low cottonwoods by the river where the warblers' striking colors flitting among the bare branches is rare delight. The birds of evening are silent. Where are the Varied Thrushes? Blue Grouse don't give a hoot. Birds that have cadged handouts from winter skiers approach. Whiskyjacks look hungry and sad, a Steller's Jay protests noisily and families of Mountain Chickadees stop for a moment before pushing on for better pickings.

A month later Spring arrives above the tree line. I find a slot at 1500 metres where I can get a splendid panoramic view of the northern Cascades where Mt Frosty dominates the southern skyline. The visibility is superb. While I am admiring the low plants clinging to the bare rock, I am greeted by the high-pitched 'eek' of the Pika that lives in the talus slope and gathers food in the adjacent meadows. Several Mantled Ground Squirrels have been under my feet since my arrival, hoping no doubt that this is the beginning of the fast food season. A raucous call, a flash of gray and black announce the arrival of a handsome Clark's Nutcracker.

Large expanses of snow still linger framed by masses of Avalanche Lilies and Western Anemones on the surrounding bare earth. In places, longer exposed to the rays, the second bloom wave is beginning — lupines, paintbrush, arnica and daisies — a dazzling but ephemeral mantle of floral color is spreading over the alpine slopes.

With sighs of relief we drop our packs at a campsite in Cathedral Lakes Provincial Park. Although we are at tree line,

in July it is stinking hot in this dry country in the rain shadow of the Coast Mountains. We are greeted by an army of panhandlers; a family of Clark's Nutcrackers, the young endlessly squawking; quiet but determined Whiskyjacks, arrogant Mantled Ground Squirrels and inquisitive Chipmunks. The Whiskyjacks are pecking a bar of soap; the ground squirrels are gnawing the grounded tent.

We hike up into breathtaking [literally and figuratively] high country spectacular in all directions. The most rugged and seemingly desolate vistas are home to families of Water pipits and Horned Larks. The abundance of young birds is proof of a good breeding season. There are discomforts of course; the brilliant sun firing carcinogenic beams through the thin air, the chill down slope night winds and the ubiquitous biting insects. Altogether a great mountain experience.

At the foot of a snowfield, we find a family of Rosy Finches. The snow is crawling with insects wafted aloft from the lowlands then forced down by the variable, gusty mountain winds. The benumbed creatures creep over the crystals or lie motionless in the mountain's refrigerator — food for the finches. Snowmelt has produced tiny alpine meadows gay with miniature flowers. A Prairie Falcon stoops in play on an enormous Hoary Marmot lying flat out on a hot boulder. A herd of twelve Mountain Goats is eking out a living in a spot where it seems even a grasshopper would be on welfare. Both male and female has short, sharp horns. Beyond the goats we notice a brown blob — or is it just part



Below: Nose to beak with White-tailed Ptarmigan. Photos: David Stirling

of the rock? We approach softly but there is no need for stealth. Finally, at arm's length we kneel to look a White-tailed Ptarmigan in the eye and see a hen with five chicks are fossicking right under our feet. We sit and contemplate distant mountain peaks and the crisp, blue sky laced with feathers of cirrus.

Another time, another place, and a different mood. A night on the high slopes of Mt. Tatlow towering to 3061 metres in the western Chilcotin is not so benign. While we sit beside a small campfire and sip on a bottle of trail medicine, the conversation turns to Grizzly Bears and that mythical, shaggy creature of the mountains, the Sasquatch. There is an atmosphere that night — the mountain crags, the rock-strewn tundra, and the silence — that would make even a case hardened Sasquatch skeptic uneasy. In the crepuscular hours, distant boulders, hard and angular by day, became hairy and round. They appear to move. The sudden roar of wind rushing through the forest below contrasts with the calm in the lee of the summit. Rain, first a light drizzle then a continuous downpour. Water seeps into our tent and infiltrates our sleeping bags. Hours pass. We get wetter and colder. In the chill dawn we venture out to see sun shine all around except on us where gray skies and rain continue. Perhaps, we should have shared our medicine with the Spirit of the Mountain.

The mountain is sublime but one must always respect its moods.



Panhandlers waiting.

Life's Un-ending Circle

Robert Kensett

The salmon tries to go upstream
barely able to hold its position
against the swift current.

A powerful urge has forced it from the ocean
to this spot in the river.

Its tail is worn from making nests in the gravelly bed.

Its body is finally deplete of eggs.

It knows only total exhaustion,
slowly then faster and faster

it allows the water to have its way.

It is buffeted this way and that
senses face — at last —

blessed release — oblivion.

The eagle to has been driven to this spot.

It knows the force that brought it here — hunger.

From its lofty perch it has watched the death throes of the fish.

Now it sails majestically down.

Hooked talons grip the salmon — the noble head bends forward.

The great, cruel beak begins the feast.

The eagle's strength increases.

It is filled with the joy of life.

Welcome to New Members

**Dr. Liana Zanette
and Dr. Michael Clinchy**
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research)*

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Robin and Heather Glass
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Betty Palmer
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Loves walking and enjoys field trips

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Royal Oak Avenue

Three Raven Tales

By Yorke Edwards

In Wells Gray Park, I was hanging on a rope going straight down about fifty feet against the face of a rocky ninety-foot cliff. Near below was where the Murtle River joins the Clearwater River. Two burly fellows were lowering me down. At a ravens' nest, I unfolded my new camera and shot several pictures. Then, getting back up was a problem as I was no featherweight. At first there were loud shouts above, but not much action. Then, by looping the rope around a tree, they managed to inch me slowly to the top. Never again!

Through the years I had other raven experiences. In our house in Oak Bay, there were a few ravens using big old evergreen trees for nesting in the treetops, which were usually hidden from below. We see few ravens now because there are now few large evergreen trees. Seen from our house, we occasionally saw them flying across Enterprise Channel to the Trial Islands, often while being harassed by a few crows, which usually scavenge on nearby beaches.

I once believed that ravens live rather solitary lives until I saw a large crowd. It was spring and in part of the open

country on Vancouver Island where a forest fire had burned north up the island for about 80 miles. Fuel for the fire had been the wooden debris left carelessly behind while logging. The fire had roared up the island for weeks using the many miles of wooden debris. Some years later I was there, and deer were easily seen in the open country.

