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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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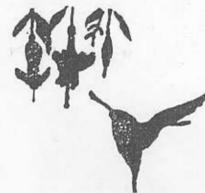
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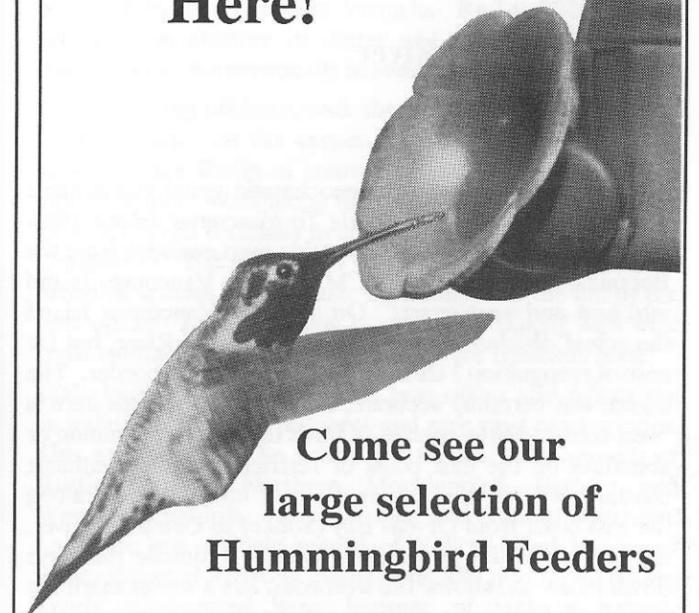
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From Our Readers

Dear Mark:

Joe Lotzkar, our president, asked me to write and congratulate you and Carol Bony on the article in your November/December issue titled "Marine Debris and Entanglement."

If anyone in the Victoria Natural History Society is interested in forming a Vancouver Island Chapter of Environmentally Sound Packaging, get in touch with Stu Reader, who is also especially interested in this topic. Stu is presently the president of the B.C. Wildlife Federation. Phone him at 592-6610 in Victoria.

We also congratulate you on the new format of your newsletter. It is very obvious that you have a good working committee.

Adeline Nicol,
Executive Secretary,
Federation of B.C. Naturalists

Bird-Finding On Vancouver Island

Part 1. Jordan River

By K. Taylor

When producing the biogeoclimatic zonal eco-systems map for *A Birder's Guide To Vancouver Island 1983-1984* (K. Taylor), I used a vegetation map available from the Botanical Section of the RBCM to divide Vancouver Island into east and west coasts. On southern Vancouver Island the actual division comes just east of Jordan River, but for ease of recognition I chose Jordan River as the border. The choice was certainly accurate, as the status of birds here is "west coast". Many species of birds that may be common or abundant on the east coast or restricted to the southeast coastal lowlands, the narrow strip of low-lying land along the east coast from Orveas Bay (Sooke) to Campbell River, are rare or casual on the west coast. Rationale for these divisions are as follows: the west coast has a wetter maritime climate than the east coast, the vegetation is markedly different, and the change is rather abrupt on either side of the division. The southeast coastal lowlands have the driest maritime climate and greatest diversity of habitat.

The following is a general list of those species that may be abundant-common on the east coast but accidental to casual on the west coast of the island. An asterisk indicates that the species has been seen at Jordan River, with the status there shown as (A) accidental, (R) rare, (CA) casual to be expected again with more reporting, (U) uncommon, or (CM) common migrant; and with number of records shown as (number).

- *Eared Grebe (R)
- Green Heron
- Blue-winged Teal
- *Cinnamon Teal (A)(1)
- N. Shoveller
- Gadwall
- Canvasback
- Ring-necked Duck
- Lesser Scaup
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Ruddy Duck
- *Turkey Vulture (CA)
- Cooper's Hawk
- *Golden Eagle (A)(2)
- *American Kestrel (R)
- *Merlin (R)
- California Quail
- Virginia Rail
- Sora
- American Coot

- *Sandhill Crane (CA)
- Common Tern
- *Mourning Dove (A)(1)
- *Barn Owl (A)(1)
- *Great Horned Owl (R?)(1)
- *Black Swift (CM)
- *Vaux's Swift (CM)
- Pileated Woodpecker
- *Downy Woodpecker (U)
- Western Wood-Pewee
- Hammond's Flycatcher
- Horned Lark
- *Violet-green Swallow (CA-summer)(CM)
- Cliff Swallow
- *Bushtit (R) (3)
- *Brown Creeper (U)
- *Bewick's Wren (CA)(6)(Nov-Dec)
- House Wren
- Marsh Wren
- Northern Shrike
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Solitary Vireo
- *Black-throated Gray Warbler (A)(1)
- *Western Tanager (A)(1)
- Black-Headed Grosbeak
- Chipping Sparrow
- *Lapland Longspur (A)(1)
- *Snow Bunting (R)
- *Red-winged Blackbird (A)(1)(CA?)
- *Western Meadowlark (CA)
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Northern Oriole
- House Finch
- *Evening Grosbeak (R)
- House Sparrow

Although Jordan River is in west coast habitat and the general status of species here matches those of Pacific Rim National Park, there are bound to be exceptions, with the close proximity of both the east coast and southeast coastal lowlands. The most notable of these is the Rufous-sided Towhee, which is common in the winter months. The Towhee is rare at Pacific Rim National Park, the Kinglet a common migrant and uncommon winter visitor there. Hutton's Vireo is an uncommon resident which is rare at Pacific Rim.

Later dates of migrants are received here, especially warblers: Orange-crowned, Townsend's, Yellow-rumped, Yellowthroat and Wilson's. Golden-crowned Sparrows are seen through winter (usually a small flock) and White-crowned Sparrows are rare winter residents. The Golden-crowned Sparrow is normally only a migrant on the west coast, the White-crowned Sparrow a summer resident (March-October).

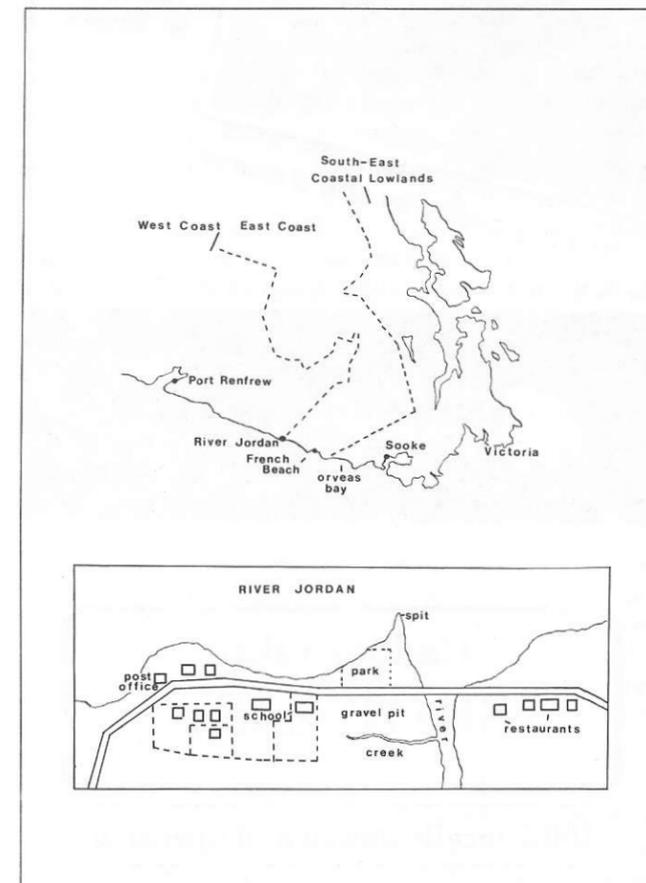
Some overlap with birds of the southeast coastal lowlands occurs, with rare records of the Bushtit, Bewick's Wren and Western Meadowlark. The Willow Flycatcher and War-

