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The Victoria NATURALIST

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[Subject: VNHS newsletter submission]

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Members are encouraged to submit articles, field trip reports, natural history notes, book reviews, etc., up to 2000 words. Please note: If you are concerned about protecting your privacy when submitting an item, please notify the editors at the time of your submission and indicate whether or not you wish to use a pseudonym or have your name withheld.

We prefer electronic submissions—these can be submitted in either PC or Mac compatible word processing format—but hardcopies are also accepted. Please include photographs or illustrations if possible, along with a suggested caption and photo credit. If digital, images need to be high resolution—a minimum of 300 dpi for all sizes requested. E.g.,

7.5" (2 columns) wide 2250 x 1600 pixels

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Cover Image: *Chrysomphahalina aurantiaca* (Redhead)
seen on a mushroom walk in November.
Photo: Neil Boyle.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I am writing this note before Christmas, hoping that when you read it, you will have enjoyed a lovely holiday season filled with good food, good friends, and lots of outdoor time. We expect to spend a fair amount of time rediscovering the joys of nature while sharing it with our young grandchildren. They give us an added reason to get outside and it is such fun seeing the light of discovery in their eyes—along with a lot of mischief—when they find a crab at the seashore, or a filmy moss on a tree, or realize that they are able to put names to most of the birds they see.

Some interesting tidbits for the new year (in no particular order):

Did you know that the Swift Fox is the smallest fox in North America?

Did you know that a Loon can dive up to 60 metres underwater? Wow!

Did you hear about the fossils discovered some years ago on a beach in New Zealand that has now been determined to be of a giant penguin. Yup—you heard me—a giant PENGUIN! Apparently these animals, named *Kunimanu biceae*, lived 55-59 million years ago—reaching nearly six feet (1.83m) in length and 100kg). And the more I read about this, the more I learned, including that this species is not even the largest of the penguins...there is evidence of one that grew close to 6'8" (over 2 metres). Hard to imagine, especially since, of the 17 species of penguins now in the world, the largest penguins are the Emperor Penguins, who at 122 cm (4 feet) seem pretty big to me (the smallest is only a little over 32 cm).

And, as always, I thank all the contributors of content for the newsletter—I depend on you all to send me stories and pictures that you feel our members will find interesting.

Best wishes for 2018!

Gail Harcombe

A Message from Your Board

Happy New Year to all of you! We trust you had a nature-filled 2017 through your participation in club activities and your own explorations far and wide. We are looking forward to the coming year and hope to see you at evenings and outings. But just before we embark on 2018, we have a few board decisions from the past year to mention.

Among the things we decided was to increase the amount of funding to Royal Roads University over the next few years so that the VNHS scholarship given out through that institution adds up to \$1000 for a deserving student. This matches the increases we made previously to Camosun College and the University of Victoria. Now all the scholarships and bursaries that the Victoria Natural History Society gives out are valued at a minimum of \$1000. This makes sense with the high cost of tuition and books.

The Island Pollinator Initiative and members of that coalition are hoping to forge ahead with a variety of projects, including the restoration of an area under a BC Hydro right away by the Lochside Trail. A funding request came to the VNHS for this project, so we've asked for more information and indicated that we may be interested in supporting the installation of interpretive signage at this high-traffic location.

The Connecting Children with Nature Program participation has increased significantly: Bill Dancer's report for the December meeting of the board indicated that 1878 children will have taken part in the program in 2017, and he already had bookings for an additional three events in 2018. Two of the three are full-school, all-day events that, in total, will involve approximately 250 children, so this new year is off to a roaring start. Thank you to everyone involved in these free programs—they are a terrific success that the Society can be really proud we offer.

A goal for the new year is digitally archiving The Victoria Naturalist magazines. We have digital versions of each issue from the last couple of decades, but prior to that we do not have a have PDFs available. What we hope to do is scan all the magazines going back to 1944 and have those available on the web. An ambitious project! Ideally this task will be "crowd sourced"—several volunteers each taking a sheaf of back issues and doing the scanning when they have some free time. Paying a business to do it is too expensive, and one volunteer doing all of it is just cruel! If you have a willingness to be involved in this effort please let board member Rick Searle know by email preferably (see contact information inside cover)—he is tasked with this undertaking.

Also associated with the magazine is a complete digital index. Years ago, VNHS members Marilyn and Andy Buhler, a husband and wife librarian team, took on the project of digitizing the hard copy indices we had and got

the Society caught up to 2004. Then they had the nerve to move to Vernon! Now our goal is to finish the work of indexing up to the current magazine and hopefully keep the index up-to-date. Stephen Ruttan is the board member and ex-librarian who has agreed to handle this for the Society.

Three requests to the membership (you!) for this new year:

1. Please consider nominating someone for a VNHS award (see page five for past winners and details).
2. Please consider doing a presentation for one of the Society's evenings or make suggestions for speakers.
3. Please consider leading a walk for the Society in a place you enjoy. You do not need to know everything you encounter, you just need an enthusiasm for showing off a place that brings you joy. A good friend coined the phrase "walkin', talkin' and gawkin'". Going slowly and really looking is what distinguishes our field trips from those of many other outdoor clubs. Our goal is to get 'back to nature', not 'back at nature'!

