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THE VICTORIA NATURALIST



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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Victoria B.C

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
of the Victoria Natural History Society

The following changes in the Constitution and By-laws of the Victoria Natural History Society have been recommended by the Executive and will be presented for consideration at the February 8 General Meeting.

EXISTING SECTION AND ITEM:
Constitution (2)

The objects of the Society are to encourage the study of natural history, and to stimulate active interest in the conservation of natural resources.

AMEND TO READ:

The object of the Society is to stimulate active interest in Natural History, and in the study and protection of the flora and fauna and their habitats.

(signed)
Kerry Joy
Rod Muirhead
Katherine Sherman
David Stirling
Jeremy Tatum

By-law 1 -- Membership

- a. Regular b. Family c. Junior
- d. Life e. Honorary

(b) All members of one family -- father, mother, and the children of each or both.

- a. Regular b. Family c. Junior d. Life
- e. Sustaining f. Honorary

(b) All members of one family -- husband and wife and dependent children under 18 years of age.

Add in:

(e) Now renumbered (f). Any member of the Society who has rendered outstanding service by increasing knowledge of and interest in Natural History may be recommended for honorary membership by three members in writing to the Secretary....

(e) Sustaining membership. Persons who have paid the fees determined and approved by a General Meeting of the Society as provided in By-law 2.

(f) Change "three members in writing to the Secretary..." to "three members in writing to the President..."

By-law 3 -- Officers

(a) The officers of the Society shall be as follows: Honorary President; President; Immediate Past President; Vice-president; secretary; Treasurer; Programme Chairman; and chairmen of groups of specialized activities.

(a) The officers of the Society shall be as follows: Honorary President; President; Immediate Past President; Vice-president; Recording Secretary; Corresponding Secretary; Treasurer;...."

(e) The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee, and shall conduct the correspondence of the Society.

(e) The Recording Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee.

(f) Now renumbered (g). Last sentence: The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all Society monies which have come into his possession, or have been disbursed by him; and shall render a complete statement to the Society at the Annual Meeting.

(f) The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society and perform related duties.

(g) Now renumbered (h). The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all Society monies which have come into his possession, or have been disbursed by him; and shall render a complete statement to the Society at the Annual Meeting.

(g) Change last clause to read "and shall render complete statement to the Society annually."

By-law 4 -- Elections

Add in:

(d) The two adults included in Family Membership shall each be entitled to vote.

By-Law 6 -- Meetings

(f) "... A quorum of the Executive shall consist of one member more than 50% of the elected members of the Executive Committee for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Executive Committee."

(f) "... A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of one member more than 50% of the members of the Executive Committee...."

By-Law 9 -- Audit of Accounts

"...Such books may be inspected by any member at the registered office upon ten days notice to the Directors."

"... Such books may be inspected by any member at the registered office upon ten days notice to the Executive Committee."

By-Law 10 -- Seal

Last clause now reads "... by a resolution of the Directors."

Change this clause to "... by a resolution of the Executive Committee."

By-Law 11 -- Investments

Funds of the Society may be invested in such securities as may be approved by the Executive Committee and by a General Meeting of the Society.

Delete: "and by a General Meeting of the Society."

(Signed)

Kerry Joy
Rod Muirhead
Katherine Sherman
David Stirling
Jeremy Tatum

PROPOSED SCALE OF FEES:

	Now	Proposed
Regular	\$3.00	\$5.00
Family	5.00	7.00
Junior	2.00	2.50
Sustaining	25.00	25.00
Life: Single	\$50.00	500.00 (Single only)
Or, Husband & Wife	\$75.00	

(Signed)

Kerry Joy
Rod Muirhead
Katherine Sherman
David Stirling
Jeremy Tatum

Note: The above recommended changes in the Constitution, By-laws, and Dues are proposed by the Executive Committee. According to the present By-laws proposed amendments must be signed by at least five members of the Society. The five names shown on this Notice are intended to satisfy this requirement formally, and should not be interpreted as meaning that the five signatories alone or in particular favour the proposed amendments either more or less than other members of the Executive Committee.

