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The Victoria NATURALIST

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Members are encouraged to submit articles, field trip reports, natural history notes, and book reviews with photographs or illustrations if possible. Photographs of natural history are appreciated along with documentation of location, species names and a date. Please label your submission with your name, address, and phone number and provide a title. We request submission of typed, double-spaced copy in an IBM compatible word processing file on diskette, or by e-mail. Photos and slides, and diskettes submitted will be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included with the material. Digital images are welcome, but they need to be high resolution: a minimum of 1200 x 1550 pixels, or 300 dpi at the size of photos in the magazine.

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COVER PHOTO

A Sanderling at St. George Island, Florida – a location in the direct path of oil from BP's Deep Horizon oil spill. *Photo*: Eric Walters

The BP spill prompted a member to suggest that I make the cover of this issue of the magazine black, to dramatically illustrate the devastation. At first I embraced the idea – it matched my mood and felt justified. But it wasn't long before I started to think about all the impacts our "needs" are having on the earth. The Gulf spill is abrupt and unsanctioned devastation, but every minute of every day is a torture for the other organisms we share the planet with. All because of the demands we place on it.

By the time you read this, the spill may have slipped off the news-cycle, despite the fact that the region will reel from its impacts for decades. I guess I'm grateful it made the news – so much of our day-to-day destruction isn't newsworthy. It is just the "cost of doing business". It takes a sudden and spectacular event to get on everyone's radar. For a while, at least.

Claudia

P.S. To feel cheered, I suggest you check out the video put together by Purnima Govindarajulu showing the Haliburton wetland construction (see article p.12 of the May/June 2010 issue of *The Victoria Naturalist*). It is viewable at <http://vimeo.com/12527834>.

President's Message

By Darren Copley

Although there are no planned board meetings from May through August, we don't want you to think that we aren't busy working for the Society. This May/June has been no exception. BC Nature's Annual General Meeting was held in May in Kamloops, and James Miskelly and I attended as representatives of the Victoria Natural History Society. These AGM's are a great opportunity to see and learn about another area of BC, while sharing ideas with other member clubs. And BC Nature is such an active organization that I always come away inspired.

At the BC Nature AGM I was very proud to receive a **BC Nature Regional Award** on behalf of our Society's own **Ann Nightingale**. Her nomination will appear in the upcoming issue of the BC Nature magazine but it won't surprise any of you to hear that it had to be shortened to fit. The list of reasons Ann deserved the award was extensive and still incomplete. Congratulations Ann!

The first annual International Migratory Bird day was a big success – thanks to all the volunteers who helped out. This partnership with CRD Parks and the Rocky Point Bird Observatory provided us with a great opportunity to showcase the new teaching shelter at Witty's Lagoon, as well as promote our natural history activities. And we are referring to it as the "first annual" for a reason – watch for more information in the spring 2011 issues of this magazine.

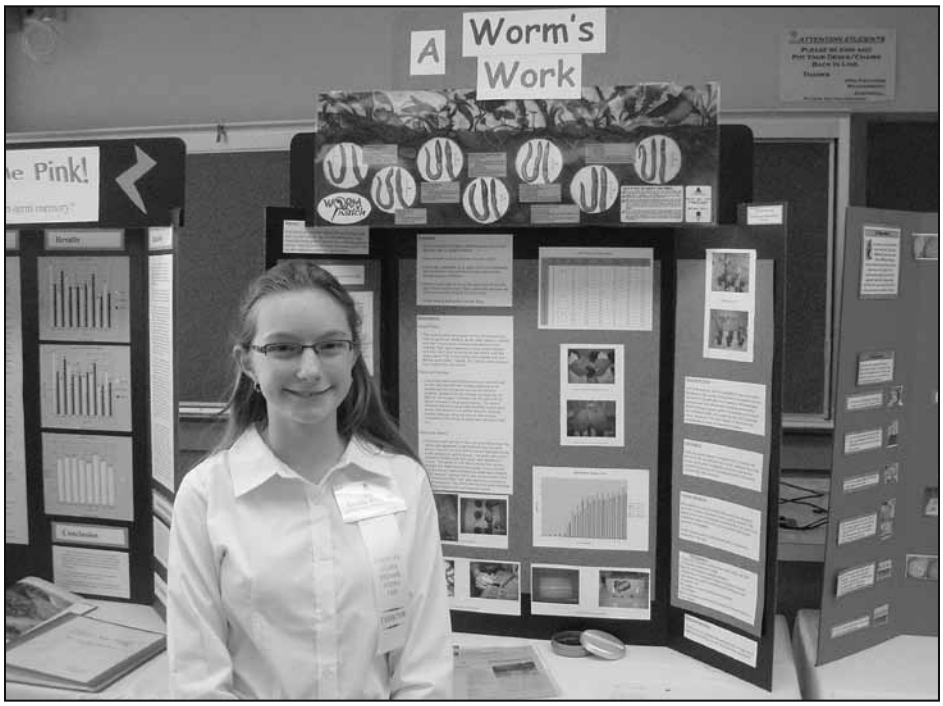
The Society made presentations to Capital Regional District Parks on two occasions in the past couple of months – the first was by James Miskelly to the Regional Parks Committee on April 21 regarding the proposal to allow off-road vehicles into regional parks. Read James's excellent submission on page 6. I also made a presentation to CRD Parks, this time it was to the Citizens' Advisory Panel regarding the Regional Parks Strategic Plan. It was a session dedicated to community groups and we only got the invitation to present second-hand, passed along through BC Nature. If you are interested in seeing this presentation let me know – I will email you a copy. There is still an opportunity for your input. Visit <http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks/planning/strategicplan.htm> for more information.

On a sad note, in this issue we honour the passing of **Connie Hawley**, a long-time member of the Victoria Natural History Society. I will remember Connie fondly as she was so friendly and welcoming when I first joined the Society. Connie very nicely combined attracting wildlife by growing native plants with a productive vegetable garden. Claudia and I occasionally helped her out in her garden, from which we borrowed many ideas. Among the legacies of Connie in our garden are a half dozen pink fawn lilies. She had grown them from seeds from her garden and gave them to us while they were still very young. Since they take up to seven years to flower, we did have to wait, but now they are in fine form. Their bloom is a lovely annual reminder of Connie, and now they are producing seeds for the next generation.

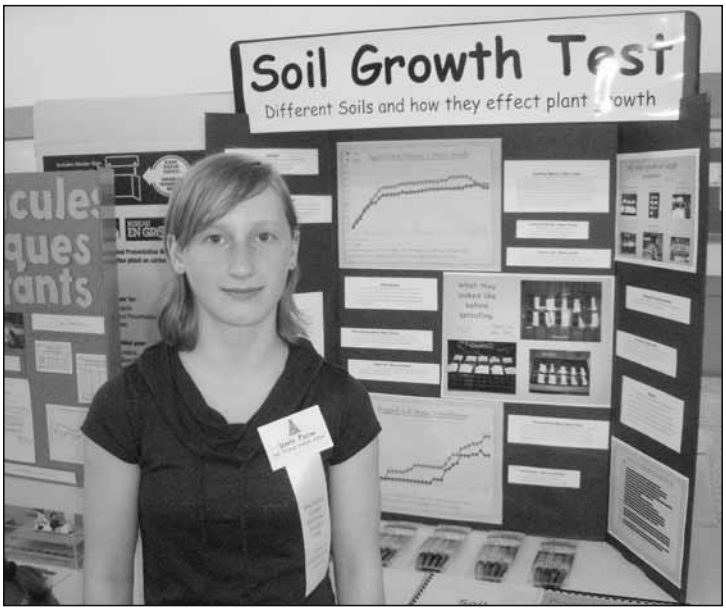
I'll end here with a reminder that if you've never been on one of our summer trips to the Olympic Peninsula, you are definitely missing out on an incredible opportunity. Sign up early as they fill quickly, and enjoy a natural history spectacle that is hard to beat. It's also a great way to get to know other Society members. Have a nice summer!

2010 Science Fair

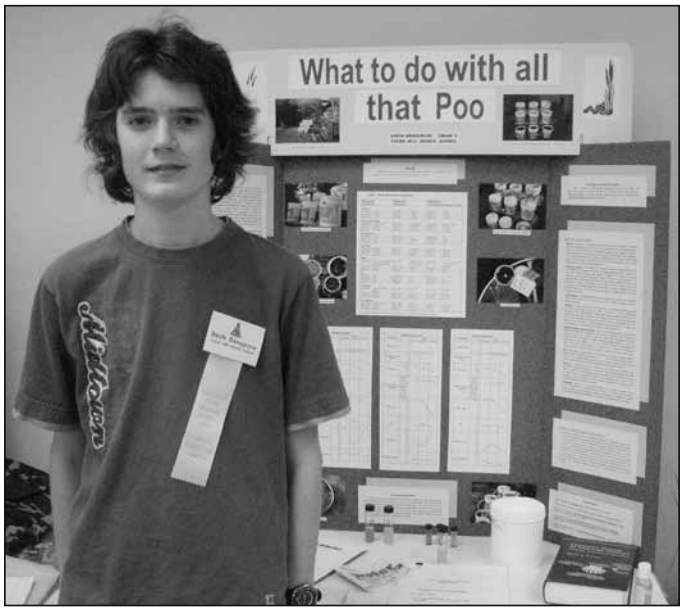
Harvey Williams served as a judge representing the Victoria Natural History Society at the 2010 Science Fair held at the University of Victoria. He selected four projects worthy of an award, and it was left to the committee to rank them. Below are three titles and the available description. All three were given a $250 prize. The fourth, a grade 10 student, received many rewards in other categories and so was not chosen in this case.