Driving along logging roads we found a dead deer and in the fading light decided to examine it. We had not seen any ravens all day. The next day, we overslept through dawn, but were up and out at once to study the deer and its death. Our arrival flushed about two dozen noisy ravens. We were too late. Most of the deer was inside the ravens as they flew away noisily. Had the ravens joined one from another when they saw others rushing to breakfast? If so, did each one see and join others along a chain of collecting interests? Or, were they just a winter group that found the deer? If only one raven found breakfast first, and then the distant others hurried to the feast, each one became a link in a remarkable "growing chain". That day we learned little about the dead deer, but some about ravens.



Photo: Yorke Edwards

Wide-eyed in Galapagos

By Dave Wright

On the short, hot walk to the peak of Isla Bartolomé, we paused in the brilliant sunlight while our naturalist guide drew a picture in the sand. A bird soared overhead — a Galapagos hawk.

The silence was deafening after the busy airport, the flight from Guayaquil, the jostling, and the roar of the water taxi to our floating hotel.

The classic line drawing explained the increasing youthfulness of successive islets formed as the Nazca plate moved over an active vent. The simple figure illustrated the impressive line of volcanic cones that marched away from us into the haze.

A tiny lava lizard scurried by our geology lesson. The small and sparse pioneer plant species in the lava landscape provided another clue to the relative youth of the island — later we would see 2 metre tall specimens on older islands. Did Darwin experience the same sense of primordial beginnings even before he studied the Galapagos finches?

We were walking on one of the newer islets in the Galapagos Islands; located virtually on the equator, about 1000 km off the coast of mainland Ecuador, and nearly equidistant to Costa Rica. Charles Darwin visited the islands in 1835 for a mere 5 weeks, then used his observations and collections as evidence for his theory of evolution and publication "Origin of the Species".

There are 13 major islands, 6 minor islands and many islets. The Galapagos National Park covers about 97% of the total land mass. The population of roughly 20,000, and growing, is located in 5 communities, the largest of which is Puerto Ayora, on Santa Cruz. An essential visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station gives insight into the life and times of the Galapagos tortoises.

Darwin identified 13 similar, endemic species of finches, which had evolved on different islands and survived with different feeding and behaviour patterns. My guide book lists 58 resident birds, of which 28 are endemic or breed only in the islands.

We soon discovered that many birds that looked vaguely familiar were indeed endemic to the archipelago and were legitimately prefixed with "Galapagos". We were pleased to meet the pretty little Galapagos dove and astonished by an underwater encounter with the Galapagos penguin. It was fun to see the G. mockingbird, but disappointing to pass through the neighbourhood and miss G. vermilion flycatcher. I was delighted to be welcomed on wet landings by delicate lava herons. The finches defeated me, but the sea birds were amazing.

On Isabela Island, we encountered mustard coloured land iguanas, with faces that only a mother could love. There we also watched great, wise tortoises graze in lush meadows.

The hot, moist air had me holding my arms out in imitation of the flightless cormorants. We were excited by the spectacle of squadrons of blue footed boobies diving in formation from 10 or 15 metres into the ocean. They repeated this manoeuvre again and again coming up with small fish after each dive. Schools of dolphins rushed to join the feast along with a few sea turtles.

Perhaps it would be safer to say the archipelago is amazing on, under, and above the warm ocean and sun-blasted islands.

On Fernandina, we stepped around a carpet of marine iguanas "soaking up rays" together. They smiled evilly and occasionally spat salt but seemed content to have their pictures taken from only a few feet away.

On Isabela Island, we encountered mustard coloured land iguanas, with faces that only a mother could love. There we also watched great, wise tortoises graze in lush meadows.

Our conclusion at the end of our visit — "Too many wonders to absorb!"



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Birding along Victoria's Waterfront

September 7, 2002

By Marie O'Shaughnessy

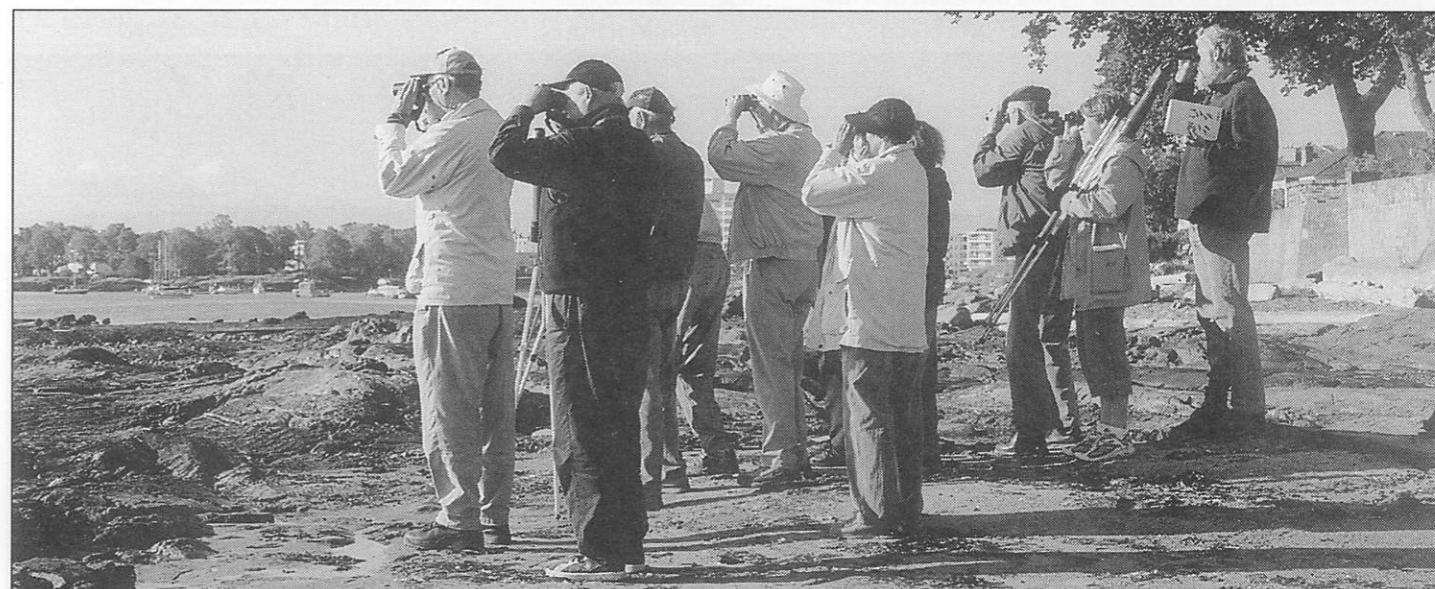
The air was crisp and the wind chilly as we gathered at Cattle Point this bright Saturday morning. Fourteen warmly dressed participants stood patiently waiting for their leader. As I appeared, it seemed from the start I was not appropriately dressed. Shorts proved to be less than ideal as protective cover for this morning of Birding. Thankfully I had chosen to grab a fleece vest at the last moment to keep the coolness of the wind from rendering me as chilly as the sea around us.