The amendments may be passed by a two-thirds majority of voting members (other than junior members) present at the February 8 General Meeting. The voting powers of Family Members are the subject of one amendment, since they are not clearly defined in the existing By-laws. It is suggested that, regardless of the result of debate on this question on February 8, the voting powers of Family Members throughout the evening of February 8 be as in the proposed amendment.

(b) The two adults included in Family Membership shall each be entitled to vote.

Add in:

THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Christmas Count takes place during a ten day period all over North America from the Rio Grande to the Arctic and including the state of Hawaii. It is held under the auspices of the National Audubon Society in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

When the Christmas Census first began in 1900 only 25 areas were covered by 27 people. Last year 16,657 observers participated in 903 areas.

California, Florida and Texas produce the largest number of bird species. Last year 28 areas reported 150 or more species. Cocoa, Florida spotted 205 species - the highest number for all count areas. The lowest number of species was reported from Nome, Alaska where eight observers spent nine hours, in an equivalent chill temperature of -40 degrees, travelled approximately 66 miles and discovered three species.

On looking through past Bird Count records I came across the 1965 census from Cambridge Bay, Northwest Territories where two observers braved temperatures of -40 to -36 degrees and found only 1 species, the first birds they had seen since October! Birdwatchers are a hardy lot.

British Columbia leads Canada in both species and numbers. Last year Vancouver saw 137 species, Victoria came second highest with 127. Victoria led the continent in high numbers of some species: Hooded Merganser (472), Ancient Murrelet (18), Northwestern Crow (6279), and Chestnut-backed Chickadee (666).

The Christmas Count was started in Victoria in 1944 but did not conform to the rules established by the Audubon Society until 1958. That year 22 observers logged 96 species and 37,391 individuals.

The Census has scientific value in that it can be used to evaluate trends in abundance and range extensions. Rarities add the "icing to the cake" in the form of excitement but finding rarities is not nearly so important as counting the "ordinary" species. The numbers of birds spotted on count day does not always give a true picture of the numbers

of certain species. This is particularly true in respect to the skylarks. When the ground is snow-covered skylarks congregate in flocks where food is abundant and are then easily counted. At other times they are scattered in small groups over a large area and difficult to see. On December 26 after the heavy snowfall we counted 300 skylarks in one flock off Martindale Rd. On January 1, our count day, all the snow had disappeared and only 9 were seen.

One of the most important points I have turned up during my research for this article is that the essence of a good count is a good compiler. Allan Cruickshanks in his editorials states over and over again how essential it is to submit a neat, accurate and well documented report.

The following is typical of every Count issue:

"Local compilers form the backbone of the Christmas Bird Count. They deserve much credit. Their responsibility is great....He should have the authority from his group to question any report of a very unusual observation and request details to support it".

Your Count compiler has a hard job, involving many hours of work over the Christmas holidays. I know because I helped to compile it for 10 years.

Ruth Stirling

Cover photo by Harold Hosford:

Mary Winstone points out a new find in Saxe Point Park.

Ralph Fryer focuses the scope while Leah Halsall and Phyl Downey do the recording.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth C. Alexander	1382 Craigdarroch Road
Miss Ruth C. Sharpe	485 Nelson Street
Miss I. M. Buckley	#202 - 2660 Currie Road
Miss J. Cameron	1041A Linden Avenue
Miss Sheila McBride	409 Superior Street
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Peden	4128 Holland Avenue
Miss Edna Stearn	#603 - 435 Michigan Street
Mr. Ray W. Sleeper	2404 Estevan Avenue
Mrs. J. E. Godman	313 Plaskett Place
Mrs. C. E. Pettigrew	638 Elliott Street
Mr. D. Urquhart	General Delivery, Victoria

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Tired of the cold slush and miserable drizzle of mid-winter? On January 11 over 120 people present in the Newcombe Auditorium escaped briefly into the warmth and sun of Australia. Through the magic of his excellent slides and captivating commentary, Mr. David Stirling was able to share the best of 3 visits he has made to this unique island continent. As a result we "hopped" thousands of miles from Sydney, through Alice Springs to the Outback and then on to Heron Island, part of the Great Barrier Reef.

