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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Rare Bird Alert
383-0211

THE VICTORIA NATURALIST

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QUESTION TIME ??

I would like to receive answers to the following
questions from members of the Victoria Natural History
Society:

*"If you were cast away on a deserted island, which
ten Canadian birds would you most like to take with you
and which five would you most like to leave behind?"*

Reasons for your choice would be appreciated.

Please mail your choices to me:

BILL MERILEES
1655 Sherwood Drive
Nanaimo, B.C.
V9T 1H2

P.S. - A summary of all responses will be published in
the Victoria Naturalist.

(Bill Merilees is now Regional Interpretation Officer
for the Provincial Parks of Vancouver Island.)

COVER

BARRED OWL

By MARK NYHOF

BOTANICAL BEACH TRIP, JUNE 10, 1979Shore Vegetation - R.T. Ogilvie

Botanical Beach is on the wet outer coast of Vancouver Island, with approximately 100 inches of rain per year. The prevailing vegetation is in the west coast forest of Sitka spruce, hemlock, red cedar, and dense undergrowth of salal and salmonberry.

In contrast, the shore vegetation has an extreme environment of high wind exposure, salt-spray, and dry rooting conditions on beach sand and bedrock. The plants have various adaptations to these dry habitats, such as succulent water-storing tissue, and extensive systems of roots, underground stems, and stolons.

Plants in Beach Sand:

Beach pea - *Lathyrus japonicus*; sea purslane - *Honkenya peoploides*; spring-bank clover - *Trifolium wormskjoldii*; Pacific silverweed - *Potentilla pacifica*; dune ryegrass - *Elymus mollis*; Tansy - *Tanacetum vulgare*.

Plants in Bedrock Crevices:

Seaside plantain - *Plantago maritima*; Sea pink - *Armeria maritima*; Villous cinquefoil - *Potentilla villosa*; Fescue grass - *Festuca* sp.; Panic grass - *Panicum* sp.; Yarrow - *Achillea millefolium*; Nodding onion - *Allium cernuum*; and Sandwort - *Arenaria* sp.

Plants on Wet Rock Cliffs:

Red columbine - *Aquilegia formosa*; Maidenhair fern - *Adiantum pedatum*; Indian paintbrush - *Castilleja miniata*; Coastal strawberry - *Fragaria chiloensis*; Smooth alumroot - *Heuchera glabra*; Large fringe-cup - *Tellima grandiflorum*; May-leaf - *Maianthemum dilatatum*.

Fresh Water Flushes:

Yellow-eyed grass - *Sisyrinchium californicum*; Blue-eyed grass - *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*; Yellow monkey flower - *Mimulus glabratus*; Selfheal - *Prunella vulgaris*; Red columbine - *Aquilegia formosa*; Indian paintbrush - *Castilleja miniata*; Rush - *Juncus* sp.; Sedge - *Carex* sp.; Tufted hair-grass - *Deschampsia caespitosa*; Bluejoint reed grass - *Calamagrostis canadensis*.

THE BARRED OWL

by Jim Grant

Taken from NONC Newspacket, April 1979

Among the 15 species of British Columbia's owls, the Barred is a Johnny-come-lately. Originally a resident of central and eastern North America, it was first found in B.C. in 1943 at Liard Crossing on the Alaska Highway; presumably it had spread westward through the forested northern parts of the prairie provinces. Once having reached the promised land, it spread rapidly and now is probably the most common large owl in much of the more heavily timbered country in Interior B.C. It has shown up at several points along the Coast, including Victoria.

The Barred Owl is a nocturnal resident of dense forest and for this reason is heard much more often than it is seen. In a family noted for its vocal powers, it is a virtuoso; its standard call is a booming, emphatic "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" but its repertoire includes an assortment of wild and weird howls, barks, groans and wails; no-one who has heard a duet of these noises performed by a mated pair on their nesting territory can ever forget it.

Like the other owls, the Barred does not build its own nest; it usually lays its eggs in hollow trees and consequently is more common in decadent stands of cottonwoods along lakeshores and rivers, or very old cedar-hemlock forest than in other kinds of habitat. It preys chiefly on small forest mammals, and in turn has to watch out for its notoriously cannibalistic cousin, the Great Horned Owl. A pair of Barred Owls that nested in the Trinity Valley Ecological Reserve a few years ago left the area immediately when one of their newly-fledged young was eaten by a Great Horned Owl.

(This article is of special interest because Mark Nyhof heard a Barred Owl in Beaver Lake area in April, 1979.) The picture on the cover is of one of a pair seen and heard at Shawnigan Lake in October, 1978.