bling Vireo are not found in town in numbers but are to be found commonly in the area in proper habitat. Both are rare at Pacific Rim National Park. Both species of swift have migrated here in large numbers, again rare or uncommon at Pacific Rim.

One exception of a common breeding west coast species not found here (at least not in the lowlands) is the Hermit Thrush. Further exploration may find it at higher elevations. It is, however, found uncommonly in migration and winter months at Jordan River.

Birding Jordan River

To reach Jordan River you must drive a pleasant, scenic 60 km from the corner of highways 1 and 14 west of Victoria. Turn onto highway 14 through Colwood, 28 km to Sooke. Drive west past Sooke for 32 km on the road to Port Renfrew (highway 14, coastal and paved). There is a well-marked provincial park along the drive, French Beach, which has camping and picnic facilities. The status of birds at French Beach is the same as at Jordan River, with two records of Clark's Grebe and one of Marbled Godwit. Jordan River is a very small logging community with a choice of a drive-in restaurant or The Breakers Restaurant. You should get gas at Sooke for the trip.



When you arrive at Jordan River, park your car at the spit. Many Victoria birders come to add Black-legged Kittiwakes to their year-lists. These are found from November to

March just off the mouth of the river in the tide-rip after strong westerly winds. More often they are seen on the horizon line. Herring Gulls (winter) and Western Gulls (especially in August) are common on the spit at the mouth of the river, uncommon at Victoria. Red-throated Loons are common offshore in winter and - typical of the west coast - also seen occasionally in summer.

After checking offshore, walk through the gravel pit following the creek. At the corner of the school yard and the gravel pit are flocks of sparrows, usually "crowned" sparrows in winter. Walk along the many back roads in town. A Bewick's Wren is usually near the tennis court (November - December). Fox Sparrows (*fuliginosa*) are a common breeding species in the brush, especially near the hill by the post office. Their breeding corresponds exactly with west coast habitat on the south coast. They are residents here.

Walk back to your car via the post office and follow the shoreline checking for vagrants and rare west coast species. This area seems to be a trap for rarities, with records of Rustic Bunting, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern and Western Kingbirds, Palm Warbler and Swamp Sparrows. Less rare are a single record of Yellow-billed Loon and White-throated Sparrow. Shorebirds and puddle ducks are poorly represented here, because of lack of habitat. Shorebirds recorded thus far are: Common Snipe, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher and Red Phalarope. More species will certainly be recorded with further coverage and reporting.

The following is a general list of uncommon to abundant species to be expected at Jordan River. The seasonal status is basically the same as at Victoria. (M) Migrant only

- Red-throated Loon
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe
- Western Grebe
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Brandt's Cormorant
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron
- G. White-fronted Goose (UM)
- Canada Goose (M)
- Black Brant (M)
- Mallard
- American Wigeon
- Green-winged Teal
- Greater Scaup
- Harlequin Duck
- Oldsquaw
- White-winged Scoter
- Surf Scoter
- Black Scoter (R)
- Common Goldeneye
- Bufflehead

Hooded Merganser (U)
 Common Merganser
 Red-breasted Merganser
 Bald Eagle
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Peregrine Falcon
 Blue Grouse
 Ruffed Grouse
 Gulls
 Common Murre
 Pigeon Guillemot
 Marbled Murrelet
 Ancient Murrelet
 Rhinoceros Auklet
 Band-tailed Pigeon
 N. Pygmy-Owl
 W. Screech-Owl?
 Rufous Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Red-breasted Sapsucker (R)
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Western Flycatcher
 Tree Swallow
 Rough-winged Swallow
 Barn Swallow (CA)
 Steller's Jay
 North-western Crow
 Common Raven
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee
 Red-breasted Nuthatch (R)
 Winter Wren
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Swainson's Thrush
 Hermit Thrush
 Robin (U winter)
 Varied Thrush
 Water Pipit (UM)
 European Starling
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Townsend's Warbler
 MacGillivray's Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Savanna Sparrow (M)(A winter)
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Brown-headed Cowbird (CM)(U summer)
 Purple Finch (R)
 Red Crossbill
 Pine Siskin

American Goldfinch (M)

For further information on the status of western Vancouver Island birds, see *The Birds of Pacific Rim National Park* (Campbell *et al.*) or *A Birders Guide to Vancouver Island* (K. Taylor). I hope that this article will help observers in knowing which species are worth reporting from this area.

Note:

1. Divisions depicting biogeographical zonal ecosystems on the map are not drawn to exact tolerances.
2. The author would like to see other bird-finding articles for areas on Vancouver Island outside of Victoria, especially in provincial parks.



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Book Review

By Bruce Whittington

Hiking Guide to the *Big Trees of Southwestern British Columbia*. Randy Stoltmann, Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Vancouver, 1987, 144 pp., illustrated, paperback, \$9.95

One of the nice things about interesting trees is that they stay put; it is difficult to write with any certainty about the whereabouts of a particularly large or beautiful Stellar's Jay or Minke Whale. It is also nice to be able to combine an excursion in the outdoors with a goal of sorts, whether a view of Mount Baker or lunch beneath Canada's largest living thing, the Red Creek Fir.

Here is an attractive little book which will provide the impetus for many an enjoyable outing as well as being just plain interesting. *Big Trees* is printed on high-quality paper using a readable typestyle and a very pleasing layout. There are many maps, which are clear and uncluttered. But one of the highlights for me is the quality of the photographs. All are black-and-white, and are most exceptional, having an almost Darius Kinsey quality about them. All of this, unfortunately, is held together by "perfect" binding, which does not have a good reputation for heavy use and will only open flat when its spine is broken.