A Worm's Work.
Emily Groseth, Grade 7, Gordon Head Middle School
Bush beans were planted in three different conditions: soil only, soil with fertilizer, and soil with earthworms. It was found that beans grown in the soil only containers grew the poorest. Near the end of the project the beans grown in the soil with earthworms grew the best. *Photos provided by Harvey Williams.*



Soil Growth Test.
Jessie Paras, Grade 7, Mt Prevost Middle School.
My experiment was to grow cherry belle radish seeds in different soils, climates, and water amounts to find out which combination grew the highest, fastest, and best radishes.



What to do with all that Poo?
Birch Bansgrove, Grade 8, Cedar Hill Junior Secondary
See "Letters" (page 21) for a thank-you from Birch.

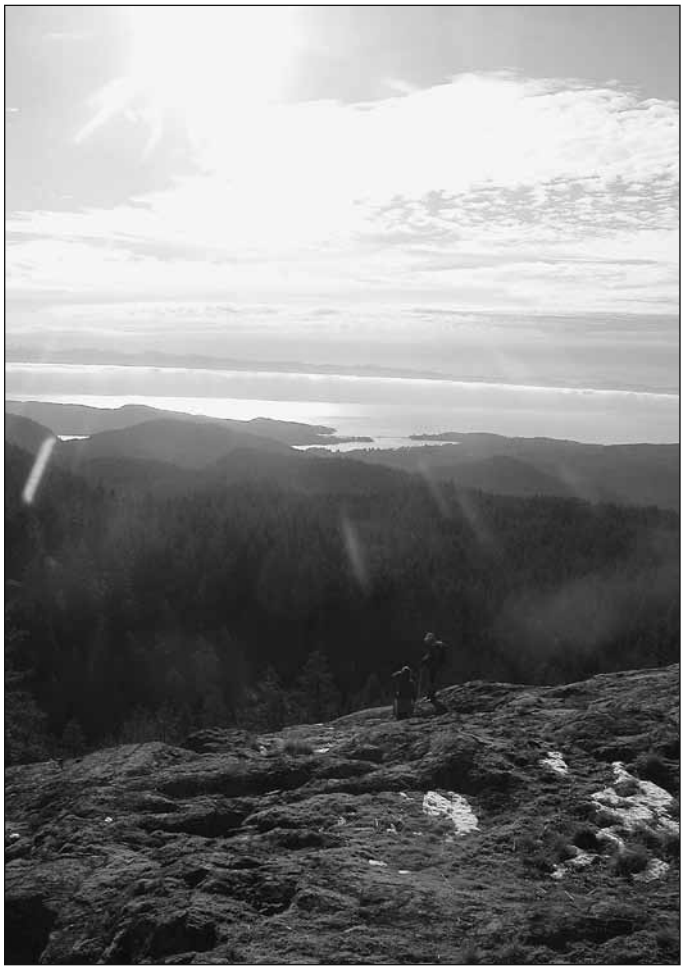
Your Vice President, James Miskelly, presented the following to the CRD Regional Parks Committee on April 21, 2010. With only one exception, the Committee heard from groups opposed to motorized access to the Sea to Sea Green/Blue Belt, and the resulting vote was a resounding "no"– off-highway vehicles will not be permitted in our Capital Regional District Parks.

Off-Highway Vehicles in the Regional Parks System

The Victoria Natural History Society is a charitable organization dedicated to the appreciation of our flora and fauna. We have been active for more than 65 years and presently have approximately 750 members. I am the Vice President of the Society. I am also a biologist with more than a decade of experience with species at risk and the ecology of Garry oak ecosystems. I have also worked for CRD Parks as the Environmental Conservation Specialist. I'm here today to express the concerns of the Victoria Natural History Society over the possibility that the CRD may allow off-highway vehicles access to the Sea to Sea Green/Blue Belt. Our organization feels that allowing off-highway vehicles access to the Sea to Sea lands represents a real threat to CRD Parks. This threat is threefold: A threat to the wilderness character of the Sea to Sea lands, to the social capital that CRD Parks has worked to build, and to the ecological values of the land.

The vision of the Sea to Sea Green/Blue Belt is of a wilderness area. Wilderness by definition requires large areas that are mostly free of people. If the Sea to Sea lands include large areas that are difficult to access and receive little visitor use, this is not a detriment to the quality of the park lands, it's an asset. Opening these lands to off-highway vehicles puts the interior of the park lands into easy reach and degrades the wilderness character. Furthermore, once trails are opened to off-highway vehicles, the trails will become unsafe and unpleasant for other park users. Nobody wants to hike with the danger and noise of off-highway vehicles, so hikers will avoid these areas, and CRD Parks will have effectively created an exclusive area for motorized recreation. This is the beginning of the collapse of the social capital that CRD Parks currently enjoys.

The area in question is very large. CRD Parks will be seen to be giving hundreds of hectares over for the exclusive use of less than one percent of residents. The other 99 percent won't want to pay for that, and will call for an end to the Parks Acquisition Fund. CRD Parks will have already alienated the naturalists, hikers, conservationists, bike riders, and equestrians, so who will come to its defense? As well, CRD Parks will lose its traditional partners in land protection, because organizations like the Land Conservancy of BC won't be able to participate in the acquisition



of land that isn't going to be managed for the conservation of ecological values.

The Sea to Sea lands lie in the driest portion of the coastal western hemlock zone. This is one of the least-protected forest types in the province and it has enormous ecological value. It is a transitional area between the dry forests and Garry oak ecosystems of the Victoria area and the rainforests west of Sooke. Within the Sea to Sea lands, you can find a great diversity of species living close together. The north-facing slopes and water courses support species typical of the western rainforests, while the south-facing slopes and hilltops support dry meadows with species typical of Garry oak ecosystems. Included in these lands are a great number of species at risk, some of which have their entire Canadian populations within the CRD Parks system. Some of these species are protected under the federal Species at Risk Act. The Species at Risk Act is clear that when lower levels of government fail to provide effective protection, the federal

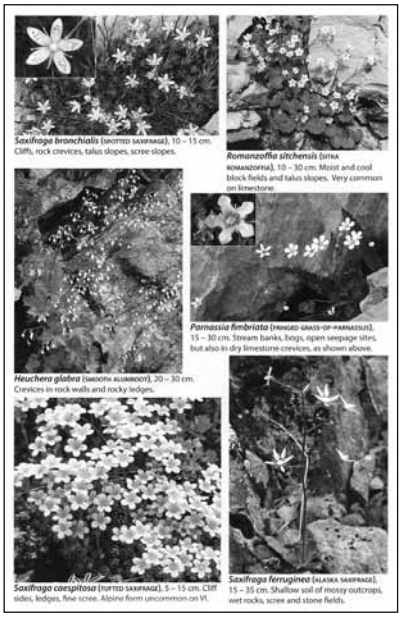
act applies. This means that if the endangered species that live on these lands are harmed, the CRD will face charges.

Anyone who has questions about whether off-highway vehicles are harmful needs only to talk a walk up Harborview and see what kind of legacy remains from the time before CRD Parks acquired the land. You'll see massive trail erosion, particularly in muddy sections or slopes people were spinning their wheels. You'll see damage to streambeds and riparian vegetation, including the upper sections of salmon-bearing streams. You can see former flower meadows that were used for hill climbs and scraped down to bare rock and places were people took shortcuts across corners and stripped the soil and vegetation from dry woodlands. If you go as far as Sheilds Lake, you see more of the same: meadows stripped down to bedrock, damage to soils and under storey vegetation. Also trees that people have chopped halfway through before giving up and broken glass and assorted refuse generally scattered around. The historic use of this area wasn't some idyllic family campground; it was just a party spot.

In summary, we do not believe that off-highway vehicles can coexist with the natural values that the regional parks system is designed to protect. The Victoria Natural History Society urges the Regional Parks Committee to stand by the vision and purpose statements in the existing CRD Parks Master Plan and not allow off highway vehicles into the Sea to Sea lands or any other regional park lands. We believe that to allow them in would have disastrous consequences for the wilderness character of the lands, for their ecological values, and for the social capital that CRD Parks has worked hard to build. We thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Alpine Flowers of Vancouver Island

By Judith Holm



Through a team effort, there is now a good field pamphlet for anyone interested in the alpine flowers of Vancouver Island. Hans Roemer has provided the botanical information and many of the photos. His familiarity with the mountains and his background as an ecologist resulted in the succinct descriptions of the habitats and, where necessary, the distinguishing features of the plants. The alpine habitat descriptions specifically describe Vancouver Island and, when you read the names, these are the species that grow right here.