HERITAGE TREES - 1979

By Merle Harvey

Members from both the Victoria Natural History Society and the Victoria Horticultural Society - about 40 altogether - took part in this outing. Mrs. Virginia Bartkow had gone to immense trouble and obviously careful thought as to both trees and route.

This trip started at Mayfair Lanes and the first stop was on Carey Road in the 3000 block, where a Monkey Puzzle (*Auracaria imbricata*); 2 Rocky Mountain Junipers (*Juniperis scopulorum*) and an Austrian Pine (*Pinus Nigra Austriaca*) were inspected. The last mentioned is a good specimen and also historical. The house belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Webb, Mr. Webb having lived there since 1896. His bride came from England in 1912 and lived for a time near Cordova Bay where she found this tiny Austrian Pine, dug it up, and moved it to its present site when she married Charles Webb in 1920.

Gorge Road was our next stop, to see two big Sequoiadendrons which are recorded but not Heritage; and a couple of Mimosas (*Albizia julibrissis*) at number 516. These also are recorded, but the Heritage specimen is at 3380 Woodburn Avenue. Opposite the Fire Hall on Island Highway are 2 trees of Western Juniper (*Juniperis scopulorum*) planted by Dr. Helmcken in 1856.

At the corner of Stewart and Kerwood is a beautiful specimen of Red or Slippery Elm (*Ulmus rubra*) planted in 1914. Mrs. Bartkow told us it was a perfect size and shape for this species - 80' tall, 53' spread, 36" diameter.

A ride by Esquimalt Lagoon (with the "birders" in the group craning their necks to find if anything of interest was on the water) and up to the corner of Metchosin Road brought us to the Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga Menziesii*) which has two branches welded together by a branch that has grown from one into the other; then along Metchosin Road to Benhomer Drive to see another unique Douglas Fir. This one's branches grow zig-zag.

Next, a stop at St. Mary's Church. On the right of the gate is an Alaska Cedar (*Chamaecyparis Nootkatansis*) Its droopy appearance makes it easy to identify. At the end of the drive is an English Oak (*Quercus robur*) planted to commemorate the coronation of George VI. Its odd shape is due to it having been knocked down and broken by a truck backing over it the day after it was planted. But it was rescued and staked up.

Now Rocky Point Road to "Kalima", where its owner, Mrs. Deborah Hertzberg, had a very welcome and very good cup of coffee to cheer us, served with such delicious things to eat that I'm afraid we were a bit greedy! "Kalima" is possibly the first farmhouse in this area. It stands high, overlooking Peddar Bay, and has trees worth seeing. A gigantic Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) with dark, leathery-looking leaves and bunches of huge red samaras. This was planted in 1881. Planted in the same year, and nearby, is a huge English Walnut (*Juglans regia*) which bears prolifically each year, (and which the squirrels love!). Down below the house is a row of 15 younger walnut trees.

There was an English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) with multiple stems and Mrs. Hertzberg told us that once a Chinaman came and asked permission to cut some. Told to help himself, he was seen later by the busy housewife going away with the top half of the tree in his wagon! Hence the multiple stems.

Near "Kalima", on the return journey, we stopped for a moment to view an enormous Golden Willow (*Salix alba Tristis*) across from 5170 Rocky Point Road. Then on to Happy Valley Road and a stop at the Ranger Station to see another unique Douglas Fir. The Ranger-in-Charge was kind enough to welcome us and show us over the Canteen, and to lead us into his private garden where chairs and tables were set up in the shade. Here we had our picnic lunch and said goodbye and warm thanks to Mrs. Bartkow for giving us such an interesting trip.

RARE BIRD ALERTS IN NORTH-WEST:

Washington	(206) 455-9722
Oregon	(503) 292-0661
N. California	(415) 843-2211

WITTY'S LAGOON FIELD TRIP

By *Elizabeth North*

The morning of Saturday, 18 August, started off dull and wet but this did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the 26 birders who gathered at the carpark. The sun made a couple of weak efforts to appear but the rain continued throughout the day.

This had its compensations. The damp earth added a sweet fragrance to the air; no breeze stirred the leaves, making it easier to distinguish the smaller birds in the trees as we followed our leader, Mary Wainwright, along the undulating trail of Witty's Lagoon on the way to the beach.

A Cedar Waxwing high on a tree was the first bird spotted and a Raven croaked a greeting at the entrance to the Lagoon. The tide was low, and not a trickle of water was to be seen over the Sitting Lady Falls, although the green-ness of the undergrowth belied the drought we had had in the past few weeks.

Many shorebirds were seen feeding on the mudflats, the outstanding specimen being the Stilt Sandpiper, its greenish legs and white rump identifying it clearly, with the aid of Alf's scope.