The main body of the book covers some 22 locations in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island areas. Some, like John Dean Provincial Park in North Saanich, are small, while others cover larger areas or driving routes, such as Macmillan Bloedel's Shawnigan Division. All give very clear instructions for locating interesting groves and individual trees, and the author offers appropriate advice about travel on logging roads and about wilderness ethics as well. For my taste, the author's prose is at times a little florid; around these grand-dames of the forest, "swirling waters lap at the base of the bluffs" and the wind is "sighing in the treetops". For the most part, however, the text is well presented and avoids the formula approach, with useful material on history, biology and the politics of forest management sprinkled throughout. There is an introduction by Bristol Foster, a listing of British Columbia record trees by species, and a bibliography. Notably lacking is an index; I found that even shortly after reading the book I couldn't quickly locate the information I had just read on a particular Pacific Yew tree.

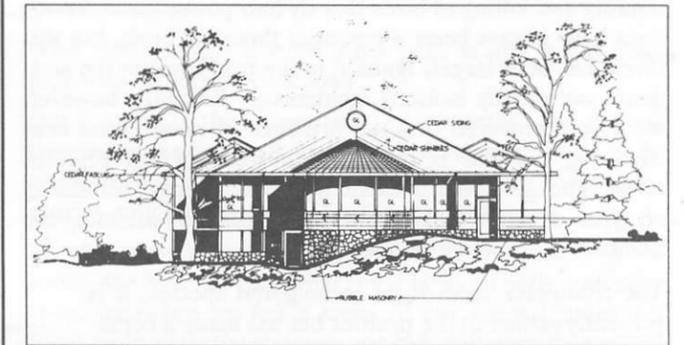
A second theme which runs through the book is the need for conservation and more effective forest management. The tone is not strident, but the message is clear: the harvesting of thousand-year-old forests is like mining: to all intents we cannot replace the resource.

I like this book, and I think it will be a worthy addition to any library; your purchase also benefits the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

Swan Lake Nature House

By Terry Morrison, Manager

The Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary is pleased to announce that construction on the new Nature House facility began in early March. The residential house which had served as the Sanctuary's Nature House since 1977 was torn down to make way for the new building. The basement floor and foundations were preserved and enlarged upon, to provide a final floor space of 4,200 square feet.



Swan Lake Nature House (south view)

The building, planned by the Nature Sanctuary Society and staff, and designed by Marshall Goldsworthy & Associates, will include an exhibit area, a library/reading room, a classroom, washrooms, offices and work space.

The Sanctuary is currently sponsoring a Job Development Grant to plan, produce and install the natural history displays for the exhibit area and library. The plan is to provide an exciting, interactive hands-on approach in the display area, with a view to enhancing the visitor's sensory awareness.

The building construction is scheduled for completion by early July. Allowing for time to furnish and equip the building and install the displays, it is expected that the building will be open to the public sometime in August.

It is hoped that the new facility will allow closer ties to develop between the Nature Sanctuary and the Victoria Natural History Society. The building will be well suited for use by the Birders and Botany groups (the Birders Nights for the fall and the Christmas Bird Count gathering have already been booked). The Sanctuary is also hoping to look after the Natural History Society library collection in the library/reading room, and will be able to provide office space for the Natural History Society in the building.

Watch for an update of progress and an announcement of the opening date in the next issue of *The Naturalist*.

Danger! Power Lines

By Vicki Ryland

The islands off the coast of British Columbia serve as a home for many of our native birds, a number of which are migratory birds that travel west to escape the colder winter temperatures on the mainland. The mild climate of Vancouver Island and neighbouring islands provides ideal wintering grounds for ducks, geese, swans and many other waterfowl. Though most of these grounds are considered safe havens for the birds, recently the Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada has learned of a local hazard involving the injuring and killing of birds that fly into power lines. Power lines have always been a potential threat to birds, but this threat has been largely ignored in the past because the accidents are usually isolated incidences. Recently, however, we have discovered that the presence of power lines near wintering grounds is jeopardizing some of our regional birds. Though power lines are a potential danger for almost all types of birds, locally they are particularly affecting the numbers of trumpeter swans.

The trumpeter swan is an endangered species; it is presently extinct in the prairies but has made a come-back in British Columbia, mainly due to conservation and reintroduction programs. Locally, trumpeter swans have a migratory route that includes many lakes and other freshwater systems in and around the southern end of Vancouver Island. Though most of these water systems are convenient and safe wintering grounds for the swans, at least one area has proven to be a dangerous and often deadly route for some. This area is the Martindale Flats located around Martindale road in Central Saanich. Every year, from approximately November to February, trumpeter swans arrive at this small area of flooded farmland to rest from their flight from the mainland, and every year the SPCA and residents of the area are confronted with the maimed and dead swans that have hit the power lines located around the flats. Though the number of injured and killed birds at the flats varies from year to year, both the SPCA and residents agree that in 1987-1988 there was a higher-than-average number of swan deaths. As of early February 1988 the SPCA had received six swans killed from hitting wires in this area. This number does not include deaths not reported to the SPCA or injured birds that were able to fly off.

Though swans have been the primary bird affected, other bird deaths at the flats have been attributed to the power lines. The SPCA has received some Canada Geese over the years, and one resident of the Martindale area found an immature bald eagle lying under the wires.

The Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada experienced the problem first-hand when an injured swan was brought to us. The immature trumpeter swan was brought in with a severely mangled left wing. Dr. Don Wilson of the Brentwood Bay Veterinary Clinic examined the bird and diagnosed the left wing as having a "degloving" wound, which means there was a loss of epithelium and muscular tissue from the mid-shaft of part of the radius and ulna bones. Dried, dehydrated exterior tendons and devitalized bone indicated that the injury was approximately two and a half to three weeks old. Dr. Wilson confirmed that the injury was not caused by an animal or automobile but that the swan had flown into some sort of obstruction and become tangled. Salvage surgery was done to allow new growth of epithelium tissue. Though the swan would never regain its flight, it was important to retain as many flight feathers as possible so that the bird could regain proper balancing ability. For this reason the amputated area was restricted to the directly damaged segment of wing. One of the biggest worries in caring for the swan was in trying to keep its stress level down. All wild birds are easily stressed when placed in a foreign environment, and this always makes rehabilitation of these birds a difficult task. Though we provided a calm non-threatening environment for the swan and despite all our efforts, much to our regret the swan did not survive. The combination of



Injured Trumpeter Swan

a serious injury and being kept in captivity was apparently too much for the bird to endure.

Some residents of the Martindale area have voiced concern about the problem at Martindale Flats, as has the SPCA, and although everyone agrees the problem exists, there is some doubt about who should solve it. Because the birds are migratory, they do not fall under the jurisdiction of the local branch of Fisheries and Wildlife. B.C. Hydro does

have an interest in the problem, in that the swans are causing frequent power outages in the area of the flats, and B.C. Hydro has taken the first steps toward solution. Since most of the injuries and deaths occur in the evening or early morning when the power lines are less visible, B.C. Hydro has tagged the lines to make them more apparent. This is the fastest and least expensive of the possible solutions, but unfortunately the tagging was not done until February, when most of the swans had already returned to the mainland. This means it will not be known whether the tagging is a reliable solution until next November when the swans return.