Additional notes from the BC Nature Vancouver Island Club Directors' Regional Meeting in November:

- In September, VNHS donated a "micro-eye" video microscope (a large scope designed for use in public spaces) costing close to \$5000 to Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary for use with their educational programs.
- We plan to donate copies of our Naturalists' Guide to the Victoria Area to the free Little Libraries scattered around many Victoria neighbourhoods. We will attach some sort of sticker with information about VNHS .
- An updated (to August 2017) bird checklist of SE Vancouver Island (produced by VNHS) is now available.

Did you know?

1% FOR THE PLANET is a worldwide alliance of over 1300 companies (more than 40 countries) who are committed to a healthier planet. Each year, members donate 1% of their gross profits to the organisation for the benefit of local environmental causes. This year, local law firm Horne Coupar celebrated 10 years of membership with 1% for the Planet and donations over \$300,000 to environmental causes. The firm is proud of the many accomplishments of the organizations which it has supported over the ten years through 1% funding, and its clients can also share in that pride, knowing that a portion of their fees have been dedicated to the stewardship of the environment. HAT and Rocky Point Bird Observatory are among the organizations to whom Horne Coupar has contributed.

VNHS Awards: Call for Nominations

VNHS members contribute to the Society in many ways: writing articles for the Naturalist; leading field trips; or serving on the board or committees. Some go out of their way to ensure other members can continue to be a part of Society activities by visiting shut-ins or driving others to Society functions. The Victoria Natural History Society Board of Directors established the Distinguished Service Award in 1988. This prestigious award is meant to honour those members who have given freely of their time over a long period, in a variety of ways, for the Society. Any member of the Society can nominate any other member who in their opinion merits this honour. The VNHS Distinguished Service Award is given annually to members who have shown such dedication. The Society may also bestow Honorary Life Membership on a member whose involvement with VNHS has been exceptionally long and dedicated. Please consider nominating a member, and send your nomination to the Society's address, or give it to one of the directors. Nominations should be forwarded by February 28, 2018. All nominations must be in writing and should be signed by at least two members of the Society. A brief biographical sketch and a description of the contributions and achievements of the nominee, along with their address and telephone number, should be included. The Awards Committee reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, which grants the awards.

VNHS Distinguished Service Award Recipients

1989 Lyndis Davis, David Stirling, Katherine Sherman
1990 Anne Adamson, Charles Trotter, Robb Mackenzie -Grieve
1991 Ed Coffin, Mark Nyhof
1992 David Fraser, Margaret Mackenzie-Grieve
1993 Giff Calvert, Harold Pollock
1994 Kaye Suttill
1995 Bryan Gates, Bruce Whittington
1996 Gordon Devey
1997 Michael Carson
1998 No recipients
1999 Tony Embleton, Dorothy Henderson
2000 Tom Gillespie, Marilyn Lambert, David Pearce
2001 David Allinson, Beverly Glover, Hank Vander Pol
2002 Norm Mogensen
2003 Bob Chappell
2004 Oluna and Adolf Ceska

2005 Rick Schortinghuis
2006 Phil Lambert, Tom Burgess
2007 No recipients
2008 Ann Nightingale
2009 No recipients
2010 Gordon Hart, Agnes Lynn
2011 Claudia and Darren Copley
2012 Bill Dancer
2013 No recipients
2014 John Henigman, Jeremy Tatum
2015 Hans Roemer
2016 No recipients
2017 No recipients

VNHS Honorary Life Members

Mr. David Anderson, Dr. Bill Austin, Mrs. Lyndis Davis,
Mr. Tony Embleton, Mrs. Peggy Goodwill, Mr. David Stirling,
Mr. Bruce Whittington

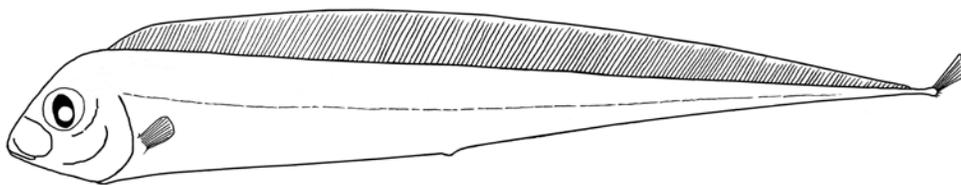


The poster features the title 'Victoria Seedy Saturday' in a large, elegant serif font. Below the title, it lists 'Local Seeds & Plants', 'Seed Exchange & Educational Speakers'. A central illustration shows a sunflower growing from a seed, with a series of smaller images showing the stages of its growth from a seedling to a mature plant with roots. The event details are listed at the bottom: '10am-3:30pm', 'February 17, 2018', 'Victoria Conference Centre', '\$7 all access pass - under 16 free', and 'hosted by the James Bay Market Society' with the website 'www.jamesbaymarket.com/SeedySaturday'.