We had to take heed where we trod; the dampness of the morning had brought out a few snails on our path, and a gay, greenish-yellow fellow with black spots commanded our attention - a Banana Slug, I was told. So, too, did the Red-legged Frog which jumped clear of our path to land on the grass, where it remained motionless as though carved in stone, while it was photographed.

All the while, in the trees, there was plenty of activity. Among the rarer species spotted by some of the more alert of the party being the Warbling Vireo, Wilson's Warbler and Willow Flycatcher.

On arriving at the beach, we were happy to see the Harbour Seals lounging lazily on the sand and the off-shore rocks. The gulls were having a feast on the crabs left behind by the ebbing tide, which reminded us it was our lunch time too, so we retraced our steps back to the cars.

A visit to Esquimalt Lagoon on our return journey had its rewards when we saw the Red-necked and Pied-billed Grebes, a Common Loon having a tussle with a fish, and Kingfisher giving a performance hovering, diving, and catching its lunch. 24 Canada Geese and 11 Mute Swans prompted us to do a count here, making the number of species on our list up to 46. Thank you, Mary, and congratulations on your first leadership.

GOOD NEWS

The rare Vancouver Island Marmot is being considered as an endangered species not only by naturalists and conservationists, but in a concrete form by the provincial government. The Minister of Environment has announced a Public Conservation Assistance Grant of \$5,000.00 towards a thorough survey of all marmot sites, and to search for new colonies. Assistance is also being given by the Federation of B.C. Naturalists, the B.C. Wildlife Federation and the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

The Public Conservation Assistance Fund, administered by the Fish and Wildlife Branch, provides individuals and organizations in the Province with a total of \$50,000 a year for worthwhile conservation projects. To qualify for a grant, an applicant must donate at least 50 per cent of the cost of the project, in either labour or funds.

* * * * *

And to give people a chance to voice their concerns on environmental issues, the Honourable Rafe Mair, Minister of Environment, has scheduled four more public meetings; in Campbell River and Fort St. John in October, and in Queen Charlotte City and Prince Rupert on November 6 and 7. Briefs should be prepared beforehand, to be submitted to him at the start of the meeting. Further information from 512 Fort Street, Victoria (387-3791).

THE PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD

By Merle Harvey

The Porcupine Herd of barren ground caribou is recognized as the most important renewable resource of the northern Yukon. For as far back as there is record, this herd has been large enough to provide the native people of the region with their basic needs for animal protein. It is one of six herds in Canada.

The herd ranges over an area of 258,000 square kilometres, from the Ogilvie Mountains in the central Yukon north to the Arctic Coast, west into N/E Alaska and east as far as the western foothills flanking the Mackenzie Delta. In recent years, it has been using the same summer and winter ranges as it used in the past. A study of location of ancient caribou corrals suggests that caribou movement patterns then were much as they are today.

Recent proposals to build one or more pipelines through the range of this herd have led to intensive studies of the herd. The present size of the herd has been estimated at about 105,000 animals, and many other facts have been gathered on the behaviour of the animals and how they respond to various man-made changes in their environment.

The Porcupine Caribou herd is important for the long-term well-being of the native people and also to southern Canadians as a valuable natural phenomenon. We must be concerned that any major changes we impose on the herd's environment do not result in a decline in the size or productivity of the herd.

The herd is also an international resource, since it is used by native people in Alaska as well as in the Yukon and the North-West Territories. Thus, we have an added responsibility to maintain its viability.

Of immediate concern is the possible consequence of the use of the Dempster Highway as a major transportation artery. The Dempster Highway, recently completed, crosses the winter range traditionally used by the herd, cutting off about one-third of its range.

Calving occurs from the end of May to mid-June. The Alaskan portion of the Porcupine Caribou herd's calving grounds is protected by the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a unit of the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System. No such protection exists at present on the Canadian side, although the Canadian Wildlife Service and National Park Service have several proposals to designate the calving and summer ranges of the Porcupine Caribou herd as a protected area.

The fall migration to wintering grounds beginning in late August and early September brings most of those not wintering in Alaska eastward across the Porcupine River to the wintering grounds south of the River. The chronology of the fall movement is very critical, encompassing as it does, the breeding period and the need to be in the wintering area before the onset of heavy snow.

Thus, the entire range is used by the herd. It could not survive if a significant portion of its range were developed in such a way as to impede migration or disturb calving.

BOTANY AT GOLDSTREAM

By Merle Harvey

On this Leadership Outing, 32 people enjoyed a beautiful sunny day, but the drought had withered shrubs and undergrowth so there were few flowers in bloom.