The Martindale Flats are just one area around Victoria where swans and other waterfowl gather in the winter months, and though these flats seem to be one of the biggest trouble spots, it is likely that other wintering grounds have experienced the same problem with power lines, although perhaps to a lesser extent. But whatever the extent, the problem does exist, and an adequate solution has yet to be determined. Ideally, underground wiring around the Martindale Flats would solve any future problems with migrating birds there. But this would be a very expensive project, and therefore the less costly solutions, such as tagging, are more likely to be administered. If tagging does prove to be effective, we can consider ourselves lucky to have discovered such a simple solution. If tagging does not work, we may have to decide whether the Martindale Flats are a big enough problem to consider a more elaborate solution in order to preserve the wildlife. Vancouver Island and all of British Columbia is so renowned for.

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The Age of Gulls

By A.R. Davidson

We have had a certain gull under observation for about thirty years. Its stance is on the eastern side of the Oak Bay Marina, furthest away from the restaurant, with a wide view of the open sea and the islands. This gull was adult when we first saw it and was probably hatched on Gull Island, which is about a mile away. We have had our lunch there in the car at intervals during all these years and this gull generally appears, sometimes with a mate, although generally alone, but this year accompanied by one fully grown young.

What distinguishes it from other gulls is that it has black primaries, with three "windows".

Our last visit to the marina was three months ago, the gull showing up as usual. It looked no older, to us, than it did when we first saw it, except that the bill may be somewhat heavier, so it might be good for twenty more years.

To what age can gulls reach? Can't find anything in the books. We have no idea what sex it is, as all gulls look alike to us, but when we fed it some of our lunch I noticed it stood aside while the younger one fed, so it must be a male!

Society of Canadian Ornithologists - Become a Member

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO) was formed in 1982, in conjunction with the Canadian hosting of the XIX International Ornithological Congress in Ottawa in June 1986. Since its inception our membership has grown to over 150 members, and the Society now publishes *Picoides*, the Bulletin of SCO, twice a year.

The objectives of the SCO are to promote ornithology in Canada, whether it is enjoyed by amateurs or professionals, and to provide a common voice and information exchange for persons interested in birds.

Please give your support to the organization by taking out a membership. Send your remittance (\$10.00) to Philip Stepney, Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6.

Chronological Plant List

With this third issue, we continue to reprint a list of the flowering dates of Victoria's plants, trees and shrubs which was compiled by botanist M.C. Melburn for the year 1954 and appeared in *The Victoria Naturalist* at that time.