September 7th was the V.N.H.S chosen day to view Shorebirds on their migration south. Shorebirds require adequate habitat to feed up before attempting their epic journey and Victoria's rocky waterfront provides just that ideal habitat. We all hoped that the reported 'rare birds' (on the RBA tape of late) would still be around for those of us that needed a 'LIFER' or an addition to our year list. Somehow these observations always make birding worthwhile when starting out early. An 8 a.m. start was hardly traumatic, however it was 'tide in' with the height of ebbing tides, a necessary consideration for observing shorebirds.

Cattle Point, our starting rendezvous proved to be a washout where shorebirds were concerned. Rick Shortinghuis our co-leader completed a preliminary scout of the area before most of us arrived. Not even a lone Common Tern could be seen off shore; however, a few Harlequin ducks were hanging out in their usual haunts. Apparently later, two Horned Larks showed up at this lookout when a couple of

participants returned to pick up their cars. Rick gave us the good news that an assortment of shorebirds was feeding at Loon Bay so before long we headed off. Here we found 12 Short-billed Dowitchers, 3 Least Sandpipers and 3 Greater Yellowlegs. A Lesser Yellowlegs had been seen two days previously but was not to be found today. While we viewed our subjects, a Downy Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, House Sparrows and Finches could also be seen sunning themselves. Even a Barn Swallow was darting across our field of vision embracing the morning light. Off in the distance, a Great Blue Heron's silhouette added contrast to the glare at that time of the morning. We satiated ourselves with views of shorebirds and so moved on to our next port of call.

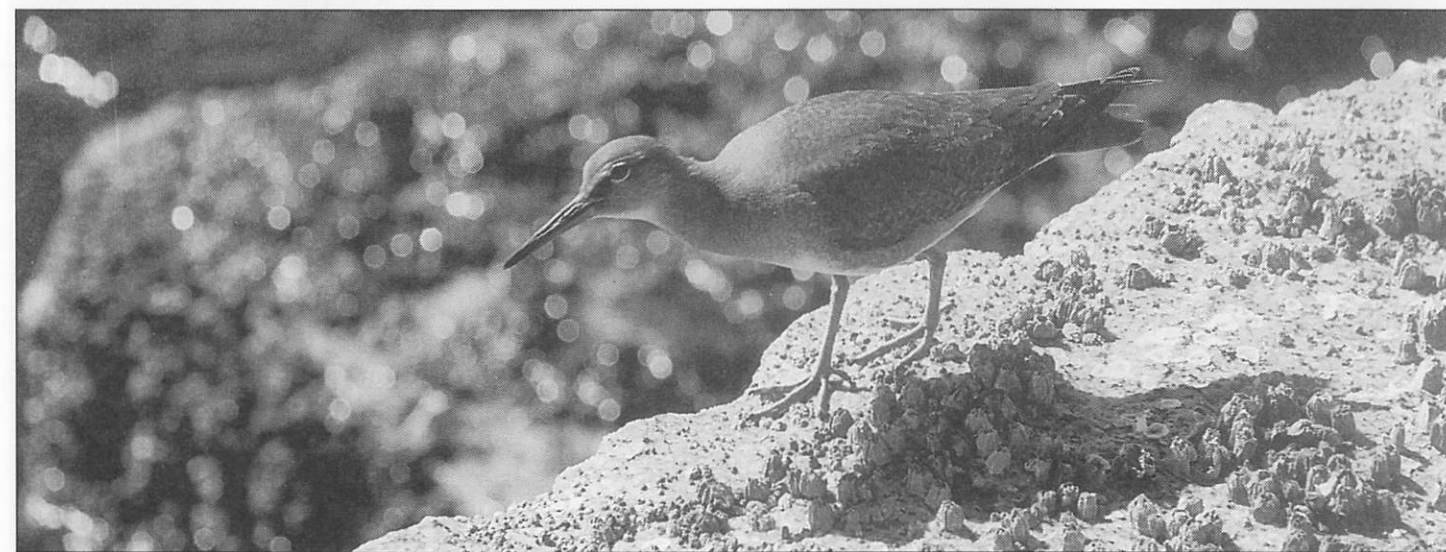
Bowker Avenue/Creek area has often in the past provided rare and interesting shorebirds. Several years ago we have had visits from a Ruff as well as Red Knots; and as recently as two and three years ago for the Knots. Perhaps they visit annually in their drab fall plumage, but no one notices or observes them at just the right time of day to report. This day was no exception for seeing rarities. What made our visit memorable was the close encounter of two adult Great Blue Herons as they strutted and postured for one another. Whether this was a bond/paired greeting, or one which told the other 'you are in my space', remains a mystery. All we know is that it did not appear to be a threat, for we heard no squawking or witnessed any aggression. These great birds performed what almost looked like a ballet in slow motion with their wings