However, it was an exercise in leaf recognition and occasioned some head-scratching, and later, some evening activity as we looked up our books at home.

The asters were a mist of lavender on the Water Meadow, and our prize plant was an Eyebright (*Euphrasia* - but what specie?). A few ferns were identified, including a Maidenhair. The sight of an old, fallen Hemlock log with two sides covered in bright orange *Polyporus sulphureus*, the undersides pale lemon, had members gasping with admiration.

A few of us stayed on for the lecture on Sun Spots by Dr. Frank Shinn, which was held outside the Nature House.

THE VEERY: A NEW BIRD FOR VICTORIA

By Harold Hosford

Most authorities (Munro & Cowan, 1947, Godfrey, 1966, Weber, 1976) give the western limit of the breeding range of the Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) as the interior valleys of British Columbia. That these birds do occasionally spill out onto the Pacific Coast is indicated by several records of them from the heads of deep inlets along the Coast. Among these records are: 2 heard singing along the Skeena River, 40 miles west of Terrace, the first by Floyd Frank in June, 1973, the second by Wayne C. Weber a year later (MacNicholl, 1978); a nesting record for Kimsquit, at the head of Dean Channel (Godfrey, 1966); and a sight record for Mount Seymore Provincial Park in 1975 (Weber, 1976).

The first record for Vancouver Island occurred on May 31, 1972, when Martin K. MacNicholl (1978) saw one on the Comox Burn, northwest of Courtenay. Now, a little more than seven years later, Victoria joins the growing list of places where these peculiarly inland species has appeared on the Coast.

The event occurred on the morning of June 16, 1979 when I heard one in typical song in a copse of willow, alder and Indian Plum, a few yards from the north shore of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, in Beacon Hill Park. Having "grown-up" with Veerys in the aspen bluffs of southern Manitoba, recognition of the song was almost instantaneous but, I thought, for additional validation of the record, I should try and see the bird. This took longer than expected but a half-an-hour of frustrating search was finally rewarded with a brief glimpse of a tawny-backed thrush with very light spotting on its breast.

Later that day, Peggy Goodwill and Ron Satterfield joined me at the copse and once again we were rewarded with the song of the Veery. Peggy had a tape recorder with her, as well as a tape of a Veery singing. Playing this tape not only confirmed the identity of the singer but elicited considerable response as well.

MacNicholl suggests that since most of the records of the Veery on the Pacific Coast occur in spring, mainly late May and early June, they probably represent birds

that have "overshot" the normal breeding area. That such records seem to be occurring more regularly in recent years, also suggests that birders should be on the look-out for more records of this well-known songster of the Interior - particularly in June.

Literature cited:

- Godfrey, W.E., 1966. The Birds of Canada. National Museum of Canada, Bulletin 203.
 MacNicholl, Martin K., 1978. Sight Records of Veery and Swamp Sparrow on Vancouver Island, B.C. Murrelet 58: 102-104.
 Munro, J.A. and I.M. Cowan, 1947. A Review of the Bird Fauna of B.C. British Columbia Provincial Museum, Special Publication No. 2.
 Weber, W.C., 1976. Summer Sighting of a Veery in Coastal British Columbia, Murrelet 57:19.

ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED MEMBER

We offer our congratulations to Dr. Carl Heimburger. On August 16, 1979, he received the Scott Pauley Award of the North American Poplar Council in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the knowledge and advancement of poplar genetics and culture in Canada and throughout the world.

Dr. Heimburger received the award at a joint meeting of the Poplar Council of North America and the Canadian Council, at Thompsonville, Michigan, U.S.A.

SWAN LAKE CHRISTMAS HILL

Evening Public Fall Program at Nature Centre

- Wed. Nov. 7 - Death of a Legend: This is a full length feature film on the much maligned wolf. An excellent film for all ages.
Wed. Nov. 21 - Ugly Bugs and Creepy Crawlies: This talk and slide show features some of the more bizarre insects to be found in this area.
Wed. Dec. 5 - On The Wing: The mechanics of bird versus machine flight. A film on flight will follow.

ALL AT 7:30 P.M. IN NATURE CENTRE.

AUTUMN'S FLOWERS AND SUMMER'S SEEDS

By Pat Pollock

September 22, 1979 turned out to be an ideal day for walking on Island View Beach - a mixture of sun, cloud and a little fog in the distance. A good number of members marched with our very able leader, Leon Pavlick.