Flowering Date	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
May 7	Nymphaeaceae	<i>Nymphaea polysepala</i>	Yellow pond lily	Thetis Lake
May 7	Compositae	<i>Balsamorhiza deltoidea</i>	balsam root	Thetis Lake
May 7	Compositae	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow	Thetis Lake
May 7	Compositae	<i>Antennaria Howellii</i>	everlasting	Thetis Lake
May 7	Compositae	<i>Microseris Bigelovii</i>	everlasting	Thetis Lake
May 7	Polemoniaceae	<i>Gilia tenella</i>	gilia sp.	Thetis Lake
May 7	Umbelliferae	<i>Sanicula septentrionalis</i> (S. Nevodensis)	sanicle sp.	Thetis Lake
May 7	Leguminosae	<i>Hosackia parviflora</i>	bird-foot clover	Thetis Lake
May 7	Leguminosae	<i>Lathyrus Nuttallii</i>	purple pea	Thetis Lake
May 7	Primulaceae	<i>Trientalis latifolia</i>	star flower	Thetis Lake
May 7	Rosaceae	<i>Amelanchier florida</i>	saskatoon or June berry	Thetis Lake
May 7	Ericaceae	<i>Arctostaphylos Uva-Ursi</i>	bearberry	Thetis Lake
May 8	Liliaceae	<i>Camassia Leichtlinii</i>	later camas	Ten Mile Pt.
May 8	Caprifoliaceae	<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	orange honeysuckle	Ten Mile Pt.
May 8	Urticaceae	<i>Urtica Lyallii</i>	nettles	Ten Mile Pt.
May 8	Rosaceae	<i>Rubus macropetalus</i>	trailing blackberry	Ten Mile Pt.
May 8	Orchidaceae	<i>Corallorhiza maculata</i>	spotted coral root	Killarney Wd.
May 9	Compositae	<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>	pineapple weed	Wayside
May 14	Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus brevispina</i>	black hawthorn	Humber Wood
May 14	Leguminosae	<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	hairy vetch	Cadboro Bay
May 14	Leguminosae	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	clover sp.	lawn
May 14	Rosaceae	<i>Pyrus occidentalis</i>	western mountain ash	roadside
May 14	Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	seaside plantain	sea shore
May 14	Umbelliferae	<i>Sanicula arctopoides</i>	sanicle sp.	Chinese Cemetery
May 14	Umbelliferae	<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>	cow parsnip	Oak Bay Golf Course
May 14	Leguminosae	<i>Lathyrus maritimus</i>	beach pea	Ten Mile Pt.
May 15	Rosaceae	<i>Pyrus diversifolia</i>	crab apple	Arbutus Rd.
May 15	Berberidaceae	<i>Achlys triphylla</i>	vanilla leaf	Killarney Wd.
May 15	Cruciferae	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	hedge mustard	Arbutus Rd.
May 15	Rhamnaceae	<i>Rhus Purshiana</i>	casacara	Arbutus Rd.
May 15	Saxifragaceae	<i>Trirella trifoliata</i>	foam flower	Arbutus Rd.
May 16	Saxifragaceae	<i>Ribes lacustre</i>	swamp gooseberry	Spectacle Lake
May 16	Betulaceae	<i>Alnus sitchensis</i>	green alder	Spectacle Lake
May 18	Cruciferae	<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	field cress	Saxe Pt.
May 18	Compositae	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	mayweed	Ten Mile Pt.
May 18	Ranunculaceae	<i>Delphinium Menziesii</i>	Menzie's larkspur	Ten Mile Pt.
May 20	Orchidaceae	<i>Corallorhiza striata</i>	striped coral root	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Portulacaceae	<i>Calandrinia caulescens</i>	red maids	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Portulacaceae	<i>Montia parvifolia</i>	miner's lettuce	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Cruciferae	<i>Thysanocarpus curvipes</i>	lace-pod	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Caryophyllaceae	<i>Silene gallica</i>	wild pink	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Saxifragaceae	<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	alum root	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Leguminosae	<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	white-flowered species	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Umbelliferae	<i>Leptotaenia dissecta</i>	chocolate tips	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Compositae	<i>Agoseris laciniata</i>	false dandelion	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Compositae	<i>Erophylum lanatum</i>	woolly sunflower	Mt. Douglas
May 20	Compositae	<i>Grindelia stricta</i>	gumweed	Uplands Shore
May 20	Compositae	<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Goat's beard	Cranmore St.
May 20	Ericaceae	<i>Vaccinium caespitosum</i>	dwarf bilberry	Sproat Lake
May 20	Liliaceae	<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>	twisted-stalk	Sproat Lake
May 20	Saxifragaceae	<i>Saxifraga rufidula</i>	saxifrage sp.	Sproat Lake
May 20	Liliaceae	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>	wild lily-of-the-valley	Humber Wd.
May 22	Orobanchaceae	<i>Boschniakia strobiliacea</i>	poque	Sproat Lk.
May 22	Valerianaceae	<i>Valeriana sitchensis</i>	valerian	Sproat Lake
May 23	Rosaceae	<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	dwarf rose	C.H.X Road
May 23	Rosaceae	<i>Geum macrophyllum</i>	yellow avens	Humber Wood
May 23	Rosaceae	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	thimbleberry	Sooke Road
May 23	Leguminosae	<i>Lupinus nootkatensis</i>	lupine sp.	Sooke Road
May 23	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Castilleja angustifolia</i>	paint brush	Sooke Road
May 23	Ericaceae	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	salal	Sooke Road
May 23	Ranunculaceae	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	wild columbine	Sooke Road
May 23	Compositae	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	ox-eye daisy	Cedar Hill
May 24	Saxifragaceae	<i>Saxifraga caespitosa</i>	tufted saxifrage	Bedford Rd.
May 24	Leguminosae	<i>Trifolium microcephalum</i>	saucer clover	Bedford Rd.
May 24	Liliaceae	<i>Allium acuminatum</i>	wild onion	Bedford Rd.
May 24	Cruciferae	<i>Radicula curvisiliqua</i>	water-cress sp.	Arbutus Rd.
May 24	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Orthocarpus hispidus</i>	lesser paint-brush	10 M. Pt.
May 24	Rosaceae	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	nutka rose	10 M. Pt.
May 24	Leguminosae	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	garden escape	Cadboro Bay
May 26	Rosaceae	<i>Potentilla flabelliformis</i> (?)	five fingers	Uplands
May 26	Nyctaginaceae	<i>Abronia latifolia</i>	sand verbena	Oak Bay Beach
May 26	Leguminosae	<i>Lupinus gradifolius</i> (?)	lupine sp.	Cattle Pt.
May 29	Cornaceae	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	red-osier dogwood	Swan Lake
May 29	Cruciferae	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	tumbling mustard	Swan Lake
May 29	Rosaceae	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	silverweed	Swan Lake
May 29	Boraginaceae	<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	water forget-me-not	Swan Lake
May 29	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	thyme-leaved speedwell	Swan Lake
May 29	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Veronica peregrina</i>	neckweed	Swan Lake
May 29	Compositae	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	common sow-thistle	garden
May 31	Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago major</i>	common plantain	Pat Bay Hy.
May 31	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Castilleja levisecta</i>	yellow paint-brush	Pat Bay Hy.
May 31	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Rhinanthus crista-galli</i>	yellow rattle	Pat Bay Hy.
May 31	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Veronica americana</i>	brooklime	Pat Bay Hy.
May 31	Caryophyllaceae	<i>Stellaria borealis</i>	northern stitch-wort	Pat Bay Hy.
May 31	Iridaceae	<i>Sisyrinchium idahoense</i>	blue-eyed grass	Pat Bay Hy.
May 31	Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	curled dock	Pat Bay Hy.
May 31	Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	meadow buttercup	Pat Bay Hy.
May 31	Leguminosae	<i>Vicia gigantea</i>	giant vetch	Pat Bay Hy.
June 2	Ericaceae	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	Labrador tea	Lost Lake
June 2	Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus Oxyocantha</i>	English hawthorn	Lost Lake
June 2	Cruciferae	<i>Radicula nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	water cress	Lost lake
June 2	Caryophyllaceae	<i>Sagina stricta</i>	pearlwort	Lost Lake
June 2	Cruciferae	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	black mustard	Lost Lake
June 8	Rosaceae	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	ninebark	Queenswood
June 8	Ericaceae	<i>Pyrola bracteata</i>	wintergreen	Saanich
June 8	Compositae	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	spiny sowthistle	10 M. Pt.
June 8	Rosaceae	<i>Spiraea Douglasii</i>	hardhack	10 M. Pt.
June 9	Rosaceae	<i>Spiraea discolor</i>	ocean spray	Humber Wd.
June 9	Juncaginaceae	<i>Triglochin maritima</i>	seaside arrow grass	Humber Wd.
June 9	Caprifoliaceae	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	snowberry	Humber Wd.
June 9	Leguminosae	<i>Trifolium fimbriatum</i>	perennial clover	Humber Wd.
June 9	Leguminosae	<i>Hosackia denticulata</i>	bird-foot clover	Humber Wd.

Sexing By Voice - The Great Horned Owl

By Barbara Begg

Regarding the differences in voice pitch of the male and female Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), there are conflicting opinions to be found in the literature. Although most books avoid this issue, some venture into it. Audubon's *Master Guide* (1983) says: "Calls of the male and female differ slightly in pitch." The B.C. Provincial Museum Handbook No. 18 on the owls of B.C. gives the female the lower-pitched voice and states that the usual number of hoots is five or six. Roger Tory Peterson in his *A Field Guide to Western Birds* (1961) claims that the female has the lower-pitched voice. (I have repeated this information many times.) He also credits the female with a longer series of hoots, six to eight, whereas he states that the male usually has four to five. I have found that in the Greater Victoria area, the male and the female almost invariably have the same series, five hoots, differing only in pitch. Perhaps there is a geographical difference in the length of the call. Briefly, a few other books attributing the lower voice to the female are *Birds of North America* (Austin L. Rand), *The Audubon Illustrated Handbook of American Birds* (Reilly and Pettingill, 1968) and *Raptors of California* (Mallette and Gould). This last booklet also credits the female Screech Owl with a lower voice and the female Long-eared, Spotted and Flammulated Owls with the higher-pitched voices.

Writers will often take at face value the statements of those in the past, particularly reputable authorities. This is natural, of course, as it is not possible to rerun historical events to get first-hand experience. This holds very true in subjects concerning natural history, as we can't all collect specimens and do laboratory tests, nor spend hours or days doing field work. Perhaps this is why errors get repeated.

An excellent example of this is some erroneous information received by the famed Scottish botanist David Douglas. In 1827, Douglas sent two California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) specimens to England, along with much accurate information. However, as he himself had never found a California Condor's nest at that time, he relied for nesting information on a story given to him by a Canadian voyageur. The following incorrect data was copied and repeated for many years, long after the nest and egg of the Condor had finally been found and described by reliable observers: "They build their nests in the thickest part of the forest, invariably choosing the most secret and impenetrable situations, and build on the pine tree a nest of dead sticks and grass, have only two young at a time; egg very large (fully larger than a goose egg), nearly a perfect circle and of a uniform jet black." It sounds like the voyageur was having a joke at the expense of the botanist. But enough digression; back to the Duke and Duchess.