Birders at Bowker Avenue/Willows Beach. Photos: Marie O'Shaughnessy

outstretched and fanned. These displays reminded me of similarities of behavior of territorial mute swans. The Herons with their head and necks held at an attractive angle kept this audience spellbound for some moments. Eventually they seemed to walk out into the gentle waves at the edge of the beach and part, only to then resume feeding. This entire spectacle was magical. This is what makes 'Birding' truly awesome. We continued to bird over the rocks at Bowker and found a few Black Turnstones, Surfbirds, Black-bellied Plovers that flew in formation over the water. They appeared to be undecided as to where the best piece of feeding real estate lay. Their 50+ little silhouettes flashed white and gleamed in the sun as they twisted and turned with such precision before us. Each rhythmic manoeuvre created yet another ballet for us, their audience, this September morn. These birds were the only new addition at this location for our shorebird list. A Greater Yellowlegs daintily moved one leg before the other as it searched for delicious morsels between the strands of seaweed. It too seemed to perform a unique. The usual ducks were evident, as Mallards, American Wigeon, Hooded Mergansers dabbled and dove for food. A Bonaparte's and Mew were added to the Galucous-winged Gull as part of our Gull list for the morning. We proceeded to leave the beach and head to our next destination when one observant participant caught sight of several small birds in an almost leafless tree. Was Fall further advanced than we thought? A yellow Warbler and two American Goldfinches sat preening in the sunshine. Even a Savannah Sparrow flew in to show his colors. The yellow washes of all three species reflected the brilliance of the morning sun as we left Bowker for another destination.

Clover Point was pretty chilly as we peered into the wind. Several Heermann's Gulls found company with California Gulls out of the wind on the rocks below. Our gull list swelled to five species although I wasn't able to locate a Western Gull despite the fact that this area has always been one of its favorite 'hang-outs'. A noisy party of Black Oystercatchers flew off alarmed by the intrusion of a dare



Juvenile Wandering Tattler at Ogden Point Breakwater.

devilish dog that just had to rock-hop. The usual swarm of Rock Doves flew around and above us. Rhinoceros Auklets and Common Murres were sighted in the scopes out between the swell of the sea. A Double-crested Cormorant passed our group as it flew low over the waves. By this time we all needed a hot cup of coffee to warm our bodies so off we drove to Ogden Point Breakwater. Here, we resisted the urge for hot fluids at this time and headed out along the breakwater to find the 'piece-de-resistance'. A Wandering Tattler had been reported to the RBA tape a few days earlier and we wanted this bird to make our day. We had to walk almost the entire breakwater before we encountered a Tattler as it fed along the sea washed, seaweed strewn, monolithic slabs below us. A second Tattler joined the first so all of the group were more than pleased with our sighting. Nothing caught our attention at this locale more than these birds. We watched their activities, including feeding behaviors, and flight. They even called to each other, which to our unaccustomed ear seemed to resemble the call of a Greater Yellowlegs. We lingered for a while observing all details, and then headed to the Ogden Point Cafe where a steaming hot cup of coffee was in order. Here a few of us gathered to recount our morning of Birding and to tally our numbers of which 34 Species of Bird were observed.

Several species of shorebird were missed on this day. Where were the little Western Sandpipers; usually a sure addition to our list? Perhaps the weather up north was still balmy and there was little need for them to hurry back to their wintering grounds. It seems to me that the weather patterns are changing world wide so we must expect a "cause and effect" to these seasonal occurrences. Perhaps too, our little 'PEEPS' have found better feeding grounds in isolated spots along the rugged coast of British Columbia. The few that are seen and put down here in Victoria to refuel, always cause me to reflect on how such little creatures can navigate and successfully accomplish their epic journeys with so little body mass. These flying machines we call 'SHOREBIRDS' are truly an intrigue worth getting to know.

Christmas Bird Count, 2002

Saturday, December 14

By Ann Nightingale

Victoria is undoubtedly one of the best places in Canada to bird in the winter. On December 14, we can add greatly to the international data on early winter birds, and you can be a part of it!

Over 1,800 communities in North America are assigned standardized 15-mile diameter circles in which to count all the birds they can in a single day. In our area, this covers almost all of the Greater Victoria region, so we need all the help we can get. Counters under 18 years of age and Bird Studies Canada members are invited to participate at no charge. Other counters are asked for a \$5 tax-deductible contribution to offset the costs of the count and follow-up publications.

We have 23 volunteer leaders, many of whom are looking for new team members. You don't have to be an expert birder to participate. Novices will be teamed up with more experienced counters. You can help out by acting as a tally person or as a spotter. If you are more experienced, and are wondering about leading a team, we have a couple of leaders looking for interns to take over areas next year.

Most teams start out at first light, and although counting

goes on throughout the day, much is completed by noon. Of course, there are the exceptions! There are a few "keeners" who go out looking and listening for owls in the pre-dawn hours, and a few teams of boating birders who check out the offshore waters, weather permitting and suitable boats available. Feeder counts can be reported via the VNHS website or to Lyndis Davis at 744-5750.

For those who are unsure about participating, or who want to tune-up their bird-counting skills, a number of field trips in November and early December will serve as a good practice.

If you are curious, interested, or need more information, please check out the VNHS website (www.vicnhs.bc.ca) and the Christmas Bird Count site (www.birdsource.org) or contact Ann Nightingale at 652-6450 or by email at motmot@shaw.ca. If you have a preference for a specific area, you may contact the team leader for the area directly.

After the day of counting is over, there is a post-count gathering to share stories and find out how we have done. This year the gathering is at St. Luke's Church Hall, 3821 Cedar Hill X Rd. (at Cedar Hill Rd.) at 7:00 p.m.