Our first stop was to view the Sandbur (*Franseria Chamissonis*) which was in the brown bur stage. As we wandered on, we came across the Sea Rocket (*Cakile edentula*) with its rocket-like seed pods. An interesting item about these rockets is that the end bulb falls off and probably floats on water, while the small part seeds adjacent to the plant, thus distributing seeds far and near. Further on we saw Wormwood (*Artemisia Suksdorfii*). Our leader picked a leaf and handed it round so that we could sample its spicy smell. This finding was followed by the Beach Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*) with its crackly-looking seed pods, most of which had popped open; the Velvet Grass (*Elymus mollis*), very soft to the touch; Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), and then the Sand Verbena (*Abronia latifolia*), still blooming, though not as much as in June. The roots go down to 18 inches so that the plant has a good hold on the sand. The fruit is wing-shaped - probably because the wind can then roll it along to seed further from the parent plant.

Wild Rye (*Hordeum pusillum*) was interesting in that it grows a network of underground stems. If one was pulled up, they would all eventually come up like one big plant.

After viewing Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) and Douglas Aster (*Aster subspicata*), of which there were still some in bloom, we climbed down a bank to walk among the beach logs, where the Big Head Sedge or Mace Sedge (*Carex macrocephala*) was found. The prickly head on it does resemble a mace or ancient weapon with spikes on it. This, too, has the root system all in one to anchor the plants in sand.

There are 3 stages in the Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*) - the white flowers, then purple, and finally the bird's nest shape in which you can see the seeds.

You might guess that this is a member of the carrot family by its Latin name. A unique feature of the Seaside Bullrush (*Scirpus maritimus*) is its triangular stem. Lambs Quarters (*Chenopodium album*) is definitely of the goose-foot family, as the shape of the leaves show.

Moving on we saw the Wild Asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*), Pacific Crabapple (*Malus fusca*), the Giant Vetch (*Vicia gigantea*) and Glasswort (*Salicornia pacifica*) which we found had a salty, pleasant taste and could be used in salads. The heathery-looking Beach Knotweed (*Polygonum paronychia*) with its woody stem, was upstaged by Cheat Grass (*Bromus tectorum*), also called Chess or Downy Brome.

Sea Thrift, or Sea Pink, (*Armeria maritima*) was easy to recognize even in the seed stage. Another member of the carrot family is the Indian Consumption Plant (*Lomatium nudicaule*) which was quite evident when our leader broke open a seed for us all to smell. It has a yellow flower and a naked stem and is related to Spring Gold.

A couple of times on the field trip, a rabbit hopped through our group, causing some excitement. As we approached the sand dunes, a field of Toadflax (*Linaria Dalmatica*) greeted us in full bloom. The Beach Silver-top (*Glehnia leiocarpa*) has winged seeds for blowing over sand or floating on water for dispersal. The Red Fescue Grass (*Festuca rubra*) and Blue Grass (*Poa macrantha*) help to hold the sand in place, and as we arrived at the Sand Dunes we could see that it was vegetation that kept them from drifting. We saw more crabapple trees, beaten by the wind from the sea, and also a Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*).

This about covers all the species seen at Island View Beach, which, including 3 different kinds of thistles in seed and partial bloom, made up a list of 45. Many thanks to Leon Pavlick for making this Botany Trip so interesting and varied.

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

- * "Flora of the Prairie Provinces", Bernard Boivin (Reprint)
- * Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers. Western Region.

VISIT TO SWAN LAKE*By Wilford Medd*

Sunday, September 16, 1979 a large group of members met at the Swan Lake-Christmas Hill Nature Centre for a Bird Field Trip. Our host was Terry Morrison, Naturalist/Administrator for the Centre. He gave us a short but very interesting and informative talk about the lay of the land and the trail system adjacent to Swan Lake. The work that has been done, and the improvements that have been made, are impressive indeed, and our appreciation goes to Terry and all concerned.

Under a beautiful clear sky, we began our walk along the newly finished trails. Officially it was a bird trip, but Swan Lake has a bit of everything.

The more knowledgeable botanists pointed out to us such things as Prickly Lettuce, Poison Hemlock, Begger-ticks, Golden Dock, etc. Fungus such as Shaggy Parasol (*Lepiota rhocodes*), Destroying Angel (*Amanita virosa*) and Fairy Ring *Marasmius* were discovered. After careful instructions as to just where to look to find him, I examined a beautiful green Tree Frog from a distance of about 2 feet. Also a Weevil, after opening up his home. A red Dragonfly fascinated some members who had only noticed blue ones before, and a late White Admiral Butterfly flew by.

The "bird" part of this field trip was led by Jim Wilson, and I am sure that the birders were very happy with the results. Personally, I got a little behind (with the birders I am in a class all by myself, of slow learners). I saw a Savannah Sparrow (right? Ed: Yes!). Also, on a beautiful old dead tree, a Cooper's Hawk - very impressive.