Mr. Stirling's presentation covered not only the varied flora and fauna but included many other indigenous features from strange geological formations such as Ayer's Rock to the even stranger attire worn by certain local meter maids. Our anti-litter campaigns would be at least more colourful if not more effective if the wording on some of the Australian signs could be copied. Apparently Australia as we know it today is rapidly changing as little is being done to preserve much of the natural environment. The Australian government actively encourages the development of primary industries wherever possible.

Business was brief. Dr. Tatum made the preliminary announcements regarding proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws. These changes will be discussed at the March meeting. In other business, Mr. Freeman King was congratulated on becoming a free citizen of Victoria; Miss Enid Lemon requested and received approval for the 1972-73 Audubon Film Program; and Miss Leah Halsall requested members read advertisements in local newspapers for support of M.P. David Anderson's court battles in Washington D.C. over the use of oil tankers along our coast. Refreshments and discussion in the coffee room ended the evening. Then we all returned to that cold slush and miserable drizzle once more.

Ray Beckett

THE CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION

The Canadian Nature Federation was formed in September, 1971, replacing the now extinct Canadian Audubon Society. The Federation has 36 directors; 24 are elected by its members and 12 are appointed by major natural history organizations. A new magazine, Nature Canada, written in popular style but scientifically accurate, will be published in January, 1972.

Ideally, there should be three levels in the natural history movement--and now this is so in Canada. The local org-

anization looks after community affairs, activities and problems, the F.B.C.N. deals with provincial problems and represents all the British Columbia societies at the provincial level while the national scene will be served by C.N.F. The C.N.F. base for action and financing will depend entirely on INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. Regular membership fee is \$6.00. The C.N.F. is still untried but we must make it a success if we are to save our wildlife and the natural values of Canada. We need your help. Join the Canadian Nature Federation now!

*See me at the February meeting.
David Stirling*

*(David is one of the recently elected directors for
British Columbia. ed.)*

BIRD TRIP ESQUIMALT LAGOON - 20 NOVEMBER 1971

Weather: dull, winds light, low fog turning to overcast, cool.

Number of members: 35

Number of species: 51

Area covered: From Bridge along lagoon edge and back via shore of straits. Lunch at horrid new subdivision where surfaced roads and half-built houses mar the landscape. After lunch: Pond at Colwood Golf Course. Caused great alarm to golfers, who thought crowd peering into lake with binoculars were witnessing water tragedy. Object of peering was female Wood duck. Found Green Wing Teal and Canada Geese (both Western and Lesser) at Hastings and Granville.

Notables: immature Harris Sparrow found by Rob and Ron
: pair of Bald Eagles
: large number of Ruddy Ducks.

Rod Muirhead

JANUARY BIRD TRIP - BAZAN BAY

January 15th opened overcast with a penetrating wind, but the day improved, and by lunch time the sun was shining on us.

Our regular group was joined at Bazan Bay by a large party of Allan Brook's UVic class in B.C. Vertebrates. What seemed at first an unwieldy assembly was soon sorted out into two separate but coordinated groups, moving at their own pace and interest. From Bazan Bay, we went first to

Tulista Park, then to the beach between Rothsay and Memory Lane, on to the Bird Sanctuary at Ardwell Avenue and then lunch at MacDonald Park. After a walk to Canoe Cove most of the birdwatchers left for home.