The associated website <www.islandalpineflowers.ca> provides further details and enables present and future contributions beyond the scope of a pamphlet. Existing plant records for our Island's alpine are quite sparse, especially for areas that are difficult to access. There is still much to be discovered about alpine plants and their distribution on Vancouver Island. To record finds, use your camera and GPS. It is easier to find a flower if you know what you are looking for and where it likes to grow. For more information, please see the "Additional Rare Alpine Flowers" website page, where you will find more photos and habitat descriptions.

If it is raining or windy, it's OK: the pamphlet is of similar material to waterproof maps. If your pack is already too heavy, no worries, this synthetic paper is featherweight. If you're tent-bound, here is interesting reading, with relatively large photos. If you only like views and maybe geology, beware, you may begin to see the flowers!

And, if you already see and know these flowers, here is one more way to share them with your friends.

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Strathcona Park Lodge

Butterfly Names

By Jeremy Tatum

Everyone with an interest in our local butterflies is aware that, among the many books that have been published on North American butterflies, and those of British Columbia in particular, it is quite literally the case that no two books use the same names, English or scientific. From time to time various official committees have arisen which have compiled a set of "official" names, but few people are aware of the work of such committees, and each has, in any event, come up with yet more different sets. And all the while the taxonomists are hard at work with their task of lumping and splitting. To those of us who are not professional taxonomists, but who just enjoy admiring these delicate and beautiful creatures, this is not something of huge importance. However, since the Society started its Invertebrate Alert website, <http://vicnhs.bc.ca/invertalert.html>, which I am at present monitoring, I found myself wondering what names I should use on the site. Sure enough, within days of the site's opening, we received reports from observers using different names for the same butterfly, and I was faced with making decisions.

Some will say: Why not just use the names that are used in Guppy & Shepard's book or Acorn & Sheldon's book? Well, the first question, then, is which book? Or why not Layberry *et. al*.? If we choose Guppy & Shepard, do we really want to use the name "California Ringlet"? And if we choose Acorn & Sheldon, do we really want to talk about the "Red Admirable?".

When settlers from Europe first came to North America, not all of them were knowledgeable naturalists, and they often applied an English name to the first animal or plant they saw which, in their minds, bore some resemblance to one that they remembered from home. Thus they called the first bird they saw with some semblance of a red breast a robin, and the first large ungulate an elk, though neither was

Lorquin's Admiral. *Photo*: Darren Copley

at all closely related to the robin and the elk that they had left behind. The same problem occurs with the names of the butterflies. There are two sorts of problems of that nature. Sometimes the same name is used in Britain and in Canada for two very different species of butterfly. "Silver-spotted Skipper" is an example of that. In other cases, the same species of butterfly has been given different names in Britain and in Canada. An example would be our Mourning Cloak, which is known in Britain as the Camberwell Beauty. Besides these trans-Atlantic problems, name changes are an almost annual result of the frequent taxonomic revisions proposed by lepidopterists.

With respect to the problem of taxonomic splittings, I believe it is an important principle to observe that special English names should not be given to populations of a species that have been designated as subspecies. English names should refer to a full species; if we wish to refer to a particular race or subspecies, the scientific name of the subspecies can be cited, or at most an English name can be used in quotes, as the birdwatchers do. A further general principal, I think, is that English names in general should not be given to the caterpillar stage only, but should refer to the species in all of its stages.

What shall we call our Skippers?

Now from the general to the particular, I'll go through our local skippers one by one.

The only problem with the **Propertius Duskywing** is having to think about whether "duskywing" is a single unhyphenated word, or whether it has a hyphen, or whether it is two separate words. I propose to write it on the website as a single unhyphenated word. The same will apply to the **Northern Cloudywing**, if indeed anyone finds that species here.

The Two-banded Checkered Skipper, however, raises several problems. A minor one is whether to use the spelling "checkered" or "chequered" – but that's not the only problem. In Britain there is the "Chequered Skipper" (*Carterocephalus*) and the "Grizzled Skipper" (*Pyrgus*). Both are well named, for the first has a chequered pattern, while the second is clearly grizzled. Unfortunately, some of the North American *Pyrgus* species, all of which closely resemble the grizzled pattern of the European Grizzled Skipper (one of them in fact being the same species), are commonly here called "checkered" skippers. To complicate matters further, the species known as the Chequered Skipper in Britain also occurs here in Victoria (though it is rare to find it) so what should we call it, given that we have misappropriated the name "checkered" for the grizzled species? I find it difficult to call a *Pyrgus* skipper with an obviously grizzled pattern a "checkered" skipper. At some risk to life and limb I propose to use the name **Two-banded Grizzled Skipper** for *Pyrgus ruralis.* (It takes a bit of imagination to believe that the white spots are arranged in two bands, but that's another matter!). I suppose it would cause too much confusion to call *Carterocephalus palaemon* by its British name the "Chequered Skipper", so I'll settle for **Arctic Skipper**, though the adjective "Arctic" is not particularly appropriate.

Woodland Skipper. *Photo*: Jeremy Tatum

Jeremy Gatten made the exciting discovery of a colony of *Hesperia comma* here a few years ago. This is another butterfly with a transatlantic name problem. The butterfly *Hesperia comma* has been known in Britain for centuries (literally) as the Silver-spotted Skipper, but that name has been applied to a very different skipper in North America, just as the name robin was given to a very different bird from the Old World robin. In North America the skipper *H. comma* has generally been called the Branded Skipper. However, within a year of Jeremy's find, the taxonomists declared that the West Coast populations should be treated as a distinct species, namely *Hesperia colorado*, and the suggested English name is Western Branded Skipper. I am not sure that all taxonomists have accepted this, and I think I'll wait until I have found and reared the caterpillars before I am convinced. In the meantime, I think I'll stick to the name **Branded Skipper**, even for our local populations.

Thymelicus lineola has long been established in eastern Canada, but it was in 1993 that Gordon Hart and others found it here, and since then it has become abundant locally. It is known here variously as the European Skipper or the Essex Skipper. A strike against the former name is that it is not the only skipper occurring in Europe; a strike against the second name is that the name of a small county in England is not very meaningful here. A decision is needed, so, by personal preference, I opt for **Essex Skipper.**

I see two problems with the name Woodland Skipper**.** One is that woodland is about the only habitat where you would not expect to find this butterfly, the name "Woodland" merely being a direct translation of its (inappropriate?) scientific name *sylvanoides*. The other is that one day the taxonomists may reluctantly admit that there really is no difference at the species level between our butterfly and the Large Skipper of Europe. However, we always call our butterfly the **Woodland Skipper**, so let's continue to do so.

I know of no naming problems with **Dun Skipper** and **Roadside Skipper.**

What shall we call our Swallowtails and Whites?

One would think that a spectacular butterfly such as *Parnassius* would bear an unambiguous name, but unfortunately this is not quite the case. The genus *Parnassius* has several species in both Europe and North America. One of the best known European species is *P. apollo*, known as the Apollo butterfly. Surely other species in the genus should be known as "Parnassian" butterflies, and the name "Apollo" should be restricted to the species *P. apollo.* Yet I hear our local species, *P. clodius*, called the "Clodius Apollo", when surely its name should be **Clodius Parnassian**. I have also heard it called the "Clouded Parnassian", which is quite wrong. There is already a European "Clouded Parnassian" of a quite different species. "Clodius" is not Latin for "clouded" – it refers to the Roman emperor Claudius.

The current taxonomy of the swallowtails is a mess, with full species status being given to the most minor perceived variations in both the *machaon* group and in the Tiger swallowtails, yet both very distinct groups are grouped in a single genus. Until this is sorted out, we might as well use the names **Anise Swallowtail**, **Western Tiger Swallowtail** and **Pale Tiger Swallowtail**. Some people call the latter just the "Pale Swallowtail", though it is clearly one of the Tiger group and perhaps scarcely more than a minor colour variation.

There is no naming difficulty with the **Pine White**, but the *napi* group of whites gives seemingly endless trouble. At one time just a single species was recognized, namely *Pieris napi*, a highly variable species with a Holarctic distribution. While it is true that the adult insects show great variation throughout the full range of the species, the immature stages of our butterfly and its European counterpart are essentially identical and indistinguishable. Yet the recent tendency has been to give full species status to butterflies showing the most minor difference in degree of maculation or in enzyme composition, and the number of distinct species depends on who is writing about them. For the time being the name I shall use on the website for our Vancouver Island population will be **Margined White.**

Pale Tiger Swallowtail. *Photo*: Darren Copley

The name of the European invader that we know as the Cabbage White has had an interesting history. At one time in Britain it was known as the Common White, or the Garden White, and so the expression "common or garden" has entered our language to mean anything ordinary or commonplace. In fact neither of these names has been used in Britain for a long time, and it is known there now as the Small White, to distinguish it from another cabbage-feeding butterfly called the Large White, which so far has not made it across the Atlantic. Here we always call *Pieris rapae* the **Cabbage White**, and I don't think this is likely to cause the slightest confusion to anybody, so that's what I'll call it. We'll treat the dreadful name "Imported Cabbageworm" with the contempt that it deserves.