Not many water birds, but we listed 2 Mute Swans, 2 Coots, 2 Herons, and a White-fronted Goose, among others. Many small birds were in the bushes, including bushtits, purple finches, a Redwinged Blackbird, Yellow-throat, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. A late Barn Swallow was noted.

We finished at noon, examined the Nature House, and many of us enjoyed a lunch overlooking the Lake. We are indeed fortunate to have this nature centre so close by. We shall be back, as a group and individually, many times.

EDITORIAL

Congratulations to Bertha McHaffie-Gow, who was one of seven prize winners in the recent F.B.C.N. Naturalists Slide Competition.

The November Audubon is a film taken during a year in the Lake Superior Wilderness. Sounds good. The December film is the description of a Golden Eagle that Kent Durden and his father lived with for 16 years before she returned to the wild. A unique and really beautiful film.

Parking meters have now been installed in some of the spaces in the Museum Parking Lot, but there is plenty of parking space available in a large Government Lot just across the street, free of charge after 6:00 p.m. I suggest you find out where it is in daylight.

DEADLINE for January/February issue is 24th November, (early because of Christmas).

ARIZONA DAM TO DESTROY WILDLIFE HABITAT?

I read with dismay the other day that the Central Arizona Project (CAP) is the largest and most costly project ever planned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. It will destroy or degrade most of the remaining fragments of streamside wildlife habitat in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona and S/W New Mexico. In particular, it will drastically reduce the population of Gray Hawk and Beardless Flycatcher; nearly extirpate the unique desert-nesting Southern Bald Eagle population, and further dwindle the Black Hawk nesting habitat.

The CAP's Orme Dam, besides inundating 25 miles of some of the finest reaches of the Sonoran Desert streamside ecosystem, will flood out the homelands of an entire Indian nation - the Yavapai Apache - despite their strenuous protests.

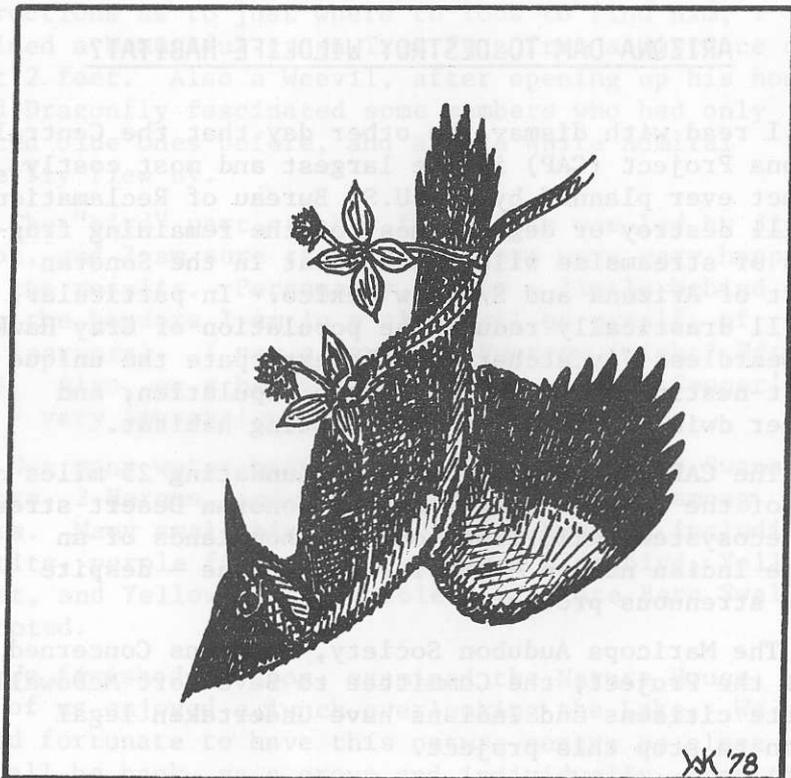
The Maricopa Audubon Society, Citizens Concerned About the Project; the Committee to Save Fort McDowell; private citizens and Indians have undertaken legal action to stop this project.

A GANGLY BERRY COBBLER

By Bill Merilees

On October 1st, 1978 the Dogwood trees in the Nanaimo area were ripe with seed. On a morning stroll through our neighbourhood, I noticed a Pileated Woodpecker busily feeding in a clump of these trees. Quite normal I suppose, but seeing a Pileated Woodpecker suspended chickadee fashion from the end of a slender Dogwood branch was quite amusing. Amid great flapping and considerable commotion, this large gangly bird first selected then nimbly picked the ripe red berries and popped them down its gullet.