Rex salmonorum – King-of-the-Salmon

By Gavin Hanke, Curator, Vertebrate Zoology, Royal B.C. Museum

Late September, 2017, two King-of-the-Salmon (*Trachipterus altivelis*) washed ashore in the Salish Sea. They were found in the Oak Bay area of Victoria in September (on the 21st and 26th). One of these was still swimming when found in the shallows. A third was found October 3rd in Hood Canal, in Puget Sound, and a fourth washed up in Sidney on October 29th. The appearance of these silvery ribbon-like fishes generated a fair bit of media coverage. The same happens when a Longnosed Lancetfish (*Alepisaurus ferox*) washes ashore. Deep sea fishes are so unusual that they create a sensation to rival alien landings.



The King-of-the-Salmon—modified from the illustration used in Hart (1973).

I received a lot of email and a few phone calls about these fish, and most people asked the following three questions. Are King-of-the-Salmon new? Were these deaths from climate change? Are King-of-the-Salmon rare?

Are they new to BC? No. King-of-the-Salmon range from Chile to the Gulf of Alaska and southeastern Bering Sea west to Hawai'i from the sea surface to at least 640 metres. According to Mecklenburg et al. (2002), many records from Alaska and the Bering Sea were not backed by specimens—but they note that this fish is distinctive and unlikely to be mistaken for anything else. The Burke Museum's collection has nine Alaska records with voucher specimens—the species presence in Alaska is certain. They can be found far offshore or right along the coast.

King-of-the-Salmon were known to First Nations communities prior to the European colonization of the Salish Sea area. This long-standing traditional knowledge rules out any argument that these fishes are new to the region, or that recent anthropogenic climate change caused their appearance this autumn. The same goes for the 2017 total solar eclipse—the alignment of objects in our solar system had no impact on these fish. King-of-the-Salmon have been here for centuries.

Ted Pietsch and James Orr (in their upcoming book on Salish Sea Fishes) detail the occurrences of King-of-the-Salmon in this region—these fish are not rare. If you

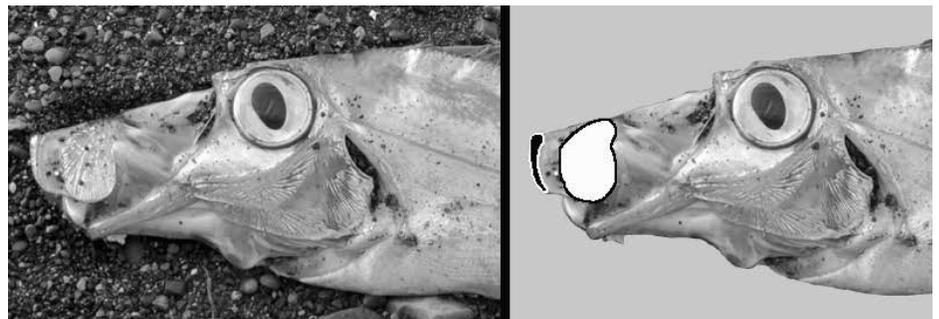
look at the species account in Wikipedia, there is a picture of one which washed up at Race Rocks in 1950. Three King-of-the-Salmon specimens collected between 1941 and 1970, are housed at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum. Eighteen are at the Royal B.C. Museum. The RBCM specimens were collected between 1908 and 2006. The Burke Museum has 827 cataloged records of King-of-the-Salmon from Alaska to California (collected between 1951 and 2016). Fortunately though, about 97% of the Burke Museum specimens are larvae in vials—but in total, their 827 records amount to 3324 fish. A museum record can be based on a single specimen from a sample, or as for UWFC74516 – 190

King-of-the-Salmon were caught in that sample of larval fishes. With these specimens, size matters. Hundreds of larval fish in vials are easier to store than hundreds of 1.8 metre adults.

King-of-the-Salmon swim by passing a sine wave down their dorsal fin—they can get a fair bit of speed just by doing that. They can also reverse using the same fin

flutter. They slowly turn by putting a curve in the body. However, they also swim in a more typical fishy way (using eel-like body oscillation) when they need a burst of speed or a really quick turn. Tropical freshwater knife fishes use the same basic locomotion—except knife fishes use their anal fin.

The jaws of the King-of-the-Salmon are protrusible—the premaxillary and maxillary bones swing out to create a tube—or in diving/fish collecting terms, a giant slurp gun. When the jaws protrude and the gill chamber dilates, water rushes into the mouth along with the prey. The same sort of suction pump mechanism is used by a wide variety of fishes—from tiny seahorses to giant groupers. Once the prey item is inside the fish's mouth, the mouth closes, water is released through the gills and the prey



Close up of the head of the King-of-the-Salmon from Hood Canal showing the premaxillary (black) and maxillary (white) bones extended. Photo: Randi Jones.

is swallowed. The entire sequence is lightning fast—even in pipefishes and seahorses—blink and you miss it. In some fishes, the process is even audible—you can hear a snapping sound when seahorses slurp up crustaceans (and fishes). You can't hear the same snapping sound when larger fishes engulf their prey, but it is no less dramatic.

Young King-of-the-Salmon engulf annelid worms, amphipods, copepods, larval fish, and are known to have ingested fish scales. Adults eat copepods, krill, paralarval octopus and small fishes (including young rockfish). They have even been known to take artificial lures and baited hooks (Hart 1973). RBCM 00288 was caught on hook and line—I bet this was not the “salmon” that was expected when the angler set the hook.