On the other side of the voice pitch controversy, twice I have had the opportunity to compare two Great Horned Owls close together, calling. Both times, the birds were in full view perched in oak trees. There was not a great difference in their size, but enough to judge that the larger bird had the higher-pitched voice; it was the female, since in *virginianus* the female is larger than her mate.

Following are excerpts from Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*, the first contributed by Blackwelder, the second by Bent: "...the call of the male is shorter and of lower pitch than that of the female"; "There is a sexual difference in the notes, the voice of the supposed male being pitched at a lower key, perhaps three or even four half-tones lower; his notes are more prolonged and elaborate, rich, deep and mellow; hers are usually shorter, simpler and softer."

According to local biologist Dave Fraser, autopsies have shown that although the female is larger than the male overall, she has a shorter syrinx (comparable to our larynx) and thus a higher voice.

Generally, information from the early part of the century is quite accurate because birders and biologists did a lot of their birding over the barrel of a gun. (Fortunately that isn't so necessary now.) An article by Alden H. Miller in *The Condor*, 1934, gives detailed measurements on some North American owl species: syrinx 17% smaller on average in the female Great Horned Owl, even though she can be as much as 50% heavier than the male. Miller goes on to say: "An individual Horned Owl has been known to alter the pitch of its hoot, within a few minute's time, a matter of two half-tones. Nevertheless, the average difference between the sexes is so marked that in the field one may with practice fairly satisfactorily identify them by this means." Through field and laboratory work, Miller also found that voices were higher and syringes smaller in Short-eared, Barred, Great Gray, Spotted, Flammulated and Western, Eastern and Whiskered Screech Owls. In the one pair of Barn Owls he studied, the female had the larger syrinx, so it is possibly an exception. There was no information for the remaining species. One of his conclusions was that syringeal size is a well-marked secondary sexual characteristic in certain, if not all, Strigidae.

Information that Kay and Larry McKeever give in their book *A Dowry of Owls* should be accurate, as they not only rehabilitate owls but also breed them in captivity at their Owl Rehabilitation Research Centre in Ontario. They state in the book that the male Great Horned Owl call is comprised of five hoots at a lower pitch than the female call, though they allow there is some variation. According to Kay McKeever, (per. comm.), the Great Horned, Great Gray, Snowy, Barred, Spotted, Long-eared, Screech, Saw-whet, Boreal and Pygmy Owls all follow the pattern of lower pitch for the males. She arrives at these observations after vast hands-on experience with owls, as well as after discussions with a world expert on avian sonograms, Dr. Louis Balisla of the California Academy of Science in San Fran-

cisco. She also says that she has the advantage over biologists working in the field in that she has already established the sex of all their resident owls by laparoscopy, egg-laying or fertilization.

In conclusion, it would seem that there is no doubt that the female Great Horned Owl has the higher-pitched voice.

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Great Horned Owl

Growing Native... Growing Orange Honey suckle in the Garden

By David F. Fraser

Orange Honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa* [Pursh] D.C.) is our showiest native honeysuckle. The bright orange tubular flowers produced by this vine in early summer give the alternate name of trumpet honeysuckle. Easy to grow and spectacular in bloom, it is puzzling that this species is not more widely available in local nurseries. Its horticultural merits have been recognized; this species won an Award of Merit in a British Horticultural Show in 1919 (Kruckeberg 1982). Despite this, it is not common even in England, where Bean (1970) laments its rarity in the British garden.

Perhaps the one drawback this species has when compared to the European honeysuckles is its lack of perfume. Clark (1976) hypothesizes that this is because this species is pollinated by hummingbirds, pollinators attracted to showy blooms but which lack the sensory apparatus to utilize olfactory cues. Whatever the reason, this is one of the showiest, if most odourless, of honeysuckles.

Seed germination requires stratification (Kruckeberg 1982); however, the species roots so easily from cuttings that I have never tried propagating this species from seed.

Care should be taken to avoid growing this vine up valued ornamental trees, as it can strangle and cut into growing trees, as it often does in nature. In our own garden a large specimen drapes attractively over one of the beds, held up by a large Ocean Spray (*Holodiscus discolor*).

As expected from a plant with orange tubular flowers, this is a popular item with hummingbirds, swallowtail butterflies and other nectar-feeding animals. The glossy red berries are eaten by a variety of birds in late summer and add another color display when the flowers are spent. The thick lush growth is a favourite nesting site for House Finches in our backyard. They also drink the nectar produced by the flowers, usually by biting through the blossom at the swollen nectary located at the base of the bloom.

If you have a wall, trellis or fence that needs covering, consider *Lonicera ciliosa*, one of our truly spectacular native vines.

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Beaked Whale Stranding on the Washington Coast

By Robin William Baird and Pam J. Stacey

When we were informed of an unidentified beaked whale stranded on the Washington coast February 24, 1988, we were excited by the possibilities. We had never previously seen any species of beaked whale, dead or alive, although seven species can be found in the eastern North Pacific. Beaked whales make up the family Ziphiidae, and are among the rarest of whales. Little is known about even the basic biology of most species. Several, in fact, have never even been seen alive, having only been identified from the occasional stranded specimen; one species, the Longman's beaked whale, is known only from two beach-cast skulls in the South Pacific (Miniasian et al., 1984).

Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*) or goosbeak whale is the most widespread and frequently sighted of the beaked whales in the North Pacific. It averages 18 to 23 feet in length, has a white head in adulthood and has a single pair of teeth protruding at the tip of the lower jaw. The beak is short and blends into a sloping forehead. Virtually nothing is known about this beaked whale's social behavior and breeding cycle. The Baird's beaked whale (*Berardius bairdi*) is the largest beaked whale (up to 42 feet) and is found only in the North Pacific. It is characterized by a long narrow beak and a bulging forehead. The remaining beaked whales found in this area, five species of the genus *Mesoplodon*, are difficult or even impossible to distinguish from one another other than by examination of the skull. The beak of the *Mesoplodons* protrudes more smoothly from the melon than does that of *Berardius*. Adult male Blainville's (*M. densirostris*) and Hubb's (*M. carlhubbsi*) beaked whales may be recognized by the shape or coloration of their heads. The other three possibilities are Stejneger's beaked whale (*M. stejnegeri*), the ginko-tooth whale (*M. ginkgodens*) or Hector's beaked whale (*M. hectori*). The *Mesoplodons*, like Cuvier's beaked whale, have a pair of teeth protruding from the lower jaw in the males. Lastly, the distinct possibility existed that our whale was one that had never before been recorded from the eastern North Pacific.

The location of the stranding was on the open coast of the Olympic Peninsula, near Lake Ozette, in Olympic National Park. The expedition was organized by Rich Osborne and Tim Ransom of the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor, Washington. As Research Associates of the Whale Museum, and being experienced in dealing with stranded cetaceans, we were asked to join the expedition. The trip, which was accompanied with endless speculation as to what the final identification of the animal would be, began with the ferry to Friday Harbor and another to Anacortes, then the drive down Whidbey Island and another ferry to Port Townsend. The long drive across the Olympic Peninsula to



the west coast ended with a three-mile hike through the west coast forest to the beach, each of us carrying 40 to 60 pounds of camping and whale-stranding gear.