	Area Name	Leader	Phone	Email
1	Butchart Gardens — N. Highlands	Warren Drinnan	652-9618	wdrinnan@pinc.com
2	Central Highlands	Rick Schortinghuis	652-3326	shylo@islandnet.com
3	Goldstream — Finlayson Arm	Alan Burger	479-2446	aburger@uvic.ca
4	Thetis Lake — Hastings Flat	Ann Nightingale	652-6450	motmot@shaw.ca
5	Langford Lake	Glen Moores	655-3772	gmoores@islandnet.com
6	Albert Head — Triangle Mountain	David Allinson	480-9433	goshawk@telus.net
7	Esquimalt Lagoon - Mill Hill	Derrick Marven	250-748-8504	marven@shaw.ca
8	Esquimalt Harbour	Camilla Smith	479-4950	CamillaS_@hotmail.com
9	Portage Inlet — The Gorge	Jeff Gaskin	381-7248	
10	Victoria Harbour	Naira Johnston	370-2374	naira@uvic.ca
11	Beacon Hill Park	Tom Gillespie	361-1694	twg@horizonnet.ca
12	Oak Bay	Michael Tripp	477-4407	mtripp@pacificcoast.net
13	University — Cadboro Bay	Dannie Carsen	595-2773	dcarsen@shaw.ca
14	Ten Mile Point — Arbutus Rd	Andy Stewart	477-1328	andy.stewart@shaw.ca
15	Gordon Head — Mt. Douglas	Al Wiseley	472-1490	awiseley@islandnet.com
16	Swan Lake — Cedar Hill	Marie O'Shaughnessy	598-9680	moshaugh@pacificcoast.net
17	Blenkinsop Lake — Panama Flats	Gordon Hart	721-1264	gordh19@telus.net
18	Elk Lake — Cordova Bay	Colleen O'Brien	388-4520	cob@shaw.ca
19	Prospect Lake — Quick's Bottom	Dave Fraser	479-0016	arenaria@islandnet.ca
20	Martindale — Bear Hill	Brent Diakow	656-3190	brent@oceanusplastics.com
21	Zero Rock (ocean)	Bruce Whittington	477-8611	fieldnat@pacificcoast.net
22	Chain Islets (ocean)	Marilyn Lambert	477-5922	plambert@pacificcoast.net
23	Juan de Fuca (ocean)	Ron Bates	386-1264	rbates@bc1.com

So You Think You Know a Lot about Birding?

Game Review by Ann Nightingale

Question: Where does Esquimalt Lagoon get equal billing with birding hot spots like Cape May, the Florida Keys, and Arkansas?

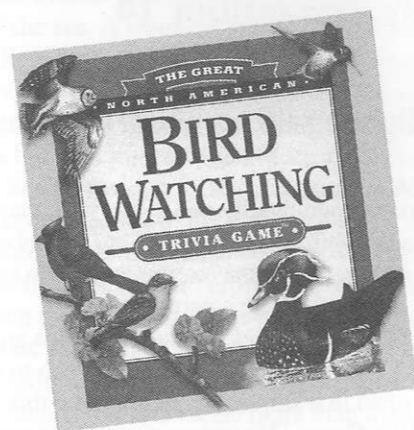
Answer: In the *Great North American Bird Watching Trivia Game!*

You may have seen this game for sale, especially around Christmas time, and wondered whether it would be a good gift for birders (or if you should add it to your wish list). I say “yes” to both.

The game consists of a board and question cards, and even the box itself comes into play. Several of the questions relate to bird silhouettes found on the game board and around the outside edge of the box. The object is to make a complete trip around the board by correctly answering the questions on the cards.

One of the best features is that each question card has three levels of difficulty. This means that experts can play with beginners ... and lose! The game covers birds in continental North America, and gives “Canadian” and western birds good coverage. (A warning about over-estimating your skill level — it took a group of self-identified “experts” more than two hours to finish the game at last spring’s Brant Festival!)

The questions ask about bird habitat, behaviour and appearance as well as names and general bird information. You will be surprised by how much you have picked up through reading articles, attending Birders’ nights and watching nature shows on TV! There are many questions for which an educated guess will work, so you don’t need to be a true “expert” to look like one. Beginner questions are often yes/no or multiple choice, so even non-birders can play



along. The element of chance can help or confound any of the players by moving you quickly ahead or back when you draw a “life list” card for landing on special squares.

My biggest criticism of the game is that the answers appear directly below the questions, so the reader can’t test his or her own skills while asking the question. I would have liked the questions on one side, with the answers on the reverse, but it may not have been possible to get six questions on one side of the card. (The questions are printed on both sides of the cards to save trees, according to the game instruction sheet.)

I recommend the Great North American Bird Watching Game for those who share their birding interest with family and friends, and have been looking for a bird-related activity when the days are short. I also think it is a great gift for “solo” birders who like to test their birding knowledge: over 2000 birding questions are in this box, and some of them are bound to stump just about anyone!

The Great North American Bird Watching Game is one of several nature-oriented games produced by Outset Media, located in Victoria. Sample questions and product information is available from their website (www.outsetmedia.com or www.birdwatchingtrivia.com).

Anni(versary)

By Bertha McHaffie-Gow

Friends out celebrating their fifty-ninth wedding anniversary, picked up a tiny half-feathered bird off the street. They brought it to me in warm, cupped hands asking “Can you save it?”

I placed it in a small box with wadding; the baby bird immediately cuddled into it. An old pair of Kelly forceps made an excellent improvised mother’s beak to feed it water-soaked cat food.

“Anni” grew and became active — going from small box to bigger — to a clothes basket tipped on its side, with a chopstick for a perch. I covered the whole thing with a clear plastic garment bag — the opening shut with a clothes peg.

The “Tuesday Group” and the folks at Swan Lake could not identify the species, either sparrow or finch. Then one day, when the vacuum cleaner was running, Anni attempted to sing. The next time, with the radio playing, it identified

itself as a song sparrow.

Eventually, as it developed, brown feathers started to cover the white wing patches, and a hint of a dark spot appeared mid-breast.

When the bird began to peck at the paper floor of its “nest”, I put a dish of seeds and a shallow dish of water. On the twenty-third day, the little bird absolutely ignored food I offered, turning its head from side to side with its now adult-like beak firmly closed. It could not indicate more clearly “I am not a baby anymore.”

That same day, I found the plastic covered with water droplets and a wet little bird — Anni’s first bath.

The bird seemed to amuse itself hopping back and forth, back and forth, or pulling up the paper floor with its beak; then suddenly I would find a quiet little mound of brown feathers — Anni was having a snooze.

The little creature, being fed as a baby would move to the opening as I was taking the peg off and flutter its wings in anticipation of food, but when it got older and was eating seeds, it would run away and even bite when caught if I put my hand in to take it out for a fly.

If teased, spunky Anni would fight and bite my finger.

I brought a tree branch into the sunroom so that when learning to fly, Anni would have a suitable landing spot.

I knew that I would soon have to set it free, as it was able to both feed itself and fly after thirty-three days. The friends who had brought Anni into my life drove the two of us to the area in Oak Bay where they had found the bird, and we let it go into the bushes.

I miss my little feathered friend who seemed to have so much character. I can only hope that, rescued from the street, its song of joy is heard by many.