What was the ultimate fate of the four King-of-the-Salmon which stranded this autumn? The first Oak Bay specimen will be preserved for the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea in Sidney. The second was recycled by nature. The Hood Canal specimen will be preserved in the Burke Museum's collection (their 828th record for *Trachipterus altivelis*). The Sidney specimen looked like its gills and head had been picked apart—so it is likely that it was left on the beach to be recycled.

References:

Hart, J.L. 1973. *Pacific Fishes of Canada*. Fisheries Research Board Canada, Bulletin 180. Ottawa, ON. 740pp.

Mecklenburg, C.W., T.A. Mecklenburg, and L.K. Thorsteinson. 2002. *Fishes of Alaska*. American Fisheries Society Publication, Bethesda, MD. 1037pp.



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2017 Butterfly Count Report

By Gordon Hart

Photos by author

After a cold and long winter, at least by Victoria standards, the 2017 butterfly season got off to a good start and carried on well into October. The big surprises were in September and October, when American Ladies were seen in several locations, and Painted Ladies were seen in large numbers in many parts of Vancouver Island. One American Lady was reported on the September count at the McIntyre Reservoir, but others were also seen after the count period. We saw one at Whiffin Spit on September 29, and Jeremy Gatten reported one on October 15 at Albert Head Lagoon.

Although 27 species were recorded on the six monthly counts, there were some notable misses and low numbers. No Milbert's Tortoiseshells, only one Green Comma, and three Satyr Commas were reported. No Two-banded Checkered Skippers appeared on the counts, and only one West Coast Lady, although a few of each were seen at other times. Mylitta Crescents were not reported again this year in Victoria. Field Crescents were found in Central Saanich, but not in the count circle.

Some high counts were Western Tiger Swallowtails in June (262), Cabbage Whites in July (615), and Woodland Skippers in August (529). Sulphurs were seen again this year at the McIntyre Reservoir. After discussion of many sightings and photographs of Sulphur sp. on the VNHS Invertalert, moderated by Dr. Jeremy Tatum, (<http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca/?cat=8>), the consensus was that both Clouded and Orange Sulphurs were present. Four Orange Sulphurs were counted for the September count, and one Clouded Sulphur.

Thanks again to the participants who submitted 163 reports for the six monthly counts!

In addition to the monthly counts submitted by individuals, we also had monthly butterfly walks starting at Mount Tolmie, and going to various locations around Greater Victoria. Normally we have six walks, starting in the first Sunday in April. This year, we added a seventh walk on October 1 and the seven participants found butterflies: Cabbage Whites, and a number of interesting moths and caterpillars.

If you would like to join us next year for walks, or participate in the counts, watch the VNHS calendar for dates, or email me at butterflies AT vicnhs.bc.ca.



Clockwise from lower left:
Ringlet
Pine White
American Lady
Orange Sulphur
Pale Swallowtail



2017 Butterfly Count

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	TOTAL
Species							
Anise Swallowtail		8	6	1	1		16
American Lady						1	1
Brown Elfin	10	5					15
Cabbage White	80	285	227	615	611	205	2023
California Tortoiseshell	1						1
Cedar Hairstreak		4	4				8
Common Ringlet		10	55	1	99	2	167
Common Woodnymph							
European (Essex) Skipper			21	40			61
Field Crescent							
Great Arctic							
Green Comma		1					1
Grey Hairstreak		1			1		2
Lorquin's Admiral			146	194	20		360
Milbert's Tortoiseshell							
Monarch							
Moss' Elfin	11	1					12
Mourning Cloak	1	1					2
Mylitta Crescent							
Orange Sulphur							
Painted Lady		21	17	12	26	28	104
Pale Swallowtail		8	35	4			47
Pine White				72	26		98
Propertius Duskywing		14					14
Purplish Copper					3	1	4
Red Admiral			11	2	4	2	19
Sara's Orangetip	30	19					49
Satyr Comma	1	2					3
Silvery Blue		8					8
Sulphur species							
Two-banded Checkered Skipper							
Westcoast Lady				1			1
Western Pine Elfin							
Western Spring Azure	21	45	3				69
Orange Sulphur						4	4
Clouded Sulphur						1	1
Sulphur sp.-probably Clouded					3		3
Western Tiger Swallowtail		16	262	140	5		423
Woodland Skipper				9	529	5	543
Total	155	449	787	1091	1328	249	4059
Number of Observers per month	14	15	13	12	10	11	
Number of Reports	24	33	34	28	25	19	163
Number of species	8	17	11	12	12	7	

Fantastic Trips on the *Fantasea*

By Anges Lynn



Cormorants. Photo: Mark Kolasinski.

Each fall we take out mini-pelagic trips on the 40-foot boat *Fantasea*. This year we were able to fill three trips with 20 members each time. The weather cooperated with no rain and calm seas (the boat does have shelter from the rain if it does occur). If you get chilly, there is a cabin with reasonable viewing, and for those who don't like stairs, there is good viewing from the stern and a covered area where you can comfortably laze around for the whole trip if you wish.