Sara's Orange Tip has two questions to think about. Orange Tip, Orange-tip or Orangetip? I have usually written it as two unhyphenated words, but, to be consistent with Duskywing and Cloudywing, I suppose Orangetip should be our choice. Now if the butterfly was discovered by, or first described by, or named after, Sara, then we should call it Sara's Orangetip. But nobody seems to know who Sara was, or indeed if there ever was somebody called Sara, or whether the name was just borrowed from its (meaningless) scientific name *sara*. I think, until somebody discovers who, if anyone, Sara was, we should call it the **Sara Orangetip**, just as we do for the Propertius Duskywing.

The sulphurs are rare here, and hard to identify in the field. Taxonomists don't all agree on how many species there are and to what extent they hybridize. I think our species (both rare) are **Orange Sulphur** and **Western Sulphur**, and that we should prefer the –ph- spelling to the –f- spelling.

What shall we call the rest of our butterflies?

Purplish Copper is, mercifully, one of the few lycaenids whose English name is readily understood by all. The blues, hairstreaks and elfins are quite another matter and seem to have a change in name or of taxonomic status almost every year. The name **Sylvan Hairstreak** has been pretty stable, though it is some years since I have seen the butterfly here, and people did not agree as to which species it was. I cannot remember how many changes in name, and lumpings and splittings, our *Mitoura* has endured over the years. It has been called Nelson's Hairstreak, Rosner's Hairstreak, Barry's Hairstreak at various times, and many variations in its scientific name. For the website I'll call it **Cedar Hairstreak**. Guppy & Shepard split the Brown Elfin into two species, called Brown Elfin and Western Elfin. I'm not sure how many agree, but for the website I'll call our local butterfly the **Western Brown Elfin**, a name that neither agrees with nor denies the proposed split.

Moss's Elfin has been split from or lumped with the Early Elfin several times over the years. I suspect it will remain split for a while, so **Moss's Elfin** it is. **Western Pine Elfin** has no problems unless it ever gets lumped with the Eastern Pine Elfin, from which it is said to differ in only a very minor way. **Grey Hairstreak** has no problem other than how to spell "grey". I opt for the e.

Western Brown Elfin. *Photo*: Darren Copley

As long as the **Western Tailed Blue** remains a separate species from the Eastern Tailed Blue, we need have no problem with the name.

The Spring Azure has been subject to almost continuous changes in taxonomic status ever since I remember. At one extreme it has been just one species with a wide Holarctic distribution, being conspecific with the European Holly Blue. The extreme splitters would divide the North American forms into many species, and have named the populations on Vancouver Island either the Echo Blue or the Western Spring Azure. I'll stick with the name **Spring Azure.** We used to have a rare blue here in the genus *Lycaeides*, and no two books would agree as to what it was. Until someone finds it again, I'll defer deciding what to call it. There are no problems, however, with the **Silvery Blue.**

While the tendency in recent years has been to split the species of many butterflies, there has been a tendency to lump the families. Thus what were formerly the very distinct families Nymphalidae, Satyridae and Danaidae are now lumped into one great overweight Nymphalidae. As we enter the Nymphalidae we immediately encounter a naming problem with the commas and the anglewings. The most common names for our two most familiar species are Satyr Anglewing and Green Comma, though I have also seen Satyr Comma and Faun Anglewing. It seems illogical to call one of these two very similar species an Anglewing and the other a Comma. I shall continue to be illogical, and use the names **Satyr Anglewing** and

Green Comma, though I have to use a lot of imagination to see any convincing green anywhere on the latter species. It is possible that there are some other species in the genus here. I don't think we get the Compton Tortoiseshell here, but, if anyone should find one, let's not fall into the trap of calling it Compton's Tortoiseshell. In my youth there was a famous cricket player called Denis Compton, but neither he nor any of his relatives discovered the Compton Tortoiseshell, which is named after a village in Quebec. **California Tortoiseshell** and **Milbert's Tortoiseshell** have no problems as long as no one thinks (as I do!) that they may be conspecific with the European Large and Small Tortoiseshells.

Nymphalis antiopa has had two absolutely splendid names in England. To Moses Harris it was the Grand Surprize, but now it is the Camberwell Beauty. Our name for the species is equally splendid, so **Mourning Cloak** it shall be.

We have three ladies, and I propose to use the names **American Painted Lady, Painted Lady** and **West Coast Lady**.

There is a potential problem with the well-known Red Admiral. It is often said that the original name was Red Admirable, and that Red Admiral is a corruption of that. To Moses Harris, it was simply the Admirable. Acorn & Sheldon propose (not unreasonably) to restrict the name "admiral" to Lorquin's Admiral and its close relatives, and to "restore" the name "Red Admirable".

In fact, the Red Admiral was called an "admiral" before it was called an "admirable", so that we could justifiably claim that "admirable" was a corruption of "admiral" rather than the other way round. "Admirable" is a rather difficult word to pronounce, and **Red Admiral** is such a familiar name that I'm not going to tamper with it.

I have great difficulty identifying the fritillaries, but I'll use the names **Hydaspe Fritillary** and **Zerene Fritillary.** The name "Bremner's Silverspot" has been used in the past for the latter species. I have never seen any of the smaller fritillaries here.

Do we call *Phyciodes* "crescentspots" or just "crescents"? Recent practice seems to be the latter, so we have **Mylitta Crescent** and **Field Crescent**. I cannot guarantee that the taxonomists are going to leave the latter alone – there are at least three versions of its scientific name going the rounds.

Edith's Checkerspot seems to be long lost from our area, though it survives on Hornby Island. I'll refrain from using the name "Taylor's Checkerspot" until it is proved decisively that that is a distinct species. I'll assume that there was at some time someone called Edith after whom the species was named – otherwise it would have to be the Edith Checkerspot, like the Sara Orangetip. As yet, no one seems to know who Edith was.

There really was a Pierre Lorquin, so we have no problem with **Lorquin's Admiral**.

The name of the Ringlet is a real problem, and I have no entirely satisfactory solution. It has usually been called some

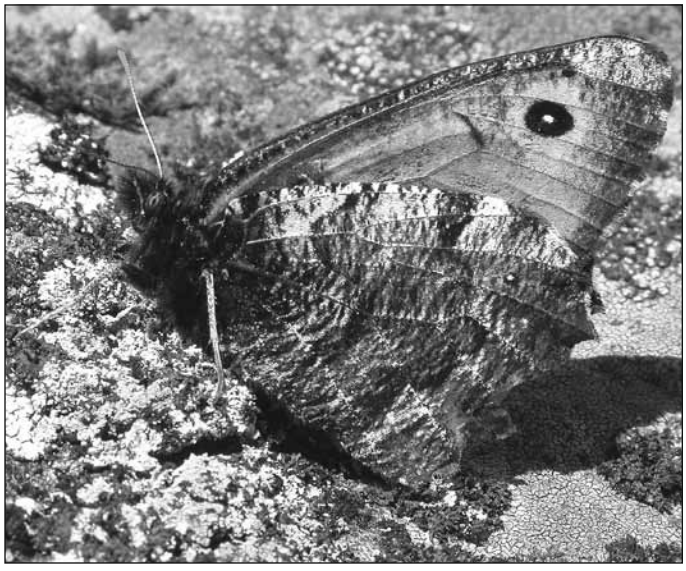
West Coast Lady. *Photo*: Darren Copley

sort of Ringlet, though since the 1960s, I have seen six or more adjectives placed in front of our Vancouver Island population. The lumpers recognize one single species (admittedly a variable one) with a Holarctic distribution. Others have given full species status to every minor variation in pattern or colour. I recently raised one from egg, and as far as I can see the immature stages are identical in all respects to the European butterfly, so I tend to be a lumper. But what, then, to call it? It is an entirely different species from the butterfly known in Britain as the Ringlet. This is a case of early settlers giving the wrong name to a butterfly that they wrongly remembered from their homeland. A further point is that our population of this variable species generally shows no trace of any "ringlet" mark on its wings. For these two reasons, the name "ringlet" seems to me to be about as inappropriate as could be. The butterfly is known in Britain as the Large Heath, and I doubt if our version is really a distinct species. I am therefore tempted to call it the "Large Heath", but I suspect that this would not be at all a popular move. I think I'll assume that it is the same species as the European one, and I'll call it just ***Coenonympha tullia***.

I'll call our other satyrids (or satyrines to follow the modern trend) the **Common Woodnymph** (to be consistent with Orangetip and Duskywing – one unhyphenated word) and the **Great Arctic**. The latter has also been called the Nevada Arctic, though I don't believe it occurs either in Nevada or in the Arctic. (Apparently the "Nevada" is a place name in California.)

The last species to mention is the **Monarch**. It has borne or still bears some other names in different parts of the world, but none that need worry us.

Here, then, is a summary of the names and spellings that I am using on the website http://vicnhs.bc.ca/invertalert.html. I am sure that not everyone will be happy with these names, so by all means let us hear your views. Just bear in mind though, that it is going to be very hard for anyone to come up with a list of names that will please everyone!