Watch for Colour-banded Cooper’s Hawks

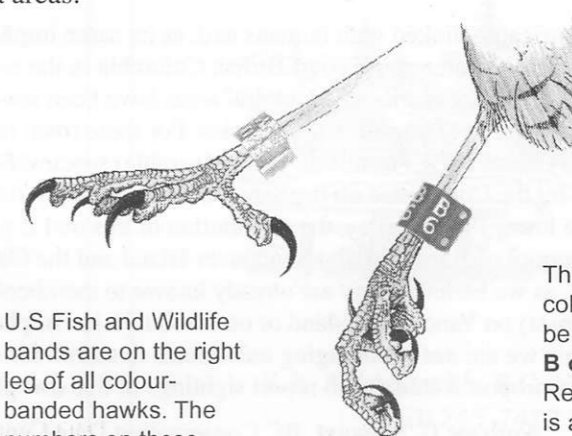
A study on the ecology of Cooper’s Hawks breeding in the urban environment of Greater Victoria has been underway since 1995. To date over 800 of these hawks have been banded at about 75 nest sites. You can greatly assist this research project by watching for and reporting observations of these banded hawks.

Colour-bands are uniquely coded with 2 vertical alphanumeric characters (i.e. number over number or letter over number) and are placed on the left leg (see illustration). To provide ease of visibility, these codes are repeated 3 times around the circumference of the band. Bands can be read at a distance of about 20 m with binoculars or up to 75 m using a spotting scope. Red bands were placed on females and black bands were put on males. If you observe one of these marked hawks, please record the band colour and code, date and time, the location, as well as whether it was in adult or juvenile plumage. **Please report all sightings, even if you were unable to determine the band code.** Band colour in itself provides very useful data.

To date over 900 observations of these marked birds have been received from as far away as Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, and at Delta and Boundary Bay on the mainland coast. I have also received 10 band sightings and recoveries from Washington, Nevada and California. However, over 95% of year-round sightings come from the Greater Victoria and Saanich Peninsula areas. A great many were observed in the vicinity of backyard bird feeders.

Please report Cooper’s Hawk observations to:

Andy Stewart, Wildlife Biologist
3932 Telegraph Bay Road
Victoria, B.C. V8N 4H7
Phone: (250) 387-9780 or 477-1328
E-mail: andy.stewart@shaw.ca



U.S Fish and Wildlife bands are on the right leg of all colour-banded hawks. The numbers on these aluminum bands can not be read except when in hand.

This example colour-band would be recorded as **B over 6**. Red bands signify it is a female and black bands indicate it is male. These bands are always on the left leg.



HAT Tricks

Fall has arrived, and only a few dragonfly species are still coursing their territories in our region. The diversity of Odonate species had dropped even by the time the VNHS field trip made it over to Laughlin Lake in September, but we did record two additional dragonfly species for the area. This wetland, the largest body of water on Galiano Island, supports wildlife of many forms, which were quite thoroughly explored by VNHS members that day. Reptiles, amphibians, and of course, birds, were seen and appreciated along the shores of the lake.

We are more than halfway to having the lake added to the network of other protected areas on Galiano, so the fundraising efforts continue. Dragonfly watching, on the other hand, has been put on hold until next spring!

I am looking forward to the next six months at Habitat Acquisition Trust though. Thanks to funding from Environment Canada's EcoAction program, we are about to embark on Phase II of our "Good Neighbours" project, the goal of which is to foster good stewards of our regions protected areas. The HAT office will soon be filled with hustle and bustle as Bruce and I are joined by the two new staff whose job it is to complete this next phase. Their official titles are "landowner contact specialists", and their jobs involve a great deal of community outreach surrounding the three protected areas we chose in Phase I.

By Claudia Copley

Interested neighbours of Esquimalt Lagoon, Mount Douglas Municipal Park, and Oak Haven Municipal Park will soon be visited by Jennifer Eliason and Pauline Brest van Kempen, both of whom have extensive background in public outreach and environmental education. Jennifer, who has been working for the Georgia Basin Ecological Assessment and Restoration Society (GBEARS) for several years, also has a degree in biology from the University of Victoria. Her work with GBEARS involved exactly the same sorts of things she'll be doing for us: encouraging people to increase the wildlife habitat potential of their yards, promoting water use reductions, alternatives to pesticides, and increasing people's awareness of species and habitats at risk in our region; all through a similar landowner contact program. Pauline is an excellent complement to Jennifer: she too has a biology degree, but hers has an emphasis on environmental quality. Her most recent employment was with the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre, and she has had many other jobs that have involved environmental education.

I can't wait to get started on this important initiative. The techniques and tools we devise over the next few months will be an integral component of future stewardship "phases" in our region, which so desperately requires the commitment of its citizens to survive.

President's Message

By Bruce Whittington

We all know the facts, the details about yet another cut to programs which British Columbians took for granted. In March, to save \$800,000 per year, the province eliminated all naturalist programming in every provincial park, placing "Super Natural BC" alongside Mississippi as the only province or state in North America with this distinction. We also know that visitors to BC parks generate something over \$500 million annually in revenue. We hear daily what the province is prepared to spend to bring two weeks of "amateur" sports to Vancouver and Whistler some years down the road.

If it all seems a little overwhelming, that this is all just too mind-boggling to know even where to begin to fight it, take heart in the fact that people are making such a start in several parts of the province.

The Recreation Stewardship Panel established by the province to provide input on ways to generate revenue to maintain recreation services in the parks, has been seeking community input. The opportunity for input has been frustratingly brief and offered during the normally quiet summer months. Nevertheless, the Panel has prepared recommendations, which are regarded by many as upholding many of the basic values that naturalists wish to see secure in the system.

The Federation of BC Naturalists, led by President Jeremy McCall, and VNHS Green Spaces Project member Tom Burgess, has prepared a detailed response to the Panel's draft report, insisting on tighter guidelines, and greater funding for parks in the province.

Even as the province is actively negotiating with potential contractors, there are hints that some funding may be returned to parks programs.