Although we normally head in a westerly direction towards Race Rocks, our route is never exactly the same. Godfrey, our captain, watches for good numbers of birds on the surface and heads in their direction if possible. We call these spots 'herring balls' although it may be other types of small fish encouraging the birds (mostly gulls) to gather. We always like to see alcids, too, most often the ones responsible for pushing the fish in these groups up to the surface. We were all treated to amazing close-up views of Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, Common Murre and Marbled Murrelet, and a few people were lucky enough to spot a couple of Ancient Murrelet and a Cassin's Auklet. It was a great opportunity to see plenty of Bonaparte's Gulls, often hard to find around Victoria. On one of the trips, we managed to see a couple of Shearwaters, one a Short-tailed and the other probably a Sooty Shearwater. We like to keep the gulls following the boat and try to attract more birds by 'chumming'. In our case, this involves us throwing out such goodies as popcorn, bread crusts and dogfood from

the stern of the boat. The best success this year was on one of our trips out past Race Rocks, where we managed to get a large number of beautiful Heermann's Gulls following us for quite a while. A special treat to see was the good proportion of juveniles in the mix as these are not seen that often or that close. Other birds in the mix included all three species of cormorants. It's great to see the Brandt's Cormorants up close enough to examine the colours around the bill, confirming the species that we are looking at.



At Race Rocks. Photo: Jenny Clark.

We always keep a sharp eye out for any area where a tide line might offer something interesting. We spotted Red-necked Phalarope on each trip, but it ranged from one bird on one trip to about 100 birds in a few groups on another of the trips. It's great to see them fly because you would almost think they were Sandpipers as you watched. It's easy to forget they are shorebirds when they are bobbing around in their tiny circles trying to get the food tidbits to where they can pick them up.

Godfrey cautiously maneuvers the boat to go on the inside of Race Rocks. The currents are tricky through there so we can't dally but we always get great views (and smells!) of seals and sea lions, including the Elephant Seals that laze along the top of the rocks. Some of the big guys manage to take over the boat dock, making it tricky for the island caretakers to get ashore! We saw a few shorebirds such as Black Turnstones on the rocks. Some people saw a few other shorebirds but it's tricky to spot them with the boat bobbing around. There is a Sea Otter that is sometimes seen wrapped in giant kelp in that area but we didn't find it this year. Our member Marie O'Shaughnessy, who often goes out on the whale boats as one of their naturalists, pointed it out to us last year. She calls it 'Blondie' as it shows up with its relatively lighter-coloured coat in comparison to the seals.

This year we were treated on a couple of the trips to some big sea lions tossing around large salmon as they tried to break them up enough to swallow. At first we thought that when they tossed them in the air, they would lose them, but they grabbed them and repositioned them each time for better gulping. Of course they were surrounded by plenty of gulls and a few other seals and sea lions trying to get in on the action. It was encouraging to see that there were so many salmon in the area. We think they were mostly Chum but it was hard to tell for sure what species they were.

Although we don't advertise the trips specifically for whale-watching, it is rare these days that we don't see whales on a trip. Godfrey listens on the whale-watchers radio channel and lets us know if there is something worth diverting to check out. We saw Orcas close to shore—maybe they were looking to sneak a small seal off the edge of a rock for their dinner! We saw some very impressive breaches on one of the trips. Pretty hard to catch them on photos! There were also a number of Humpbacks that gave us good shows. It is tricky to stay out of their way because they go down quite a ways and reappear in a totally different area than where they went down. It's handy to have so many people to help spot them when they reappear.

We always see a few other birds such as loons and maybe a grebe. Each trip was different but interesting because there are so much to enjoy. We may not have a large number of species but many of them can be seen very close up, which is very different than from land. Each trip has at least two experts along, but most trips had several members who are also very good at identifying these species. We are very lucky to have such excellent birders along. These trips are popular because of their relatively inexpensive cost, the closeness to home for most of us, the comfort of the boat and its sturdiness. We look forward to continuing these trips next fall, and thank Godfrey for taking us on these trips for so many years.



Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*).
Photo: Jody Wells.



Orca breaching. Photo: Marie O'Shaughnessy.



Heerman's Gulls (*Larus heermanni*). Photo: Jody Wells.



Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).
Photo: Jody Wells.

Green Spots—Children Gardening for a Healthier World with Native Plants

By Alanah Nasadyk, Community and Development Coordinator,
Habitat Acquisition Trust



Green Spots children at Hans Helgesen School gather round their native plant garden. *Photo: Paige Erickson-McGee.*

When it comes to creating habitat for wildlife in need, and ensuring the well-being we derive as a community remains undiminished, it takes a village to prevent habitat loss.

As a local nature not-for-profit, Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) knows that it's important to involve people of all ages in experiencing and understanding nature. To complement the Land Protection and Habitat Steward Programs where HAT works directly with adult landowners (kids could not afford a home in this market anyways), HAT runs the Green Spots Outdoor Education Program, ensuring no child is left inside and everybody benefits.

The Green Spots Program empowers schools to provide an environmental education space to their students. Already children from 34 schools have been able to plan and create their own gardens for nature, right on their school grounds. HAT gives teachers, parents, and kids the tools and guidance to run with, leaving lasting nature-based learning spaces that enhance habitat for local flora and fauna too.