Great Arctic. *Photo*: Darren Copley

Propertius Duskywing
Northern Cloudywing
Two-banded Grizzled Skipper
Arctic Skipper
Essex Skipper
Branded Skipper
Woodland Skipper
Dun Skipper
Roadside Skipper
Clodius Parnassian
Anise Swallowtail
Western Tiger Swallowtail
Pale Tiger Swallowtail
Pine White
Cabbage White
Sara Orangetip
Orange Sulphur
Western Sulphur
Purplish Copper
Sylvan Hairstreak
Cedar Hairstreak
Western Brown Elfin
Moss's Hairstreak
Western Pine Elfin
Grey Hairstreak
Western Tailed Blue
Spring Azure
Silvery Blue
Satyr Anglewing
Green Comma
California Tortoiseshell
Milbert's Tortoiseshell
Mourning Cloak
American Painted Lady
Painted Lady
West Coast Lady
Red Admiral
Hydaspe Fritillary
Zerene Fritillary
Mylitta Crescent
Field Crescent
Edith's Checkerspot
Lorquin's Admiral
Coenonympha tullia
Common Woodnymph
Great Arctic
Monarch

References

The three books referred to in the text, all of which use a different set of English and scientific names, are

Acorn, J. and Sheldon, I. 2006. *Butterflies of British Columbia*. Lone Pine Press, Edmonton.

Guppy, C.S. and Shepard, J.H. 2001. *Butterflies of British Columbia*. UBC Press, Vancouver.

Layberry, R.A., Hall, P.W., and Lafontaine, J.D. 1998. *The Butterflies of Canada*. University of Toronto Press, Toronto.

Birding Chile

By Philip Critchlow

Chile is a long (4000 km) and narrow (maximum width 200 km) country running along the western coast of southern South America. If in the northern hemisphere, it would stretch from Acapulco to central British Columbia in the north. It is bounded on the east by snow-capped mountains and volcanoes and to the west the cold Humboldt Current produces rich fishing in the Pacific Ocean. The famous Atacama Desert occupies the coastal region of the northern third of the country, with high plateau and mountains inland. Fertile agriculture land and wineries constitute the middle section. The south is very similar to coastal British Columbia, mountainous with numerous inlets and fjords. There is no jungle, unlike most South American countries.

We began our birding trip in Santiago, the capital, with Fabrice, a Chilean, bird expert as our guide. It was election-day. After navigating the numerous blockaded streets, we birded a local park, quickly finding new birds including Striped Woodpecker, Andean Flicker, plus some Chilean endemics – Chilean Mockingbird, Dusky-tailed Canastero, and White-throated Tapaculo. We next went to the local ski resort – no snow in December – finding still more new birds: Moustached Turca, Cordilleran Canastero, two species of hummingbird (Green-backed Firecrown and White-sided

Puna Ibis. *Photos*: Philip Critchlow

Hillstar), Greater Yellow-finch and a Magellanic Tapaculo feeding young under a stone bridge. While having a picnic lunch, we watched a Rufous-winged Miner carrying food to a nest under a rock. Meanwhile Andean Condors circled overhead.

In the afternoon, at sewage ponds, we were joined by another birder, Fernando. Almost immediately Fabrice and Fernando exclaimed "White-faced Whistling Duck". This was only the third or fourth sighting in Chile for this species and a new bird for Fernando. Out came the cell phones and calls to friends. Other birds seen included three coot species (Red-gartered, Red-fronted, and White-winged), and several species of duck, some of which might have been winter visitors from North America.

The next day we drove to the estuary of the Maipo River to witness thousands of gulls (mainly Franklin's), and South American Tern migrating to their final destination a little further south. Other birds here included Dusky Tapaculo, American Oystercatcher, Spectacled Tyrant, and Warbling Doradito. Black-necked Swans sailed gracefully in the sheltered bays. Later we saw the endemic Seaside Cinclodes – a species that never ventures far from seaweed covered rooks – and, at a Peruvian Pelican colony, Humboldt Penguins and Blue-footed Boobies. Surprisingly, three Wilson's Storm-petrel were also present – usually they are far from shore.

The following day we did a pelagic trip from Valparaiso with our guide and eight of the keenest birders in Chile. Unfortunately, because of dense mist we could not venture out as far as we would have liked. In addition, the boat engine stopped periodically because of a faulty fuel pump. As the seas were fairly rough, a back-up vessel was called, but we made it back to port unaided but with an escort. Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters and Cape Petrel were abundant. White-chinned and Westland Petrel, Southern Fulmar, and Chilean Skuas were present in smaller numbers. When we threw fish pieces into the sea, Black-browed and Salvin's Albatross flew in for an easy meal. Both Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaeger were seen. A lone Manx Shearwater, a vagrant in the Pacific Ocean, was spotted by some.

Back to Santiago for the night and a 4 a.m. flight to Arica in the north, almost at the Peruvian border. It is a coastal city just north of the Atacama Desert, situated between the Lluta and Azapa River valleys. These valleys comprise the only natural greenness around Arica. Otherwise the landscape is devoid of vegetation. In South America the moisture bearing winds are from the East – Amazonia. Precipitation thus falls mainly over the Andes and to a lesser extent the foothills. Little or no rain falls in Arica – one of the driest cities in the world. On arrival, we visited the Lluta Estuary, common birds being gulls (Franklin's, Grey, Belcher's, and Kelp), egrets (Snowy and Great), Turkey Vultures, and American Oystercatchers.

Our next destination was Putre in the foothills of the Andes. Soon after leaving Arica we disturbed some Peruvian Thick-knees, resting among roadside boulders. The road skirts the green fields of the Lluta Valley for a short

Rufous-winged Miner

distance, then winds through the barren hills. It is frequented by many slow-moving Bolivian trucks transporting goods. Just before reaching Putre, elevation about 3500m, grasses, shrubs and cacti make an appearance. Birding around Putre produced Bare-faced Ground-doves, Canyon Canastero, White-throated Earthcreeper, Streaked Tit-spinetail, and Andean Hillstar among others.

The following day we drove up to 4500m in Lauca National Park. Gradually the landscape changes, much more water appearing in bogs, pools and even small streams. The hillsides, though still rocky, have more vegetation – patches of bunchgrass, moss, and shrubs, but no trees. Many mammals (guanaco, vicuna, viscacha) inhabit the area. Andean Geese are everywhere. Fabrice knew a spot where the gorgeously plumed Diademed Sandpiper-plover had been seen previously. After a kilometer walk over spongy terrain we spotted one, posing in a bog. This species is more regularly seen at El Yeso, close to Santiago. When we later tried to visit the favoured locality, we were thwarted by a flooded road. Lauca National Park contains several lakes, providing food for many birds: three species of flamingo (Chilean, James's, and Andean), Silvery Grebe, Black-necked Stilt, and Andean Avocet. Puna Ibis and Crested Duck searched the surrounding bogs and grasslands. Two volcanoes, each more than 6000 metres, dominate the Park, but we had only fleeting glimpses because of mist and cloud – it even sleeted briefly. In spite of frequent scanning of the grasslands and hillsides, we failed to find an Ornate Tinamou.

We made a second pelagic trip, this time from Arica, adding Buller's Albatross, Swallow-tailed Gull, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, Elliott's and Markham's Storm-Petrels

to the birds identified off Valparaiso. In Arica, Surfbird and Ruddy Turnstones shared the coastal rocks. A resident of the Azapa Valley has set up a garden with abundant plants suitable for hummingbirds. Here Oasis Hummingbirds were common and also a few Peruvian Sheartails.

A third hummingbird, the endemic Chilean Woodstar, is restricted to a few isolated stretches of green valleys in the dry mountains. A four-hour drive took us to Codpa, one of the few places where this endangered species still survives. Playing the call of the Peruvian Pygmy-Owl triggers many bird species to appear – bothered by the "presence" of a predator. We managed to entice a few female Woodstars in to view. While searching for the Woodstar, another bird made a surprise appearance. Fabrice glimpsed a thrush flying by and was instantly aware that it differed from the common Chiguanco Thrush. Locating it again, he identified it as a Creamy-bellied Thrush – second or third sighting for Chile although a common bird in Argentina. Later, we flew back to Santiago and the aborted drive to El Yeso, but we did see a pair of endemic Crag Chilia feeding young in a nest in an overhanging cliff.

The next day we visited the Batuco Wetlands close to Santiago. While Fabrice and Fernando were organizing a sandwich lunch, I watched a far distant heron, hopping around the dried mud beach catching insects. I could only make out a yellowish bird with reddish brown back. Giving these details, it was suggested that it might be a Cattle Egret. What a surprise was in store! After lunch, we approached the bird more closely. Suddenly cries of amazement from Fabrice. The bird turned out to be a Whistling Heron, a bird never identified before in Chile. After continued excitement, photos and congratulations, back-slapping and high-fives, the cell phones were brought in to use. Later, e-mails were sent to several hundred potentially interested individuals.