Here on Vancouver Island, the Arrowsmith Naturalists rallied volunteers to maintain summer programs at Rathrevor Beach Provincial Park. In Victoria, Habitat Acquisition Trust has signed an agreement with Arenaria Research and Interpretation, to work together to maintain as much programming as possible at Goldstream Provincial Park until government decisions are made, and hopefully beyond as well. At the VNHS board retreat in June, directors voted to contribute \$4,000 to programming at Goldstream Provincial Park; this is the same amount VNHS contributes annually to Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.

At a recent naturalist program beside the Goldstream River, I watched as Adam Taylor kept over 40 visitors spellbound as he dissected a recently dead chinook salmon. Liver by spleen by amazing eyeball, Adam told the remarkable story. Here, in a province where our fisheries teeter on the brink of oblivion, people are hungry to learn more about the life cycle of our most commercially

important fish, and they are learning thanks only to public donations. Not one government cent is at work here — at least not yet.

Many VNHS members have made donations to support programs at Goldstream — all donations made through HAT are tax receiptable. You can contribute in other ways, too. Volunteers are needed to help keep the nature house open, and to assist with programs if possible. For more information, call the Nature House at 478-9414.

You can also help by spreading the word. Rediscover Goldstream yourself, and share your own knowledge with others. Take your MLA down during the salmon run. Write a letter — not an email or a postcard, but a real letter. Ask a question which expects an answer.

Goldstream is open — people like you and me are making it happen. And if we join the people like you and me who are doing this in many other communities across the province, then the big job ahead of us looks a little more manageable. As naturalists, we share a passion, and there has never been a more important time to put that passion to work.

Barn Owl Inventory on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands

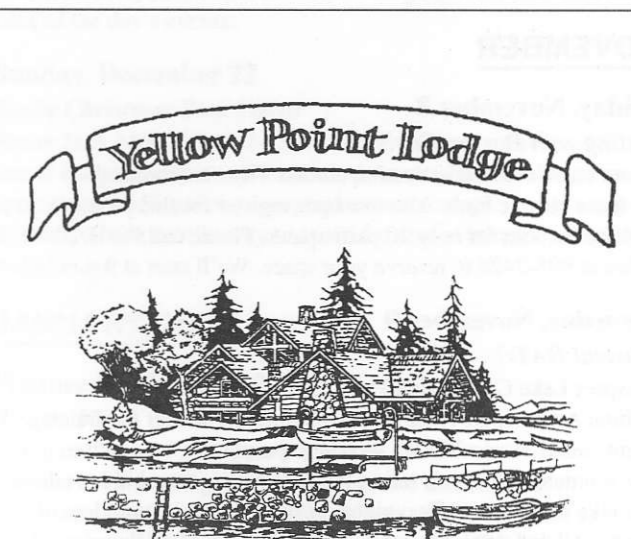
The Barn Owl is intricately linked with humans and, as its name implies, readily nests and roosts in human-made structures. This owl colonized the extreme south coast British Columbia in the early 1900s, most likely in response to the clearing of forests for agriculture. Many of these agricultural areas have been subsequently lost to urbanization. Changing agricultural practices have also negatively impacted this species. For these main reasons, the Barn Owl is currently ranked by the BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) as a Blue-list (vulnerable) species. Nationally, this western population is designated of "special concern" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

Outside of the lower Fraser valley, the distribution of this owl is poorly understood. The CDC has applied for funding to conduct an inventory of Barn Owls on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. We are also asking for your help in locating new sites, as we believe many are already known to members of the public. If you have seen Barn Owls (either recently or in the past) on Vancouver Island or on the Gulf Islands, please contact us with this information.

At this point in time we are *not* encouraging individuals to search for nest or roost sites on private property. For more information on this proposed study or to report sightings of this owl please contact:

Andrew C. Stewart, BC Conservation Data Centre Terrestrial Information Branch,
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, PO Box 9993 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9R7

For information on how to contribute data please visit our website: <http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/cdc/contribute.htm>
Phone: (250) 387-9780 Fax: (250) 387-2733 E-mail: Andy.Stewart@gems6.gov.bc.ca



R.R. 3, Ladysmith, B.C. V0R 2E0
(250) 245-7422

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGULAR MEETINGS are generally held on the following days. **Board of Directors:** the first Tuesday of each month (directors' meetings are held at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary); **Natural History Presentations** (formally known as the General Members Meeting): the second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., in Begbie 159, University of Victoria; **Botany Night:** the third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Swan Lake Nature Centre; **Parks and Conservation Committee Meeting:** the third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Swan Lake Nature Centre; **Birders' Night:** the fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Murray and Anne Fraser 159, University of Victoria. **Marine Night:** the last Monday, 7:30 p.m., Swan Lake Nature Centre. Locations are given in the calendar listings. Telephone the VNHS Events Tape at 479-2054 for further information and updates. The VNHS Calendar also appears on the Internet at: <http://www.vicNHS.bc.ca>.

Our apologies for any inconvenience late arrival of the Calendar may have created for you. A number of factors cropped up to make it impossible for us to have the magazine to you as early as usual.

OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER

Glorious Goldstream

Goldstream is a world-class salmon-spawning stream with thousands of chum salmon returning between October and December. These chum salmon have traveled thousands of kilometres in their four-year lifetime and are at Goldstream to continue the cycle of life by spawning in the river. Good years have seen as many as 50,000 salmon return to the Goldstream River. The Visitor Centre is open daily this fall/winter from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Weekend activities at the Centre include fish printing, salmon slide shows, videos, and interpretive programs on the hour from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Hot coffee and baked goods are available at the book/gift store and the fire is usually lit to warm you after a walk along the river to see the spawning salmon.

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 8

Owling with Darren Copley

Come on an evening excursion around Victoria searching for these elusive birds. You must pre-register for this program, as there is room for only 20 participants. Please call the HAT office at 995-2428 to reserve your space. We'll start at 9 p.m.

Saturday, November 9

Musical HATs!