As natural areas decrease, our exposure to unaltered habitats follows suit, research indicates that there are repercussions. Mounting evidence reveals that access to natural spaces benefits children cognitively, emotionally, and physically. For example, exposure to green space can increase concentration, improve academic performance, reduce stress and aggression, strengthen the immune system, and

lower the risk of obesity. Stewardship-focused interactions with natural environments at a young age are important for developing a positive outlook and lasting attachment towards the environment, which is needed to ensure the care of natural spaces forevermore. So, if you enjoy nature, you might want to think about mentorship, find a mentee that can absorb your knowledge. Since schools are not consistently receiving funding for nature-based learning, HAT works with educators, retired biologists, parents, and teachers to be the nature mentors kids need.

In 2017, HAT teamed up Macaulay, Hans Helgesen, and Cloverdale Elementary Schools for the Green Spots program. Getting over 825 children out in nature to learn the fundamentals about indigenous plants, pollinators, and creating a habitat garden for learning and for wildlife.

At Cloverdale Traditional School, children created an Indigenous knowledge native plant garden. Before planting, a local First Nations Elder led the children in a blessing ceremony and children swept the garden site with cedar bows to cleanse it. Before that, family members joined in to dig up the soil and to layer soil and cardboard. A fresh start above the grass and weeds for new native plants.

At Ecole Macaulay Elementary School in Esquimalt, students created a spectacular and unique garden for butterflies with a variety of native plant species including beautiful flowering camas lilies. With the help of students



Macaulay Elementary School Students digging in the soil to plant native plants.
Photo: Paige Erickson-McGee.

and parent volunteers 371 plants that will return each year went into the ground.

At Hans Helgesen Elementary School, children designed a heart-shaped native plant garden. They also removed invasive blackberry and Scotch broom on their school grounds.

On Earth Day of 2018, the schools will have a school-wide assembly to celebrate the project's success in creating a wildflower habitat garden for students, teachers, and neighbours to learn about stewardship of our local flora and fauna while providing food and shelter for our pollinators. HAT Stewardship Coordinator Paige Erickson-McGee will present the Hans Helgesen students with a trophy for all of their hard work. The trophy is an extra thick cane of blackberry impressively removed by the kids, spray-painted gold.

In the New Year, the Green Spots program will start up again with three new schools, bringing with it the delight of digging in the dirt, imagining what camas bulbs become, and watching something made by tiny hands grow into something bigger than us all.

The Green Spots program is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and people just like you. Individuals and businesses can also sponsor a Green Spots School, a fantastic way to ensure that children can continue to learn about nature for years to come.

Business sponsors or community members can "Double the Habitat" by doubling a school's plant budget on an existing project, by donating \$1000.

Business sponsors or individuals can "Sponsor a Green Spot" to pay for a whole school to do a year-long project by donating \$5000.

If you would like to support Habitat Acquisition Trust and the Green Spots Program please visit hat.bc.ca/donate or call 250-995-2428 today to make a gift that elevates conservation with hands on action and in the young minds of future caregivers of the Earth.

Garry Oaks for Our Future

By Judith Carder, Vice Chair,
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society



The Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS) has moved forward on its dream of providing our native Garry oaks at nominal cost to increase the rate of replacement of trees being lost, thereby enhancing natural habitats. Acorns have

been gathered and seedlings potted that are now in the new GOMPS Volunteer Nursery where they will develop strength and fitness for their permanent homes beautifying our neighbourhoods.

Local citizens were so concerned by the rapid disappearance of original Garry oak meadows and woodlands due to land conversion that they formed GOMPS 25 years ago. Dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of these endangered trees and their associated ecosystems, GOMPS engages in educational activities, including promoting ecological sustainability to governments and their staff at all levels, as well as habitat restoration. With access to a network of experts and informational resources, plus collaborative efforts with other interested organizations, GOMPS responds to all public and corporate requests, often acting as a conduit and/or hub for issues concerning Garry oaks.

The GOMPS Volunteer Nursery is one such collaboration



which began with support and encouragement from Pacific Forestry Centre and continues with help from the City of Victoria. With volunteer assistance, young trees from locally-sourced acorns are being nurtured to survival stature for planting in our urban forests, backyards and parklands, providing a sustainable framework for their threatened associated community of unique species to flourish. These plantings will be a boon as a proactive adaptation to the warmer, dryer climate southern Vancouver Island and nearby islands will experience in the future.

Anyone wishing to contribute to such a vital and worthwhile endeavour, please become:

- a member (only \$15 for individuals),
- a volunteer, or
- a supporter and/or sustainer

by contacting us through our website: <http://www.garryoak.info>



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Delights from Mushroom Walks

photos by Neil Boyle



Mycena haematopus,
(Bleeding Mycena).



Xylaria hypoxylon (Candlesnuff,
Carbon Antlers).

Laetiporus conifericola
(Chicken of the
Woods).



Some kind of small *Marasmius* such
as *Marasmius plicatulus* or *Marasmius*
androsaceus.



Another Cortinarius.



Pseudohydnum gelatinosum (Toothed Jelly Fungus, Spirit Gummy Bear).



May be in the *Gymnopilus ventricosus* group (Big Laughing Gym).



Coprinopsis lagopus (Woolly Inky-Cap).

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Gone Too Soon: David Allinson

(24 August 1966–14 October 2017)

By Ann Nightingale

The Victoria birding and naturalist community was shocked as the news spread that David Allinson had passed away of a heart attack in Toronto, at just 51 years of age. Born and educated in Toronto, graduating with a double-major in English and History, David moved to Victoria in 1990, and immediately became a valuable contributor.