Forty-two species were noted - mostly the common seabirds of the season. However there was considerable satisfaction in being able to see such large numbers of individuals and often at a reasonable distance. Particularly interesting was the sighting of 14 skylarks at Tulista Park and an exhibition flypast by a bald eagle at the same place. Eighteen canvasbacks were seen at Ardwell Lane, several European widgeon at Rothsay, and about twenty oyster catchers at Memory Lane. Canoe Cove had Canada geese, green wing teal and pintail.

It is hoped that this experience and ones to follow may bring in a number of active young members. There certainly seemed to be considerable interest in our outing.

Rod Muirhead

DUNCAN BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 18th, chosen by the Duncan bird group for the Annual Christmas bird census was an excellent day weatherwise.

The day which for the 13 participants began at 7:00 am and ended at 5:30 pm was a strenuous one due in part to an eight inch cover of crusted snow that lay on the ground for several days, however by nightfall all agreed they were able to give maximum coverage in respective areas.

The total number of birds listed was 10,667, down by 2,300 from the previous year, while the 102 species counted was down by nine.

The drop in numbers this census did not come as a surprise since regular weekly counts in the area had revealed that a general decline existed dating back to the Spring migration.

However the finding of a Turkey Vulture, Harris Sparrow, Slate-coloured Junco, and 11 Skylarks all were additional to the anticipated.

Our thanks to Dr. Tatum and Barbara McLintock of the V.N.H.S. for taking part in the census with us.

*Cowichan Bird Society
c/o John Comer
R.R. #1
Duncan, B.C.*

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

SPECIES:	A	B	C	D	E
Common Loon	0	1	10	2	8
Arctic Loon	0	12	6	1	0
Red-throated Loon	0	0	0	0	1
Red-necked Grebe	1	5	2	0	6
Horned Grebe	0	5	74	19	15
Eared Grebe	0	0	3	0	2
Western Grebe	1	39	47	4	16
Pied-billed Grebe	2	26	3	2	2
Double-crested Cormorant	0	19	10	1	7
Brandt's Cormorant	0	0	0	0	1
Pelagic Cormorant	0	6	53	1	35
Great Blue Heron	0	5	7	0	4
Mute Swan	5	3	4	7	5
Canada Goose	0	0	15	23	0
White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0	0
Snow Goose	0	0	1	0	0
Mallard	648	200	297	56	667
Pintail	10	19	15	0	0
Green-winged Teal	19	4	5	0	0
European Widgeon	0	1	0	0	1
American Widgeon	664	937	135	77	442
Shoveler	0	20	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	141	6	0	1	0
Canvasback	5	0	9	0	27
Greater Scaup	0	5	74	197	32
Lesser Scaup	1	0	0	0	23
Common Goldeneye	6	17	47	20	21
Barrow's Goldeneye	7	0	0	0	4
Bufflehead	13	33	278	245	47
Oldsquaw	0	0	16	0	5
Harlequin Duck	0	0	11	3	11
White-winged Scoter	0	2	70	16	9
Surf Scoter	1	4	80	0	28
Ruddy Duck	6	15	101	45	13
Hooded Merganser	1	27	23	2	23
Common Merganser	83	502	3	3	0

VICTORIA, B.C., JANUARY 1, 1972

F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
11	41	1	5	0	2	0	81
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
4	3	0	0	0	5	0	13
68	19	0	0	0	1	0	102
320	107	1	34	0	15	48	638
41	4	0	3	0	0	4	57
7	81	2	0	0	1	0	198L
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
0	10	3	39	0	0	8	97
87	2	0	0	0	0	0	90
169	82	2	3	0	2	82	435
2	4	3	2	0	0	0	27
0	0	0	53	0	0	0	77H
0	0	0	0	27	0	0	65
0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
114	270	205	563	187	610	0	3,817
1	0	239	9	43	270	0	606
0	0	191	0	57	180	0	456
1	0	2	1	2	1	0	9H
575	214	873	234	256	3,720	0	8,127
21	0	21	0	32	0	0	94
0	0	1	8	14	0	0	171
0	0	8	0	0	0	0	49
440	18	4	0	0	6	0	776L
660	2	0	0	1	0	0	687H
59	32	3	9	0	17	0	231
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
329	112	11	20	2	17	56	1,163
37	32	0	10	0	2	2	104
39	30	0	0	0	2	8	104
55	77	0	1	0	6	52	288
140	35	0	17	0	17	36	358
6	0	0	4	0	4	0	194
1	20	19	74	0	0	0	190
0	0	0	162	0	0	0	753