Over a period of at least fifteen minutes, I watched this red-crested giant systematically strip berries from the Dogwood's lower branches. A most enjoyable and happy observation - a most amusing moment.



BIRD OBSERVATIONS

From Peggy Goodwill

<u>NO.</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AREA SEEN</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>
		<u>AUG.</u>		
1	Stilt Sandpiper	2	Vic. Golf Course	J. & R. Satterfield
1	E. Kingbird	9	5133 Wm. Hd. Rd.	Beryl Holt
1	Sol. Sandpiper	13	McIntyre Res.	D. Stirling
pr.	Yel.Hd. Blackbirds	26	McIntyre Res.	R.&R. Sewell
1	Goshawk	27	Cairndale Woods	J. Gaskin
1	Little Gull	30	Clover Point	J. Steeves
		<u>SEPT.</u>		
1	Red Knot	3	Witty's Beach	D. Stirling
1	Ruff	9	Clover Point	R.Satterfield
1	Am. Gold. Plover	17	Clover Point	E. & A.R. Davidson
1	Caspian Tern	19	Esq. Lagoon	R.Satterfield
2	Bobolink	22	Quick's Bottom	R.Satterfield
1	Black-hd. Gull	22	Clover Point	M.G.Shepard
1	Poor-will	22	Gonzales Point	K. Taylor
1	Hammond's Flycatcher	22	Metchosin Lagoon	M.G.Shepard
1	Pygmy Owl	25	Triangle Mtn.	F. Karger
1	Smew	28	Portage Inlet	Ralph Fryer
1	Redhead	29	Portage Inlet	R.Satterfield

We wish to thank members and others who phoned Turkey Vulture observations to the Rare Bird Alert. The reports from 13 to 30 September total 967 birds. It is difficult to tell if any of these birds remained in this area overnight and were recounted the following day.

PLEASE READ THIS

It is with regret that the Board of Directors has decided that after this issue no further copies of the "Naturalist" will be sent to members who have not paid their dues for April 1979, or sent in their resignations, according to the Constitution.

Omissions in the Program about leaders and times and locations can be had nearer time of trip by dialing the Rare Bird Alert Tape - 383-0211.

SWAN LAKE - CHRISTMAS HILL NATURE CENTRE

The Nature Centre would like to announce the near-completion of the loop trail system around the Lake. Thanks to an energetic crew hired under a Youth Employment Program and volunteer help from the Community Corrections Branch, we added almost 5,000 feet of cedar chip trail this summer. All that remains to complete the year-round, two-mile trail system are two short sections of dyke trail on the west side of the Lake. Completion date is slated for the end of October. Other trail features include over a thousand feet of floating boardwalk, two viewing platforms on the Lake and a winter birdblind. The V.N.H.S. contributed generously toward the trail system, so please feel welcome to put on your walking shoes, bring your binoculars, and try it out. A trail map is situated in the Nature House parking lot at 3873 Swan Lake Road, on the north side of the Lake.

We would also like to welcome a new staff member - Fran Benton started on September 4 as the Programme Naturalist. Fran is a graduate from the University of Victoria, has worked as a Seasonal Parks Naturalist in Yoho, Kokanee Creek and Mt. Robson Parks, and as a Research Assistant at the University of Saskatchewan.

We are now well immersed in our winter programme activities. For our school programmes, we are offering a general visit and Nature Walk for Grades 4 and 5, a new programme concerning Water Resources for Grade 7's, and a Fresh Water Ecology programme for Grade 11's. For the general public, we are offering informal evening programmes involving films, slide shows, talks and discussions.

If anyone is interested in joining our Docent group, please do not hesitate to call us. Here is an opportunity to help our naturalist teach the school groups, give a talk to the public evening group, assist us with weekly bird counts, or any other talent you may want to volunteer. The Docents meet at Swan Lake once a month for scheduling, training workshops and nature walks.

For any information on the Nature Centre and its programmes, please call Terry Morrison or Fran Benton at 479-0211.

*Terry Morrison,
Naturalist/Administrator.*

VICTORIA JUNIOR NATURALISTS' PROGRAM For The Young and The Young At Heart

Headquarters: Francis Park Nature House.

Caretaker: Percy Dumbleton

Program Co-ordinator: Johanna Baldwin (478-2290)

Alternate Sites: Freeman King Nature House.

Goldstream Provincial Park.

Senior Interpreter: Jennifer Beckett (478-9414)

Swan Lake (Christmas Hill)

Nature House.