Although known to most as one of those birders who could identify a species in just one note, or correctly name a speck in the sky according to its “jizz”, David was also a hardworking volunteer over the years. He served as VNHS president from 1994-97, and was a founding member of Rocky Point Bird Observatory, serving as its president from before incorporation as a charitable society until 2005. He was later named as RPBO’s President Emeritus.

After stepping down from the boards, David continued to support both VNHS and RPBO through leading field trips, volunteering at the banding station, and heading a Christmas Bird Count zone. He has also led the VNHS/CRD Hawk Watch for many years.

David stepped away from his normally intense birding avocation when he became involved in family life and setting up his own business. We’d still see him when a rare bird showed up, and for a while, he worked in a local birding and nature store, but his scheduling priorities changed when he married Mellisa and became an instant dad to three children.

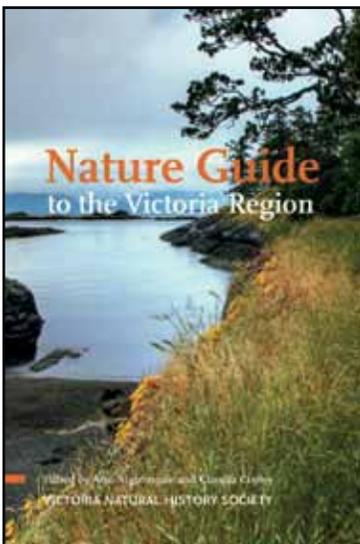
With the kids nearly grown, and with the support of his



wife, David returned to active birding in the last couple of years, initiating a hawk watch at his home, and returning to volunteer activities at Rocky Point Bird Observatory. The last time he was at Rocky Point, he banded his first bird in about eight years. We were looking forward to having him back on the team! He also offered beginning birding courses and was a go-to birding resource for his neighbours in Metchosin.

His life outside of birding included his family, his work as a BC Transit driver, and being a very committed dog companion. In his youth, he was a student of the art/sport of Judo and ended with a nidan/second-degree black belt. A four-time Ontario provincial champion. In 1982, David was a bronze medalist at the Canadian Judo Nationals.

David is survived by his parents, Sidney and Beverley, his wife, Mellisa, children, Bronwyn, Hunter, and Patience, and many family members, friends, colleagues and neighbours. He will be missed.



Nature Guide to the Victoria Region

Edited by Ann Nightingale and Claudia Copley

With chapters by David Stirling, Alan MacLeod, James Miskelly, Robert Cannings, Bryce Kendrick, Philip Lambert, David Nagorsen, Anna Hall, Gavin Hanke and Leon Pavlick.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned naturalist, this book will give you the knowledge you need to get the most out of your explorations of southeastern Vancouver Island.

\$15 at Society evening presentations. Look for them in your local bookstores!

BULLETIN BOARD

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2018

Don't miss it! On until April 2, 2018, this amazing exhibit is once again at the Royal B.C. Museum with a brand new selection of 100 of the most stunning images from around the world. The dramatic, back-lit, large-scale photos include those by some of the world's most respected nature photographers and wildlife experts, but also showcase young photographers' budding talents, and special categories tell stories of the natural world's beauty and struggles. For tickets and information: <https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/visit/exhibitions/wpty2017>

Calling Artists! Search for a Cover Illustration

The author of a new book "In Nature's Realm: Early Naturalists on Vancouver Island" is seeking a suitable cover illustration. The image could include trees, flowering plants, birds and/or animals, and medium used can be pastel, watercolour, oil, coloured pencil, etc., with greens, earth tones, water and sky. Contact Michael Layland for more details: baytext@islandnet.com or www.michaellayland.com

For you keen birdwatchers...

Check out upcoming birding festivals and events, among them the Great Backyard Bird Count February 16-19! A great way to enjoy bird watching is by going to festivals—Cornell Lab of Ornithology lists upcoming events, "organized to get you to great birding spots at a great time of year, and they're a great way to meet people." Check it out at <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/birding-festivals/>

Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary Guided Bird Walks

Every Wednesday and Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Bring binoculars and walking shoes and meet in the parking lot for this informal and informative walk around the lake area (usually led by VNHS members). Donations are appreciated. For information, see <http://www.swanlake.bc.ca/adult-programs.php> Download the sanctuary bird checklist: <http://tinyurl.com/birdchecklist>

Outerbridge Park Sunday Bird Walks

Sundays January 14 and February 11 at 9 a.m.
Rocky Point Bird Observatory hosts guided bird walks at Outerbridge Park in Saanich on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The easy walks, suitable for people with mobility concerns, begin at the parking area off Royal Oak Drive. For dates and details, see <http://rpbo.org> Download the bird list at http://www.rpbo.org/outerbridge_park.pdf

Get yours now! Limited number available...