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - continued

SPECIES:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
Red-breasted Merganser	4	2	18	20	8	29	35	2	4	0	3	0	125
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	2	4	1	0	15H
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Red-tailed Hawk	2	6	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	1	0	19
Golden Eagle	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2H
Bald Eagle	4	1	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	14
Pigeon Hawk	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3H
Ruffed Grouse	4	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
California Quail	15	20	8	6	0	16	61	0	5	0	18	8	157
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	0	1	1	3	1	15	3	5	1	10	0	45
Virginia Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4H
American Coot	10	13	171	66	3	33	4	12	238	4	0	0	554
Black Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	2	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	26
Killdeer	4	13	29	0	1	12	27	28	1	0	20	0	135
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	1	0	1	99	18	0	0	0	0	0	119
Surfbird	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Black Turnstone	0	0	9	0	5	27	19	0	0	0	0	0	60L
Common Snipe	4	0	19	0	0	1	32	6	0	1	0	0	63
Greater Yellowlegs	0	5	2	0	0	11	0	29	0	0	0	0	47
Rock Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2L
Dunlin	0	0	10	0	1	15	0	0	0	0	325	0	351
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Glaucous-winged Gull	121	196	420	336	347	600	609	120	414	126	210	200	3,699
Western Gull	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Herring Gull	0	0	0	3	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	10
Mew Gull	104	81	46	350	325	960	184	631	110	560	190	12	3,553
Common Murre	0	0	0	0	1	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	27
Pigeon Guillemot	0	0	1	0	1	68	5	0	4	0	0	12	91
Marbled Murrelet	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	4	18
Ancient Murrelet	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Cassin's Auklet	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rhinoceros Auklet	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	6
Band-tailed Pigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
Rock Dove	0	39	1	29	30	21	2	57	0	4	77	0	260L
Barn Owl	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Screech Owl	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4H

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - continued

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - continued

SPECIES:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
Anna's Hummingbird	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1F
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	2	2	3	1	4	0	2	0	0	0	17
Yellow-Shafted Flicker	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Red-Shafted Flicker	7	10	19	10	3	26	35	6	21	8	6	0	151
Pileated Woodpecker	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6
Hairy Woodpecker	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
Downy Woodpecker	2	3	3	2	1	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	18
Skylark	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	11	0	9	0	22L
Steller's Jay	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common Raven	51	22	7	6	1	0	4	2	5	8	3	0	109
Northwestern Crow	257	209	132	134	117	230	353	169	5,065	359	106	0	7,131H
Chestnut-Backed Chickadee	38	88	53	11	23	39	155	24	44	52	26	0	553
Common Bushtit	0	0	0	0	27	21	20	18	0	1	11	0	98
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	4	8	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	9	0	0	27
Brown Creeper	3	6	1	1	4	3	8	0	0	2	0	0	28
Dipper	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Winter Wren	5	9	3	7	4	14	21	0	5	4	0	0	72
Bewick's Wren	2	2	9	1	1	16	15	6	8	0	3	0	63
Long-Billed Marsh Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Robin	31	48	54	245	97	310	264	46	127	233	60	0	1,515
Varied Thrush	1	4	3	0	11	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	28
Hermit Thrush	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Townsend's Solitaire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2H
Golden-Crowned Kinglet	16	13	77	18	17	21	78	2	12	33	4	0	291
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	2	4	3	1	0	3	26	4	3	2	2	0	50
Northern Shrike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Starling	210	224	42	67	109	152	610	35	125	143	145	0	1,862
Audubon's Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Sparrow	2	35	0	26	1	59	95	8	0	0	11	0	237
Western Meadowlark	0	0	1	2	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	10
Red-Winged Blackbird	0	0	0	0	1	12	62	22	1	0	3	0	101
Baltimore Oriole	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1F
Brewer's Blackbird	0	7	0	0	2	41	20	300	47	0	500	0	917
Purple Finch	2	4	6	10	1	15	4	2	1	7	0	0	52
House Finch	4	5	15	2	0	41	87	40	0	0	9	0	203
Pine Siskin	0	0	6	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	56L
American Goldfinch	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7