Naturalist/Administrator: Terry Morrison)

Naturalist: Fran Benton) 479-0211

Secretary-Bookkeeper: Doe Small)

Membership Fee: Enthusiasm and Interest.

Activity Plans Include:

- Fish Feeding at Goldstream
- Exploring and Naturalizing wherever we are.
- Canoeing, Kayaking, Boating & Swimming.
- Nature Study utilizing books, magazines, microscopes, slides, films and Guest Instructors.
- Visiting other nature interpretation centres.
- Working on individual & group projects and displays.
- Helping as volunteers in our local parks.
- Eating edible wild plants.
- Fishing?
- Spelunking, First Aid and Outdoor Survival Skill
- Camping? Skiing? Snowshoeing? Orienteering and Map Reading.
- Socializing - Christmas Party and Making Good Christmas Pieces; Easter Egg Hunt.
- Horseback Riding? Deep Freeze.
- SUGGESTIONS, LEADERS & DONATIONS WELCOME.

Activity Days: Usually Saturday - see schedule included in VNHS News, "Naturalist", or Rare Bird Alert (383-0211).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- to provide an opportunity for club members to explore and study Nature.
- to share experiences and knowledge with each other and park visitors.
- to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of Nature (inter-relationships and all that).
- to provide opportunities for members to improve local park facilities and natural environments.
- And, a little fun!

- SAT. NOV. 3 COMBINED FIELD TRIP: Botany and Marine Biology. Leaders: Dr. Bob Ogilvie and Dr. Brian Ainscough. Location later.
- FRI. NOV. 9 AUDUBON: Speaker: Tom Sterling.
SAT. NOV. 10 "Superior - Land of the Woodland Drummer". Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
- SAT. NOV. 10 BIRDING on the Saanich Peninsula. Martindale, Island View, Robert's Bay, etc. Meet Mayfair Lanes, 9:00 a.m. Leader: Mike Shepard (658-5850)
- TUES. NOV. 13 GENERAL MEETING: Newcombe Auditorium. 8:00 p.m. Speakers: Trudy Carson and Bristol Foster. "The Vancouver Island Marmot".
- SAT. NOV. 17 FOSSILS FIELD TRIP: Possibly Sooke. Meet Mayfair Lanes 9:00 a.m. Leader: Rick Kool.
- THURS. NOV. 22 ENTOMOLOGY: 8:00 p.m., Room 112, Provincial Museum. Dr. Brian Ainscough.
- SUN. NOV. 25 VICTORIA TREES: Specimens Tour. Meet Beacon Hill Park. Time and Leader announced later.
- TUES. NOV. 27 BIRDERS NIGHT: 7:30 Boardroom, Provincial Museum, Mike Shepard. Bring a few slides. Topics for discussion will include bird identification tips, field trips and the Christmas Count.
- SAT. DEC. 1 AUDUBON: Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
SUN. DEC. 2 Matinee: 2:00 p.m. Speaker: Kent Durden, "Gifts of an Eagle".
- THURS. DEC. 6 NO LEADER TRIP: Beacon Hill Park for birds. Meet 10:00 a.m. outside N/E corner of Zoo Enclosure. At this time of year, birding is excellent at Goodacre Lake and along waterfront.

- TUES. DEC. 11 GENERAL MEETING: Newcombe Auditorium, 8:00 p.m. Speaker: Dave Rutledge on Vancouver Island Marmots.
- SAT. DEC. 15 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Information from Mike Shepard at meeting on 27th November, or phone 658-5850.

JUNIOR PROGRAM

- PURPOSE: To carry on Freeman King's Work
 MOTTO: Let It Be for Others to See

NOVEMBER

- SUN. 4, 11, 18, 25 Witty's Lagoon Nature House. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. "Open House".
- SAT. 3 Goldstream Picnic Area Sign. 10:00 - noon. Fish Interpretation & Campfire. Bring food.
- SAT. 10 Thetis Lake Park, 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Fishing, Hiking and Picnic.
- SAT. 17 Goldstream Picnic Area Sign. 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Fish Interpretation & Campfire. Bring food.
- SAT. 24 Francis Park. 10:00 a.m. - Noon. Come & explore the Park and help fix up the Nature House and the displays.

DECEMBER

- SUN. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Witty's Lagoon Nature House. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. "Open House".
- SAT. 8 Goldstream Picnic Area Sign. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hike up Mt. Finlayson. Dress in layers. Bring food and a warm drink.
- SAT. 22 Location to be announced. Christmas Party. Make your own Christmas piece and decorations. Bring an inexpensive, cheaply wrapped, nature-related gift and lots of goodies.

Everyone welcome at these outings.

PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR: *Johanna Baldwin (478-2290).*