The next morning, after a two and a half hour hike along the rocky beach, we discovered the whale. Even though badly decomposed, having been on the beach for over a week, and partially eaten by eagles or bears, its identity was obvious. This individual, measured at 17 feet, 4 inches, was identified by its length, bulbous forehead, long narrow jaws, and lack of any visible teeth as a juvenile Baird's beaked whale, named after Spencer F. Baird, a naturalist and the second Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (in the late 1870-80s).

The Baird's beaked whale, also known as the northern giant bottlenose whale, is the tenth largest cetacean (of the 76 or so species). As these whales are born at about 15 feet, this individual was probably less than two months old. Japanese whaling information suggests that Baird's beaked whales attain sexual maturity at an age of 8 to 10 years and may live to be 70 (Nishiwaki and Oguro, 1971). Baird's beaked whales are gregarious animals and may be found in groups of 30 or more. They dive deeply to feed on squid and small fish, their dives lasting up to 1 hour (Kasuya, 1986). They are difficult to approach, as they often shy away from boats, and this combined with their long dive times makes them extremely difficult to study. They are thought to be restricted to waters over the continental shelf (Rice, 1986). Most information about Baird's and other beaked whales comes from stranded specimens such as the one we were confronted with.

We began by taking standard measurements of the animal, which adds important information to the scant existing data on individual and geographic variation and sexual dimorphism in the species. The whale was also examined for any external markings that could be of help in determining the cause of death and/or the reason for stranding, such as wounds or scars that would indicate aggression towards the animal, net entanglement or disease. A few tooth-rake marks were found near the head; any other marks that may have been present had become obliterated in the mass of abrasions and cuts incurred when the animal washed ashore - it had to come over a quarter mile of boulder-strewn intertidal area.

We were then faced with the daunting task of dealing with the carcass. We spent two days on the beach, flensing off the blubber and meat and taking samples of the liver, lung, kidney and blubber for toxicology tests. Examination of the stomach contents revealed that it was already feeding on solid food, with several squid beaks present. Several

parasites from the blubber and ear cavity were also collected for later examination. The skeleton had been considerably damaged, probably on the rough journey through the intertidal area being pounded against the rocks in the strong surf of the exposed west coast. The upper and lower jaws had been crushed, and several ribs broken. We also noted the unusual-looking vertebrae, to which were attached the massive and dense bands of muscle needed by this strong deep diver.

Obtaining the skeleton and a variety of tissue samples for tests was the goal, but none of us favoured carrying out the skeleton in sections - the complete animal weighed several tons. We finally separated the skeleton into more manageable 200-pound pieces. Carrying out the pieces would have taken days for our group, so they were hidden high up in the bushes, to be removed later by a U.S. Parks Service helicopter.

Little is known about the distribution of Baird's beaked whales in the eastern North Pacific. The only records from B.C. waters are of a small number of individuals taken during the whaling from Coal Harbour on Vancouver Island (Pike and MacAskie, 1969). Sightings at sea are very uncommon. No previous strandings have occurred on the Washington or B.C. coast, although these whales do normally stay over the continental shelf. Whether a record in March is unusual is unknown, as this is the first data point of this species in many years. This stranding is probably a result of the normal proportion of mortality that occurs in the young of all animals; in cetaceans, separation from parents has been implicated in the death of juveniles (Jones, 1987). Organized stranding networks in Washington have only been operating for just over ten years, and ours in B.C. is now being developed (Baird et al., 1988), so more information on this species may surface in the near future.

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Program Committee Report

This 1988 Program Committee report by David F. Fraser, Chairman, Program Committee, was presented at the Annual General Meeting, March 8, 1988.

The Victoria Natural History Society's Program Committee is responsible for the meetings, evening programs and field trips that are sponsored by the VNHS. The committee consists of four people: myself, Tracy Hooper (promotion), and Lyndis Davis and Anne Knowles (birding field trips).

During the past year, the committee has been responsible for the nearly 100 field trips, program meetings and workshops sponsored by the Society. Field trips have ranged from local two-hour trips to the extended field trip through Washington and Oregon coming up this spring.

Future plans for the committee depend on input from the membership. Volunteers are needed to lead trips, suggest new trips and new types of activities and to assist with the running of the committee.

In the near future nearly half of you will be polled by telephone in order for the committee to gain some insight on the membership use of existing programs and the desires of the membership for other sorts of programming.

Future plans include resurrection of Junior Programs, some longer field trips and some workshop activities.

In 1989 the VNHS will be hosting the Federation of B.C. Naturalists meetings. We'll be asking for extra help to assist in the organization of the meetings and associated field trips.

Birding Committee Report

This report by David F. Fraser, board representative, Birding Committee, was presented at the Annual General Meeting, March 8, 1988.

This year saw the organization of a new committee for the Victoria Natural History Society: an elected committee to look after birder-related activities sponsored by the Victoria Natural History Society. These activities are varied, and include a Records Committee, the annual Christmas Bird Count and After-gathering, Birders Night programs, checklist publications, birding field trips, population monitoring, habitat improvement projects and bird biology workshops. The committee will be comprised of 7 people, one appointed from the board, the remaining six elected at the April meeting of Birders Night - 3 for a one-year period, 3 for a two-year term.

As the committee becomes active, there will be a need for help from the membership to serve on several groups responsible for select program areas.

Island View Beach Regional Park: Planning in Progress

By Bruce Whittington

The Capital Regional District is proceeding with its program to develop master plans for each of the 22 regional parks in the system. The first to be studied is Island View Beach Regional Park in Central Saanich.

The park, comprising 25.4 hectares, is located on Cordova Channel about midway between Cowichan Head and Cordova (or Saanichton) Spit, and looks eastward toward James Island. It includes one of the finest beaches on the Saanich Peninsula, as well as areas of original salt marsh and dunes which are unique in the area. There is also a quite large piece of old farmland which is no longer in its natural state but is still a valuable bit of habitat.

In the master plan for the parks system as a whole, Island View has been placed in the "nature appreciation" category, because of its unique geomorphological makeup and diverse flora and fauna.

Public input has been received at several meetings, and the consultants, Lombard North Group, have now submitted a final draft plan for the park. The primary recommendations are as follows:

1. That private land be acquired to connect the main body of the park with the small boat-launch area at the east end of Island View Road. The present use of this land for recreational vehicles under a temporary nonconforming-use permit from Central Saanich would cease.
2. That the southern portion be developed for parking, group use, beach access, etc., and that the northern portion of the park be left in a natural state, with certain areas marked for special protection.
3. That visitor-use facilities be developed in the area between the two zones, and that trails be developed in the northern portion for nature appreciation, including boardwalks and other controlled access features in the sensitive dune areas.
4. That equestrian use be allowed to continue, but only in the western part of the park.