Prospect Lake Community Hall, 5358 Sparton Road Habitat Acquisition Trust is again hosting its annual fundraising event called Musical HATs — where people involved in the environment and conservation fields bring out their hidden talents and take to the stage. Two nights of fun and music, with lots of good food and drink available, and a great list of raffle prizes. All proceeds go to support HAT's conservation work, including its campaign to purchase Laughlin Lake, the largest lake on Galiano Island. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance at the HAT office: 316-620 View Street (995-2428). Doors open at 6:30 and the music starts at 7:30 p.m. For ticket availability call the HAT office or e-mail: hatmail@hat.bc.ca

Tuesday, November 12

VNHS Natural History Presentation The Global Warming Warning

Global warming is often in the news, but the deeper implications of climate change for humans, ecosystems and natural species if we continue to release greenhouse gas emissions are nothing short of devastating. Polar bears are already losing weight as the Arctic ice melts; migrating song-birds will lose habitat as the tropical forests become stressed; coral reefs are dying and BC's salmon will disappear from local waters as the oceans warm; estuary ecosystems will suffer as sea levels rise. **Guy Dauncey** is author of the award-winning book *Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change*, which describes the alarming potential consequences of the crisis that is growing, but which also lays out the necessary solutions, in a clear systematic manner. This special presentation will lay out the facts, and the actions we must take if we are to stop the climate juggernaut before it runs out of control. Join us at 7:30 p.m., Room 158, Fraser Building, Uvic. Bring a coffee mug and a friend; non-members are welcome.

Saturday, November 16

10th Annual Day Trip to Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Delta

David Allinson has arranged a group rate at the Reifel Bird Sanctuary for VNHS members for this annual outing. Participants will carpool from in front of the Elk-Beaver Regional Park sign on Elk Lake Drive at 5:30 a.m. for the 7:00 a.m. sailing. With carpooling, costs will be about \$40.00 per person for this all-day birding bonanza. Pack your lunch and a thermos. Call David (480-9433 evenings) to confirm, as the trip will be limited to 20 participants.

Tuesday, November 19

Botany Night

Michael Vaninsberghe: *Botany throughout the seasons in Mt. Douglas Park.*

Swan Lake Nature House, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 24

Pelagic Birding on the M.V. Coho

Mike McGrenere will lead this trip on the M.V. Coho on its regular sailing across the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and back. The crossing takes 1-1/2 hours and this is the best opportunity to see

bird species such as Shearwaters, Fulmars, and Phalaropes, which are usually found further out to sea. We will be birding from the bow of the boat so dress warmly. Bring a lunch and meet at the Black Ball Ferry terminal in the Inner Harbour at 10:00 a.m. for the 10:30 sailing of the M.V. Coho (allow plenty of time for parking). Ferry cost is \$14.00 (US) return (~\$22.00 Can), and it is essential to have 2 pieces of ID with you for customs, one with a photograph. We'll return on the 2:00 p.m. sailing.

Monday, November 25

Marine Night

Swan Lake Nature Centre 7:30 p.m.

Gordon Green will speak about the role of wetlands in the environment and some of the minute critters that inhabit them. Gordon is a public programmer at the Royal BC Museum. Formerly, as Curator of Invertebrates he studied the taxonomy and distribution of water fleas (Cladocerans) and seed shrimps (Ostracods) around British Columbia.

Wednesday, November 27

Birders Night

7:30 p.m., Murray and Anne Fraser 159, Uvic

Members Night (again)

Due to last minute changes, once again members have the opportunity to show a few slides or give a brief talk on any aspect of birds or birding...either here in BC or in other parts of the world. To arrange a presentation, please call **Bryan Gates** at 598-7789. Everyone is welcome; bring a friend, a novice birder and your coffee cup.

DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY

The Eagles Have Landed!

Visit the Nature House on the estuary at Goldstream Provincial Park during this year's Eagle Extravaganza. There are excellent viewing opportunities as hundreds of Bald Eagles feed on spawned-out salmon carcasses. The Nature House is open daily all winter from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be birds of prey exhibits and great eagle viewing through spotting scopes and video cameras. Call 478-9414 for information on special programs and guest speakers happening most weekends!

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1

Gull Identification Workshop at Goldstream

Learn more than you ever thought possible about the gulls that winter on Vancouver Island. Some come from as far away as the prairies to take advantage of the winter abundance of salmon. Don't be afraid of gulls... Use this as an opportunity to practice for the Christmas bird count. Meet at the Goldstream Picnic Area parking lot by the Finlayson Road bridge at 9:00 a.m. and bring adequate winter clothing and boots. **Bruce Whittington** will lead this trip.

Saturday, December 7

Christmas Bird Count Tune-up

Meet at Helmken Rd Park and Ride at 8:00 a.m. This trip will give you a chance to tune up your winter bird-spotting identification skills. This trip will cover Knockan Hill Park and Hastings Flats and the roadsides in between, so bring your walking shoes, field guide and notepad. This event is of special interest for novice or near-novice CBCers. For more information, call **Ann Nightingale**, 652-6450.

Tuesday, December 10

VNHS Natural History Presentation Members Night

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. If you wish to make a presentation, please contact **Claudia Copley** at the HAT office (995-2428). Otherwise join us at 7:30 p.m., Room 159, Fraser Building, Uvic. Bring a coffee mug and a friend; non-members are welcome.

Saturday, December 14

Victoria Christmas Bird Count

Phone **Ann Nightingale** at 652-6450 if you would like to be involved in this annual, North America-wide event. She will hook you up with a group, regardless of your birding level. Don't be nervous about getting involved! This year's post count is at a new, bigger, and better-lit venue: St. Luke's Hall on corner of Cedar Hill and Cedar Hill X Road. The fun starts at 7 pm and sweet treats are a hit with everyone. Come and regale the gang with your crazy tales of the day's events.

Sunday, December 22

Sooke Christmas Bird Count

Phone **Jack McLeod** (642-5369) to be involved in this smaller, but just as exciting, version of the Victoria count. Help is always appreciated and it gives you a good excuse to explore new areas. Besides, what a terrific way to avoid the crazed lunatics at the malls!

JANUARY, 2003

Wednesday, January 22

Birders Night

7:30 p.m., Murray and Anne Fraser 159, Uvic

Dannie Carsen will give a slide illustrated talk entitled: "Grasslands of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Join Dannie for an interesting tour through a fascinating ecosystem. Everyone is welcome; bring a friend, a novice birder and your coffee cup.



The Victoria NATURALIST

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V.N.H.S. trip to Hurricane Ridge, Summer, 2002. *Photo: Kim Taylor*