Altos de Lircay National Park is a forested area south of Santiago, mainly evergreen beech and oak with dense undergrowth. It is home to two specialties – Chestnut-throated Huet-huet (a large tapaculo and a near-endemic) and the Magellanic Woodpecker (a woodpecker resembling our Pileated), large and black with a red head (male) and white wing patches, while the female sports a plumed black head. We easily found the first as it readily responded to playback. After some searching, we finally heard the drumming of a pair of woodpeckers. Again playback proved successful, prompting both male and female to fly towards us and they both sat so we had excellent views. Late morning found us at Colbún Lake, where we quickly discovered several flocks of Burrowing Parakeets, a lone Spectacled Duck, and an Austral Pygmy-owl.

Magellanic Penguin.

While in Lircay, Fabrice learned that others who had searched for the Whistling Heron had been unsuccessful. We thus returned to the Batuco Wetlands on the way back to Santiago. The first bird that we saw was the heron! Even as we saw it the second time, two groups were searching on another lagoon, having failed to see it that morning. They rushed to the spot after receiving phone calls. Again there was much excitement, with rapid conversing in Spanish, as they arrived to see the bird. A drought in Argentina had possibly prompted the bird to look for better feeding grounds. It didn't stay long, however, and was gone soon afterwards.

On Christmas Day we flew to Puerto Montt (1000 km south of Santiago), rented a car and drove to Puyehue National Park to search for the Black-throated Huet-huet (another large tapaculo), the Chucao and Ochre-flanked Tapaculos. These were fairly easy to find. We had now seen all the tapaculos of Chile. Endemic Austral Parakeets flew by but not in large numbers. Our attempts to locate a Rufous-legged Owl ended in frustration as heavy rain set in.

There is a group of dedicated birders in Santiago who meet regularly and organize outings. They are also active in banding Hudsonian Godwits, Black-necked Stilts, and others in an attempt to understand their little known migration patterns. They are constantly in contact (cell phone or e-mail). Few other people in Chile seem to be really interested in birds or birdwatching – the exception being an interest in the two common penguin species – Humboldt and Magellanic. On Chiloe Island, close to Puerto Montt, there is a colony containing both penguin species. Although it was a rainy, blustering day, at least 100 Chileans braved the short boat trips to view the colony. Later in Patagonia, several hundred visited a land colony of Magellanic Penguins at Otway. One must pay to visit both colonies, so local residents are keen to protect the resource. Other areas such as river estuaries and wetlands might have legal protection but the rules and regulations are largely ignored. For example, dumping is widespread on wetlands, cars drive along beaches, and four-wheel vehicles roam on delicate grasslands.

From Puerto Montt we flew south to Punta Arenas – almost the southern tip of mainland Chile. A ferry ride brought us to Porvenir on Tierra del Fuego. The grasslands of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego contain thousands of sheep, hundreds of guanacho and some interesting birds, including two species of dotterel, (Tawny-throated and Rufous-breasted), Double-banded Plovers, Darwin's Rhea, wintering Baird's and White-rumped Sand-pipers, Chocolate-vented Tyrant (a ground-loving flycatcher), and Least Seedsnipe. The many shallow ponds along the road attract geese (Kelp, Upland, Ruddy-headed, and Ashy-headed), Chilean Flamingo, Magellanic Oystercatcher, plus various ducks and sandpipers. One day we saw 20 Culpeo foxes!

One of the highlights of the trip was a drive along a gravel road on the outskirts of Torres del Paine National Park. Patagonian steppe, snow-capped mountains in the distance, a sparkling, fast-flowing river (surprisingly no Torrent Ducks) and numerous Andean Condors – a few

flying, some sitting on cliff nests, while most waited for the sun to produce upward thermals. A Yellow-bridled Finch provided great pictures.

On our final day, we set out to see the Austral Rail. Fabrice was not optimistic. Nevertheless, we went into Torres del Paine National Park to find a suitable lake with dense reeds. Playback of its call soon resulted in a single response. Waiting patiently, I could not detect any sign the bird was further interested. After a few minutes, Fabrice whispered that the rail was close and pointed to a certain spot. For a fraction of a second I saw the bird dash across a narrow opening in the reeds, then it was gone. Asked how he knew it was close, Fabrice said he could hear its feet on the matted reeds! On the way back to Punta Arenas, we stopped at the Milodon Cave, where bones of a prehistoric bear-like dinosaur were found, to see a Magellanic Horned Owl with an owlet dozing on a rock outside. Nearby, a second owlet appeared to be dead.

In all, we had a very successful trip with more than 300 of Chile's 476 species recognized, some of which have only been seen on Easter Island, Juan Fernandez Islands (of Robinson Crusoe fame), far out at sea or in the Chilean Antarctica. With snow-capped mountains and volcanoes never far from sight, Chile is a great birding destination.

Yellow-bridled Finch.

Welcome to New VNHS Members

Our Society grew by eight new members since the last issue. The following agreed to have their names published in our "welcome" column:

Dr. John and Barbara Crawford
McAnally Road
Birds, botany, ecology

Nancy Dohan
Rockland Avenue

Caroline Stengl
Selwyn Road
Art, illustration, wildlife ID, diving, gardening with native plants

George Boettner
Shelburne Falls. MA USA
Birding, insects, general natural history

Groups Applaud Introduction of Strong Law to Protect Wildlife

May 31, 2010 press release from the Sierra Club of BC

Environmentalists welcome a new private Member's bill (Bill M2: Species Protection Act) that will be introduced into the BC Legislature today by New Democrat MLA Rob Fleming. If passed, the bill would provide much-needed legal tools to ensure that BC's threatened wildlife, like grizzly bears and burrowing owls, are finally protected.

The proposed endangered species law comes at a crucial moment for BC's globally renowned but increasingly embattled wildlife. The province is home to 76% of Canada's bird species, 70% of its freshwater fish species, and thousands of other animals and plants. However, scientists believe that much of the province's wildlife and ecosystems are in dire straits. According to the government's Conservation Data Center, more than 1,600 plants and animals are now declining or at risk of disappearing from the province. Yet BC, along with Alberta, is the only province in Canada that currently lacks a law to protect them or their habitat.

"British Columbia is blessed with a richness of plants and animals that is on par with the Galapagos, the Serengeti, and other extraordinary places on our planet. But with this richness comes responsibility and a strong endangered species law to protect wildlife and their habitat is urgently needed," said the David Suzuki Foundation's Science Director, Dr. Faisal Moola.

The proposed Species at Risk Protection Act includes the basic components of such a law, such as scientific assessment of which species are at risk, legal listing, protections against killing individuals of the species and protection of their habitat, and the development of recovery strategies to determine what actions are needed for a species' survival and recovery. It also offers a balanced approach to protecting endangered wildlife by encouraging voluntary stewardship activities and by allowing for socioeconomic considerations to be taken into account when government decides what elements of a recovery strategy to implement.

"The proposed Species at Risk Protection Act includes the best practices from decades of experience with endangered species laws in other jurisdictions. Species protection must be a non-partisan issue and we hope that all members of the legislature will take a serious look at this private Member's bill," said Keith Ferguson, staff lawyer for Ecojustice (formerly Sierra Legal Defence Fund).

Public polling has shown that almost 90% of British Columbians care deeply about endangered wildlife and believe that the province needs to enact a strong law to recover species at risk, and to prevent species from becoming at risk in the first place. While the private Member's bill works its way through the legislative process, the current Liberal government is expected to announce the creation of a long-awaited special task force to advise it on how to protect the province's endangered species, as promised in the government's August 2009 Speech from the Throne.

According to the government's Conservation Data Center, more than 1,600 plants and animals are now declining or at risk of disappearing from the province…

Remembering Connie

By Jina Mousseau, Habitat Acquisition Trust

HAT
Creating Conservation Legacies

A member of the Victoria Natural History Society for many years, Constance (Connie) Hawley was a true lover of nature. If she wasn't knee deep in her garden, she could be found on birding trips, studying botany, or walking through Beacon Hill Park.

Connie was born and raised in Winnipeg, and spent her summers at her family's cottage in Victoria Beach, Manitoba. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts from Winnipeg's St. John's College in 1941, and worked at Great West Life Insurance during the war years in both Winnipeg and Chicago. Connie completed her Bachelor of Social Work at the University of British Colombia after moving to British Colombia in the early sixties. Her career in social work took her from New Westminster to Toronto, and she spent ample time on the west coast, coordinating community health clinics. Connie was the founding executive director with the BC Council of the Family in her last eight years of civil service.

In her retirement, Connie took biology classes at the University of Victoria, travelled, and took up water colour painting. Connie was an avid gardener, and especially loved her veggie garden. She was an active VNHS member, organizing the annual Christmas Bird Count and the Beacon Hill Camas Day walks for a number of years. She also volunteered for the Fairfield Community Association.

VNHS member Claudia Copley recalls spending time with Connie in her garden, commiserating about house sparrows, "a constant plague," and discussing plants and veggies. Connie influenced the Copley's veggie garden, "It was her raised vegetable beds that inspired us to build something similar – wide and high enough so you can comfortably sit down on them while you worked."