AREA D: Portage Inlet-Terrace Lakes: K.H. Sackett, Jennifer Brown, Teresa Todd.
 AREA C: Esplanade Lagoon-Willy's: Todd Lamon, Melinda Stocess, M. Kiser, M. E. K. Maitland.
 AREA B: Portage Inlet-Terrace Lakes: K.H. Sackett, Jennifer Brown, Teresa Todd.
 AREA A: Esplanade Lagoon-Willy's: Todd Lamon, Melinda Stocess, M. Kiser, M. E. K. Maitland.

SPECIES:	A	B	C	D	E
Red Crossbill	4	0	0	0	0
Rufous-Sided Towhee	24	18	13	13	17
Savannah Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0
Slate-Coloured Junco	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon Junco	102	227	102	80	4
White-Crowned Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0
Golden-Crowned Sparrow	11	5	0	1	3
Fox Sparrow	7	4	0	3	15
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0
Song Sparrow	12	22	16	18	11
Total Individuals	<u>2,696</u>	<u>3,277</u>	<u>2,715</u>	<u>2,204</u>	<u>2,666</u>
Total Species	<u>56</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>70</u>

Also seen in the fourteen-day period: Goshawk, Bonaparte's Gull, Short-eared Owl, Saw-Whet Owl, Mourning Dove, Water Pipit, Hutton's Vireo, Brown-Headed Cowbird.

NOTE: The letters to the right of some species totals have the following meanings:

H or H= : highest or equal to highest count ever

L or L= : lowest or equal to lowest count ever

F : first record on Count Day

The species and individual counts were just under average, the average figures for the previous thirteen years being 120 and 48,618. Both were much less than last year but much more than in 1968. Fifty-five observers took part, of whom 49 paid the required fee. Fees for the others were paid for by Enid Lemon and Jack Rennie. The number of party-miles covered was 407 in 144 party-hours. Estimates of party-miles per group varied from 10 (8 observers) to 101 (10 observers) and there is evidently some need for a uniform method of estimation.

AREA A: Prospect Lake - Munn Road: R.C. Mackenzie-Grieve, K.R. Joy, E.A. Anderson, Mr & Mrs A. Peden, Gail Mitchell, Freeman King.

AREA B: Florence Lake-Goldstream: Mr & Mrs T.R. Briggs, Leila Roberts, Peggy Pickford, D. Stirling, S. Reid.

AREA C: Esquimalt Lagoon-Witty's: Enid Lemon, Maeford Slocombe, M. Miller, Mr & Mrs R.C. Muirhead.

AREA D: Portage Inlet-Thetis Lake: K.R. Beckett, Jennifer Brown, Terese Todd.

F	G	H	I	J	K	L	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
40	35	4	23	17	10	0	214
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
55	192	44	89	73	55	0	1,023
0	14	0	0	0	4	0	18
19	37	7	1	1	5	0	90
60	30	2	1	1	0	0	123
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
85	26	14	18	8	9	0	239
<u>6,463</u>	<u>4,476</u>	<u>3,243</u>	<u>7,651</u>	<u>2,292</u>	<u>6,727</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>44,945</u>
<u>81</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>119</u>

AREA E: Beacon Hill Park-Esquimalt: R. Fryer, W. Abbott, Mary Winstone, Leah Halsall, Phyl Downie, R.G. Fawcett, H. Hosford, Mary Abbott.