The V.N.H.S. Parks and Conservation Committee has attended most of these meetings and has made submissions on behalf of the Society. On the whole, we are satisfied with the recommendations contained in the draft master plan. There has been considerable controversy, however, around the issue of equestrian use in the park, and the issue is not settled yet.

Equestrian groups have used the park for about 20 years, with the permission of the CRD, for recreational riding and certain events. One group has put a great deal of its time and money into building and maintaining a series of jumps

required for an annual late-summer cross-country event. The course is one of only two on the Island and is accredited for national competitions.

Part of the course goes through the most sensitive dune area of the park; this could be rerouted, but the riders maintain that this would alter the competitive and aesthetic character of the course. Our position has been that any equestrian use is not compatible with the goal of fostering nature appreciation, but we must recognize the fact of historical use and the difficulty of providing an alternative site for equestrian activities.

On January 20 the CRD parks committee met and received for consideration the consultant's report. It was also moved that chairman Norma Sealey strike an ad hoc committee to examine the question of equestrian use (and other issues such as mosquito abatement). Equestrian groups would be represented, as would the V.N.H.S. On January 25, this committee met at Island View park to walk the equestrian course and discuss present damage and possible future damage to the various areas of the park. It was generally agreed that much of the habitat concerned is covered with introduced species. There is still some concern about the beach/dune area, however, and it is not yet clear how great the threat of damage is. All parties agreed that much of the existing damage was caused by all-terrain vehicles, and that exclusion of these vehicles was a top priority.

The Conservation Committee still feels that equestrian activities should be accommodated elsewhere, but the other members of the ad hoc committee seem to feel that this is so unlikely that it is not an option. If we work toward a compromise, we may succeed in preserving the most delicate areas.

We will report to the members on the final outcome. In the meantime, the next parks to be considered are Elk-Beaver Lakes and the CNR right-of-way. Any members who have an interest in these parks are urged to attend public meetings when they are called; your interests are not well served if you are not present to state them. For more information, contact the Parks and Conservation Committee.

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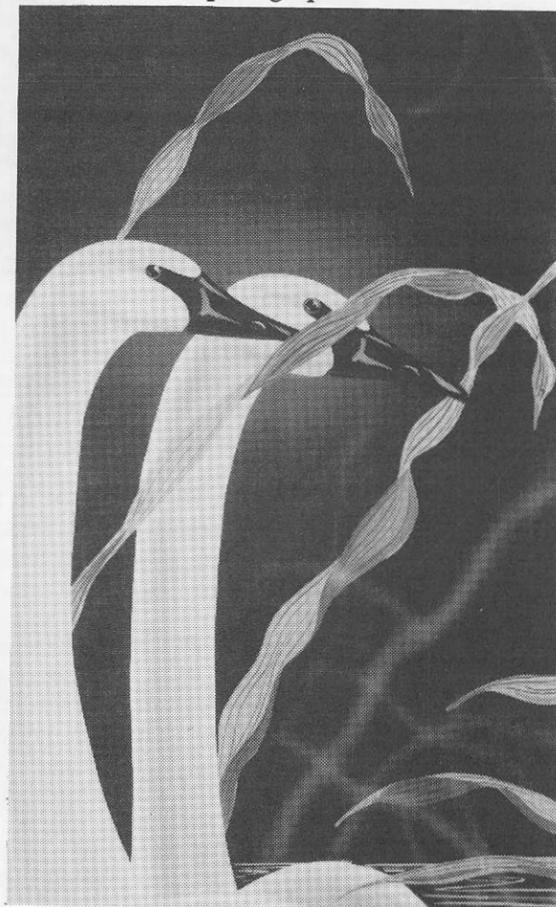
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Welcome to New Members!

- Feb. 3. Karin Franzen, of Pitcombe Place. Interested in birding, nature walks and marine exploration.
- Feb. 9. Deloris Lawrence, of Moss Street. A birdwatcher.
- Feb. 9. Kae Fleming, of Colville Road. A beginner.
- Feb. 11. Maggie and Bob Nixon, of Sparton Road. Bob is the Society's new Secretary.
- Feb. 11. Cliff and Cheryl Matson, of Ardmore Drive, Sidney.
- Feb. 16. Roy Prior, of London, Ontario. Welcome back, to our former editor!
- Feb. 16. Cris Guppy, of Michigan Street. Cris is the Entomology Technician at the Royal B.C. Museum, with a special interest in Butterflies. (He is co-authoring, with Jon Shepard of Nelson, the B.C. Butterfly Handbook.)
- Feb. 20. Dr. André Nyhof, of Kendal Avenue. (Our present editor's father.)
- Feb. 22. Alan Burger, of the Bamfield Marine Station. Interested in all natural history, birding and hiking.
- Feb. 23. Graham Treggett, of Mayfair Drive. Graham's interests are birding and botany.
- Feb. 24. Gary and Jean Freer, of Bremerton Street. Particular interest: birding.
- Feb. 24. Herb and Margo Sprowl, of Bukin Road. Interested in birding.
- Feb. 24. Tim and Carole Leadem, of Wicklow Street. Interested in birding.
- Feb. 26. Margaret Glide, of Simcoe Street.
- Feb. 26. Arthur McPhalen, of Pemberton Road. His particular interest is birding.
- Mar. 1. F.A. Farrow, of Saturna. Favors birding, wildflowers and marine life.
- Mar. 4. Cynthia Zoyetz, of Swiftsure Tours Ltd.
- Mar. 8. Don Arbeau, of Dominion Road. Interested in falconry and birdwatching.
- Mar. 8. Marilyn Lambert, of Penhurst Road. Marilyn leads nature tours, and is interested in birds, marine biology and botany.
- Mar. 8. Lorraine Symmes, of Georgetown, Ontario.
- Mar. 8. Mary Morrison, of Cadboro Bay Road. Her specialties are birds, marine biology, and botany.
- Mar. 15. Robert and Lisa (Binnie) Turner, of McKenzie Avenue. They are introducing their children, Jennifer and Michael, to birding and other natural history areas.
- Mar. 16. Richard and Pauline McDowall, of Yorkshire Place.
- Mar. 16. George Reynolds and Evelyn Hamilton, of Holloway Street.
- Mar. 18. Stephen and Gail Mitchell, of Majestic Drive.
- Mar. 22. Howard Petch, of Bynes Road. Particular interest: bird-watching.
- Mar. 23. Mrs. E. Carr of Saanichton.
- Mar. 29. Michael and Allison Lafortune, of Sidney. Interested in sharing canoeing, hiking, and cross-country outings with other members. Past members of the Manitoba Naturalists Society.
- Mar. 29. Mary E. Henderson, of Gordon Head Road.
- Mar. 31. Margaret A. Salmund, of Faircliff Lane. Interested in botany and nature photography.

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