"She was a lovely, unassuming, and gracious woman who embraced the naturalist world" says Bruce Whittington, also a VNHS member and founder of Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT). Connie left a bequest to HAT's Endowment Fund with the Victoria Foundation. Whittington speculates that Connie's interest in HAT was a result of the involvement of other VNHS members. "She was very loyal, and gave her support to an organization she felt connected to," says Whittington.

Connie passed away at her home in Victoria on June 23, 2009. Her gift to HAT's Endowment Fund will help HAT protect ecological sensitive lands in perpetuity. "Connie's legacy will help HAT and other environmental groups conserve the natural environments she cared so much about" says Adam Taylor, HAT's Executive Director. "We are touched and grateful for her consideration."

However you came to know her, Connie left a strong impression.

"I always admired her – she was so independent and resilient," says Copley. "She had a push mower long before anyone talked of climate change, even though it was too heavy for her to push easily!"

Pink Fawn Lily (*Erythronium revolutum*). *Photo*: Wendy Ansell.

Letters

Dear Victoria Natural History Society
Thank you very much for the award of $250 that I received for my Science Fair project. I very much appreciate it, and the fair was a great experience. I will now be going to Peterborough to compete in the National Science Fair.
Thanks,
Birch Bansgrove

To whom it may concern:
I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being awarded the Samuel Simcoe Bursary. Post-secondary tuition fees and living expenses can be overwhelming and bursaries always help ease the stress of these expenses.

With my degree in physical geography, I am hoping to pursue a career in wildlife or natural resource management. I am completing a co-op work term this summer, volunteering at a wildlife reserve in Mexico. There are few ecological reserves in Mexico that protect species threatened by habitat loss. I would love to help with the development of this reserve and share with visitors the uniqueness of the landscape and the species harboured within it.

Thanks again for your generosity in awarding me this bursary!
Sincerely,
Karilynn DeWolff

The following thank-you letters are from teachers who participated in the VNHS' *Connecting Children with Nature* project, where member volunteers lead school groups into nearby natural areas.

John H. was amazing. Clear information well delivered and timed.
Anne Nilsen, South Park Family

It was great to have someone who knew about the geology of the site we visited. It was well adapted to the age group and the students were interested.
Elisabeth Naud, Central Middle School

Dear Bill and Margie,
Thank you for our wonderful guided tour of Summit Park. We learned so much!
Mme DiBiase, L'École Quadra School

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGULAR MEETINGS are generally held September-April on the following days: **Board of Directors**: the first Tuesday of each month (directors' meetings are held at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.); **Natural History Presentations**: the second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., University of Victoria; **Botany Night**: the third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature House; **Birders' Night**: the fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., University of Victoria. **Marine Night**: the last Monday, 7:30 p.m., University of Victoria. Locations are given in the calendar listings. The VNHS Calendar also appears on the Internet at: <http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca>, and is updated regularly.

Codes for Field Trip Difficulty Levels: LEVEL 1 — Easy walking, mostly level paths. LEVEL 2 — Paths can be narrow with uneven terrain. LEVEL 3 — Obstacles in paths requiring agility or steeper grades. LEVEL 4 — Very steep, insecure footing or longer hikes requiring good physical condition.

JULY

Sunday, July 4

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 1)
A Cook's Tour of Geological Formations of Greater Victoria
In this field trip we will visit representative examples of all of the geological formations (terranes) that occur in the Greater Victoria area. We will carpool to Armstrong Point in Sidney, Finlayson Point in Beacon Hill Park, Gonzales Beach in Victoria, the prehistoric estuary of the Goldstream River on Metchosin Road, and will finish at Witty's Lagoon/Tower Point in Metchosin. Along the way you will see the sandstone Nanaimo Group, the gneiss rock of the Wrangellia Terrane, the argillite and schist of the Pacific Rim Terrane, and the pillow lava basalt of the Crescent Terrane. We will see lots of evidence of glaciation at the various stops. Meet at the Beaver Lake Road entrance on Elk Lake Drive (in the parking area by the Pat Bay Highway) at 10:00 a.m. for carpooling. A basic map of the sites to be visited will be provided. Walking at each site involves short easy trails and we should be finished at Witty's Lagoon/Tower Point by 4:00 p.m. Please bring a lunch. Contact **John Henigman** at henigman@islandnet.com, or 250-598-6326 if you need additional information. The book reference for this field trip is *The Geology of Southern Vancouver Island* by C.J. Yorath and H.W. Nasmith.

Tuesday, July 6

EVENT
Big, Wet, Rodent Day at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
They are on our money, they're in Swan Lake – it's time to celebrate the symbol of our country and their relatives. Muskrats and beavers are fascinating creatures. Crafts, games, and touchable beaver stuff. Admission by donation. Crafts $3. Event held at the Nature House 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday July 11

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 4)
Exploring the Tide Pools at Botanical Beach
Botanical Beach is a hotspot for biological diversity on Vancouver Island. During low tide, the crystal clear sandstone

tide pools are teeming with marine invertebrates and fish. Join **Bailee McColl** in exploring the intertidal zone. We will see hundreds of purple urchins, aggregating anemones, chitons, crabs, fish, and, if we're lucky, maybe a leather star or an opalescent nudibranch. We will be starting early in order to catch the low tide and increase our chances of finding some sea stars. This trip will take all day because we will spend 2-3 hours at the beach. Wear good hiking shoes as we will be walking on rocks, come prepared for all weather, and bring food and water for the day. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Helmcken Park and Ride. Contact Bailee McColl for more information: bdmccoll@gmail.com or 250-857-0721 (leave message).

Saturday, July 17

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 1)
Dragonflies for Beginners
As Dennis Paulson says in his book, *Dragonflies of Washington*, "Perhaps even more than butterflies, dragonflies are birdwatchers' insects." Meet **Darren and Claudia Copley** at the Beaver Lake Retriever Ponds at 1:00 p.m. (an advantage over birding) and we'll see what we can find. We'll look at what field guides are available, some tricks to catching dragonflies, and even how to key out the difficult ones. Bring binoculars, an insect net (if you have one – we can provide), and hope for sunny weather.

Sunday, July 18

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 3)
Discovery Island and Chain Islands Ecological Reserve Bird-watchers Kayak Tour
Discovery Island Provincial Marine Park presents many opportunities for viewing wildlife. The tour will also explore the nearby Chain Islands, which are protected bird sanctuaries and seal rookeries. You may see Bald Eagles, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, various sandpipers, and other shorebirds. By kayak, we are able to see the numerous sea birds that nest and feed in and around these shores such as the Pigeon Guillemots, Black Oystercatchers, and cormorants. Baby Harbour Seals remain undisturbed as we quietly glide past. You do not need to be an experienced kayaker as enough instruction will be given for you to enjoy a safe day on the water. Cost: $95.20 for a 5-hour guided tour starting at 9:00 a.m. Minimum required: 8 people/tour. Sign up as soon as possible but at least a week in advance. We normally pull up on a beach to have our lunch and do a bit of exploring on the island. Depending on the day's weather, be prepared to layer up or down while on the water. Suggested gear: sunglasses, sun hat, sun screen, footwear you can get wet, windbreaker, toque, binoculars, lunch, snacks, and lots of liquid to drink. For more information/to register, phone **Pacifica Paddle** at 250-665-7411.

Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18

VICTORIA BUTTERFLY COUNT
We are always looking for keen-eyed volunteers, so get out your field guides. Call **James Miskelly** (count coordinator) at 250-477-0490 if you would like to help out.

Tuesday, July 20

EVENT
Reptile Day at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
Scales, slithers, snakes, and smiles! Come and join us for our annual reptile bash as we learn about all those who are scaly. Observe our fabulous reptile friends, play games, make crafts and get your face painted. Admission by donation. Crafts $3. Event held at the Nature House 12 noon to 3:00 pm.

Sunday, July 25

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 4)
Hurricane Ridge High-Elevation Wildflowers
For several years, VNHS has arranged for a bus in Port Angeles to take us up the hill to the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Centre in Washington's Olympic National Park to enjoy the sub-alpine flowers at their peak. Most wildflowers at sea level have finished flowering for the season by then. We'll start from the Visitor Centre and follow a route that allows us to enjoy the mountain without too much elevation gain (and pain) – the Klahhane Ridge trail. This trail drops away quickly to give fabulous views as well as close-ups of many fascinating sub-alpine plants. Then we'll start downhill from there on the Switchback Trail. This goes down quickly through a slightly damp lush area with an amazing variety of plants. The trail eventually meets the road that goes up the hill and we have arranged for the bus driver to meet us there to take us back to the ferry. The route may vary if conditions dictate. Although the weather is generally sunny and clear, due to the high elevation, it could possibly be quite cool or it might rain, so be prepared. Also wear sturdy hiking boots and hiking poles would be an asset. Bring a lunch, snacks, and lots to drink as we will not be near any facilities. Meet at the Black Ball Ferry terminal in the Inner Harbour at 5:45 a.m. for the 6:10 a.m. sailing of the M.V. *Coho*. Allow time to park and purchase your ferry ticket which costs about $31.00 CDN return. **Important!! You will require a passport or enhanced driver's licence for going through U.S. Customs.** We will return on the 5:15 p.m. sailing from Port Angeles (90 minute crossing). There is usually good birding from the ferry. Cost of the charter bus and entry to the park is $50 CDN. Limited number of participants, so reserve your spot early. VNHS members get priority. Do not book before July 1 or after July 18. Reserve your spot by paying through Paypal on the VNHS website (vicnhs.bc.ca) or you can pay by cheque. Send it to VNHS, Box 5220, Victoria BC, V8R 6N4. Either way, you must let **Agnes Lynn** know that you are coming on the trip after you have made a payment. Contact Agnes at 'thelynns at shaw.ca' or 250-721-0634 for more information.