AREA F: Clover Point-Oak Bay: K. Taylor, Lucy Parris, Miss M.C. Melburn, C. Hewson.

AREA G: Ten Mile Point-Gordon Head: A. James, Mr & Mrs A.R. Davidson, Anne Adamson, N. Fatt, K. Seaborne, Mr & Mrs D. Weston, Dr. & Mrs D.B. Sparling.

AREA H: Swan Lake-Panama Flats: R. Satterfield, C. Harper

AREA I: Blenkinsop-Elk Lake: Mr & Mrs G.N. Hooper, Wendy Hooper, Ruth McLintock, Barbara McLintock.

AREA J: Burnside-Quick's Pond: J.B. Tatum, A. Egoyan, Rosemary Piccozzi.

AREA K: Martindale-Island View Beach: Ruth Stirling, C.P. Lyons, Mr & Mrs R.D. Wainwright.

AREA L: Chain and Trial Islands: A. James.

Thanks are due to all those who participated in the Count, and I hope that everyone enjoyed the day as much as I did. Group leaders are particularly thanked for their work and for supplying the tedious but necessary details to an exasperating Compiler. Finally all of us are very appreciative of the generous hospitality of Bill and Gladys Abbott shown to us in the get-together in the evening of Count Day.

Compiled by Jeremy Tatum

PENDER ISLANDS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The seventh Pender Islands Christmas Bird Count was held on Dec. 21, 1971. Weather conditions were quite favourable, though in exposed places wind made it difficult to hear land birds and difficult to spot sea birds in the waves. The count was considerably lower, both in species and individuals, than the one taken in 1970 and some species of sea birds and land birds were particularly scarce as compared with the last count. Among the sea birds, numbers of Arctic Loons and Western Grebes were much lower and few Alcids were seen. For landbirds, numbers of varied thrushes and starlings were down and no crossbills, housefinches or goldfinches were reported. Song sparrows, however, were abundant this year. As in 1970, most abundant species was the robin and over 1400 were counted. Little of special interest was seen save 35 bald eagles and a virginia rail. A total of 65 species and 5,378 individual birds were recorded.

Participants in the count were: Betty and Allan Brooks (compilers), Chris Rock, Daphne and Gerry Stevens and Jeremy Tatum. Special thanks to Dr. Tatum for his most needed help! We hope more members of V.N.H.S. will be able to assist us on our next count.

BIRDS REPORTED

Betty Brooks

Mourning Dove	(4)	Dec. 19	Martindale Road
Golden Eagle	(1)	Dec. 19	Martindale Road Enid Lemon
Canada Jay	(1)	Dec. 20	S. St, Happy Valley A. R. Davidson
Saw-Whet Owl	(1)	Dec. 23	U. Vic Mrs. G. Hooper
Hawk Owl	(1)	Dec. 26	Blenkinsop Road Ralph Fryer
Eastern Fox Sparrow	(1)	Dec. 26	Arbutus Drive M. Clark
Spotted Owl	(1)	Dec. 30	Mt. Douglas Park Ralph Fryer
Orange-crowned Warbler	(2)	Jan. 13	Jasmine Avenue Katherine Sherman

ADDENDA: The Bullock's Oriole reported in the January issue is now believed to have been a Baltimore Oriole.

M. & L. Slocombe, 3134 Henderson Rd. (592-9047)

USE YOUR GARDEN

Many cooks from times past have had a close association with the garden by cultivating herb gardens containing garlic, rosemary, etc., and many have used the cultivated flowers, such as geranium leaves for flavouring custard and baked apples, and nasturtium flowers, seeds and leaves for various flavourings. Olde Tyme cooks used the many wild plants or weeds that grew spontaneously and of which many are found in Victoria gardens.

The wild cress grows as a garden weed here the year round as a flattened disc of leaves which add a piquancy to salads, as do also the leaves of those lawn pests dandelions, plantain and sorrel. Sorrel or dock has a sweet-sour (oxalic acid) taste all its own and goes well with fish. Most of these wild greens need a good washing which helps to remove some of the "wild" taste and the inevitable grit.

It is important that you identify positively the ones you are using as there are so many mix-ups that can occur. Even the local Indians used to get a bulb of death camas mixed with the blue camas once in a while with its consequent upset stomachs or worse as a result. A similar story is that of the young mother who put a bunch of lily of the valley in a tumbler of water. When the flowers wilted she threw them out and soon after her little child came along and drank up the water in which they had stood. The result was fatal, as lily of the valley contains a powerful alkaloid poison.

Anyone with juniper berries around can save themselves a $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of gin in the stew by using instead a few juniper berries. Those yellow mustards that flourish in the potato patch have seeds that give pickles that "real McCoy" taste.

When almonds were costly and no artificial essence was available, cooks used a part of a laurel leaf whose prussic acid content gave a similar flavour. Of course there were always some cooks who overdid things and didn't take out the leaves before serving. No flowers, please, by request!

It's strange that man has not been able to adapt ordinary green grass to his diet because it is high in protein and food essentials and here it is green the year through. Serious experiments are still being made, however, and we may yet omit the middle man (or cow in this case).

J. L. Rimmington

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY 1972

- Executive Meeting: 8:00 p.m. Board Room 104M
 Tuesday February 1 Provincial Museum
- General Meeting: 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium Pro-
 vincial Museum (south entrance)
 Tuesday February 8 Mr. Al Grass presents:
 "A Naturalist in Wells Gray Park"
- Audubon Wildlife Film: 8:00 p.m. both evenings and
 Friday February 11 2:30 p.m. matinee on Saturday
 Saturday February 12 Newcombe Auditorium
 Bower E. Rudrud "Treasure of East
 Africa"
- Bird Field Trip: Meet at Mayfair Lanes parking lot
 Saturday February 19 (north side - corner Oak and
 (Beaver-Elk Lakes) Roderick) 9:30 a.m. or at Beaver
 Lake at 10:00 a.m. Bring Lunch.
- G. Clifford Carl 8:00 p.m. Newcombe Auditorium
 Memorial Fund Program: sponsored by Victoria Historical
 Sunday February 20 Society
- Botany Meeting: 8:00 p.m. Board Room 104M
 Tuesday February 22 Provincial Museum
 Freeman King: "Winter Twigs"
- Junior Group: Meet every Saturday 1:30 p.m. at
 Mayfair Lanes parking lot
 (north side)

HASTI-NOTES

The attractively printed and convenient Hasti-notes, featuring Fenwick Lansdowne's "Audubon Warbler" are now on sale. They can be purchased direct from Miss Enid Lemon, or at any meeting of the Society or at Audubon Lectures.

PRICE: package of 10 including envelopes
 \$1.00 (tax included)

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Botany: Miss Terese Todd, Barker Road, R.R. 6 - - - - - 479-2816

Entomology: Dr. R.A. Ring, 1467 Jamaica Road - - - - - 656-2246

Ornithology: Rod Muirhead, 3431 Salsbury Way - - - - - 384-6005

Marine Biology: Freeman F. King, 541 McKenzie Ave. - - - - - 479-2966

David Stirling, 3500 Salsbury Way - - - - - 385 4223

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Mrs. E.C. Osborne, 1536 Vining St. - - - - - 385-8164

Ornithology Records: Dr. Jeremy Tatum, (see address above)

University Liaison: Dr. Jeremy Tatum (see address above)

Membership: Mrs. A.R. Davidson, 2144 Brighton Ave. - - - - - 598-3088

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Federation of B.C. Naturalists: Kerry Joy, Millstream Lake Rd., R.R.6 478-5093

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