AUGUST

Monday, August 2

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 1)
Dragonflies for Beginners
See description under Saturday, July 17.

Tuesday, August 3

EVENT
Insectmania at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
They're creepy, they're crawly and they're cool. Explore with us the fascinating world of insects and spiders. Hands-on exploration, live bugs, crafts, songs, and games. Admission by donation, Crafts $3. Event is at the Nature House 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Friday, August 6

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 3)
Mount Washington Botanical Day Trip
This trip is planned for peak bloom time but the area is interesting over several weeks with a succession of flowers. The plan is to meet at Raven Lodge on the mountain around 11:00 a.m. and decide when we get there what we will do with our day. If snow levels permit, we will walk around the Lake Helen MacKenzie-Battleship Lake route. We will also fit in a tour around Paradise Meadow on our way to and from our main adventure. The trail will be on hilly and uneven ground but will be done at a slow pace. We will leave Victoria at 7:00 a.m. and return late, stopping for a quick supper on the way home. Pack a lunch that we'll eat someplace out on the trail. Preregister by contacting Agnes after

Jul 1. First nine people to sign up have the option of coming in her van. Others to carpool by pre-arrangement. Cost to come in the van or carpool with others will be about $30 for the day from Victoria. Additional cost of $15 ($12 senior) if we go up the chairlift for a scenic tour if time permits and weather cooperates. Remember to bring money for a fast-food supper. Wear proper footwear and bring a hiking stick plus bring warm clothes as it is usually cold up there. No pets please. Contact **Agnes** at 'thelynns at shaw.ca' or 250-721-0634 to register or for more information.

Sunday, August 8

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 4)

Olympic Park Hike from Obstruction Point to Deer Park

This hike in Washington's Olympic National Park is only for fit hikers as it is almost 13 kilometers over challenging terrain, along open ridges exposed to winds. The flowers and the views make it worthwhile. We will be dropped off by our bus driver at Obstruction Point and we have arranged for the bus driver to meet us at Deer Park to take us back to the ferry. Both ends of the hike are excellent wildflower areas as well. Be prepared for all kinds of weather. Also wear sturdy hiking boots and hiking poles would be an asset. Bring a lunch, snacks and lots to drink as we will not be near any facilities. Meet at the Black Ball Ferry terminal in the Inner Harbour at 5:45 a.m. for the 6:10 a.m. sailing of the M.V. *Coho*. Allow time to park and purchase your ferry ticket which costs about $31.00 CDN return. **Important!! You will require a passport or enhanced driver's licence for going through U.S. Customs.** You'll have to get your birding in on the way over because we will return to Victoria on the 9:30 p.m. sailing (90 minute crossing time). We will have dinner in Port Angeles. Cost of the charter bus and entry to the park is $70 CDN. Very limited number of participants so reserve your spot early. Do not book before July 1 or after August 1. Reserve your spot by paying through Paypal on the VNHS website (vicnhs.bc.ca) or you can pay by cheque. Send it to VNHS, Box 5220, Victoria BC, V8R 6N4. Either way, you must let **Agnes Lynn** know that you are coming on the trip after you have made a payment. Contact Agnes at 'thelynns at shaw.ca' or 250-721-0634 for more information.

Saturday, August 14 and Sunday, August 15

VICTORIA BUTTERFLY COUNT

We are always looking for keen-eyed volunteers, so get out your field guides. Call **James Miskelly** (count coordinator) at 250-477-0490 if you would like to help out.

Sunday, August 15

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 2)

Olympic Peninsula: Tufted Puffins, Brown Pelicans and More

We are going to merge two trips on Washington's Olympic Peninsula that we have done before with our trusted tour bus leader. This time, we hope to enjoy seeing some good birds but there will be lots for all to enjoy along the way at a leisurely pace. We will start with the tour to Cape Flattery, the most northern point on the west coast of the continental United States and one of the closest locations to Victoria where you can see Tufted Puffins. Islands off the point are home to thousands of seabirds throughout the year. The birds can be observed from platforms which are located about a half hour's walk through the forest. Instead of stopping at the excellent museum on this trip, we will continue south to La Push and other beaches where we hope to see Brown Pelicans and other sea birds that might not venture as far north as Victoria. We will make intermittent stops along the way to enjoy the beaches, where we can test our knowledge of dune plants. The Olympic Peninsula is covered with the lush growth of giant trees and luxuriant vegetation, making it a very scenic trip. Tour leader Willie also is full of fascinating facts about the area. This will be a long day so bring a lunch, snacks, and drinks as we will not stop near any facilities. Meet at the Black Ball Ferry terminal in the Inner Harbour at 5:45 a.m. for the 6:10 a.m. sailing of the M.V. *Coho*. Allow time to park and purchase your ferry ticket which costs about $31.00 CDN return. **Important!! You will require a passport or enhanced driver's licence for going through U.S. Customs.** You'll have to get your birding in on the way over because we will return to Victoria on the 9:30 p.m. sailing (90 minute crossing time). We will have dinner in Port Angeles. Cost of the charter bus and entry to the park is $60 CDN. Limited number of participants so reserve your spot early. VNHS members get priority. Do not book before July 1 or after August 8. Reserve your spot by paying through Paypal on the VNHS website (vicnhs.bc.ca) or you can pay by cheque. Send it to VNHS, Box 5220, Victoria BC, V8R 6N4. Either way, you must let **Agnes Lynn** know that you are coming on the trip after you have made a payment. Contact Agnes at 'thelynns at shaw.ca' or 250-721-0634 for more information.

Tuesday, August 17

EVENT

Fabulous Frogs at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

Long sticky tongues, breathing through skin, and webbed feet! Discover what makes frogs so fabulous. Join us for a puppet show, hands-on displays, live animals and froggy crafts. Admission by donation. Crafts $3. Event held at the Nature House 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 22

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 3)

Discovery Island and Chain Islands Ecological Reserve Bird-watchers Kayak Tour. See the description under Sunday, July 18.

BULLETIN BOARD

Saturday Birding Group

Contact Agnes at 'thelynns at shaw.ca' or 250-721-0634 on Friday for the meeting location or other information required.

Year-round Tuesday Morning Birding Group

The Tuesday Birding Group meets every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. at the foot of Bowker Avenue on the waterfront in Oak Bay, they then decide where they will go birding that morning. The Tuesday Birding group has been around for more than 50 years. Call Bill Dancer at 250-721-5273 for more information.

Every Wednesday and Sunday Bird Walk

Meet at the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary parking lot: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. For everyone!

Capital Regional District Parks

CRD Parks offers programs for nature lovers of all ages. See <www.crd.bc.ca/parks> for more information. Programs are 1 to 1½ hours long and free unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is not required for free programs unless otherwise noted.

The Victoria NATURALIST

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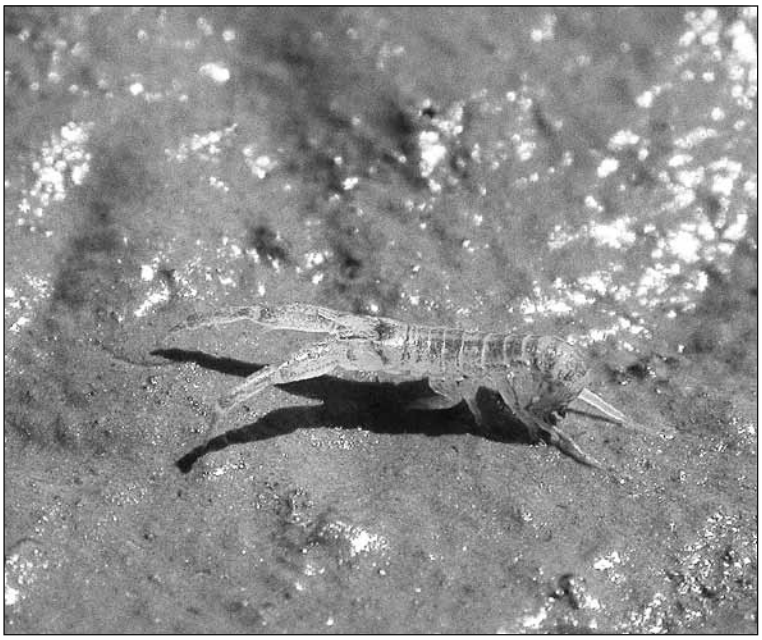

Shrimp-like animals like this *Corophium volutator*, a critical food-source for migrating shorebirds along the coast of North America, will be among those affected by the BP spill.
Photo: Darren Copley