A Guide to Bird Calls of Southern Vancouver Island (CD and booklet set) by Rocky Point Bird Observatory

This guide provides an introduction to call notes of common birds found on southern Vancouver Island. When learning to bird by ear, many people concentrate on learning the songs because songs tend to be complex and often beautiful. However, songs are generally only by breeding males in the spring and summer, and there is a whole world of simpler sounds given year-round by songbirds of all ages and sexes. Being familiar with these could enhance your birding year-round! For information or purchase (discount for RPBO members), contact rpbo@rpbo.org

Leave a Lasting Gift

Donate to The Nature Trust of BC in your will to help conserve the natural diversity of wildlife, plants and their critical habitats for future generations.

For more information, contact Deb Kennedy at debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca or call 604-924-9771 or 1-866-288-7878

www.naturetrust.bc.ca



Welcome to New VNHS Members

Our Society grew by 19 new members since the last issue and the following have agreed to have their names published in this Welcome section.

Philip Clark

Victoria
Marine and general

Maria Nash

Victoria
Birds

**Mary Ellen and
Wayne MacCallum**

Victoria

Lauren Sherwood

Victoria
*Hiking, swimming, reading,
scuba diving, and travel*

Navarra Houldin

Victoria
*The plant life of Vancouver
Island*

Ann Ten Cate

Victoria

Chris Nation

Victoria
Birds, plants

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 Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.); **Natural History Night:** 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/?page_id=1518 and is updated regularly. PLEASE NOTE: EVENT DETAILS ARE ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLICATION BUT CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONS.

Remember that if you want to do a talk or know someone who might, please contact one of the presentation night coordinators. If you have an idea for a field trip or wish to volunteer as a leader, please contact the Field Trip Coordinator Claudia Copley. Many of you do interesting things either for fun or for work, and it would be great to share! See page two for email addresses and phone numbers.

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 or steeper grades, requiring agility. LEVEL 4—Very steep, insecure footing, or longer hikes requiring good physical condition. **Please—no pets on VNHS field trips.**

NB. While evening presentations are open to the public, field trips are designed for members. If space allows, guests may participate for up to three trips, after which they are expected to join the Society.

Despite our best efforts to schedule events in advance, changes are inevitable. Please check the website close to the date for any changes. We sometimes also schedule additional events due to unexpected opportunities. Please be sure that VNHS has your up-to-date email address to receive these changes or notice of additional events. If you do not use the internet, team up with someone who does to keep up with changes.

TUESDAY MORNING BIRDING

Meets every Tuesday at the foot of Bowker Ave on the waterfront (off Beach Drive) at 9:00 a.m., rain or shine. Birding activities take place at various locations around Greater Victoria. For more information call Bill Dancer at 250-721-5273. Novice and experienced VNHS members all welcome. Non-members can participate for up to three trips, after which they are expected to join the Society.

SATURDAY MORNING BIRDING

Meets every Saturday morning, usually at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. Check the Calendar page of the VNHS website (http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca/?page_id=1518) on the Thursday/Friday before to find out the week's location. Novice and experienced VNHS members all welcome. Non-members can participate for up to three trips, after which they are expected to join the Society. For more details, contact Rick Schortinghuis at 250-885-2454 or Agnes Lynn at thelynns at shaw.ca or 250-721-0634.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 6

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 2)

Birding Esquimalt Lagoon

You are welcome to join the VNHS Saturday Birding Group who will be going to Esquimalt Lagoon and surrounding area. It's a great area to get a good leg-up on your new Year List (if you keep one) or to simply enjoy the amazing diversity of water birds and passerines this area provides this early in the year. In past years, we have had counts in the 70s of species. This trip will cover the ocean birds along the lagoon and will go into the fields behind the lagoon to provide a variety of birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. near the bridge. Esquimalt Lagoon is on Ocean Blvd, off the Old Island Highway. Call Rick at (250) 885-2454 or email Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca for more information.

Tuesday, January 9

NATURAL HISTORY NIGHT

From Cliff to Cabinet: Securing 18,000—52 Million Year Old Fossil Matrices for Research, Exhibition, and Learning

Poised majestically along cliff edges and below rock hoodoos, one of Canada's most richly diverse early Eocene fossil sites oversees the stark beauty of the Thompson River valley near Cache Creek, B.C. The McAbee Fossil Beds Heritage Site contains exceptional fossils vital for scientific research, education and viewing. The significance of the site was initially recognized by researchers, and later, Dave Langevin and John Leahy managed the site under mineral tenure, making important fossil collections before its Heritage Site designation in July 2012. This fall (2017), the Leahy family donated the fossils collected by John to the Royal B.C. Museum. Today, **Marji Johns** introduces you to the fossil site, some of the fossils and their significance, and initial plans for this new collection at the Museum. Marji received her M.Sc. from the University of Victoria and has worked for 39 years in paleontology and geoscience. She is currently Paleontology Collections Manager and Researcher at the Royal BC Museum. Kjerstin Mackie, Textile Conservator, Royal BC Museum, and Elisabeth Deom, Senior Stewardship Officer, Heritage Branch, B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations contributed to this presentation. We meet at 7:30 in Room 159, Fraser Building, University of Victoria. Everyone is welcome. Note: UVic parking is \$3.

Sunday, January 14

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 1)

Birding via Gulf Island Ferry

We are going to do a day trip on a Gulf Island Ferry and spend about 4 hours birding by boat. There are usually a lot of birds on the water at this time of year so we should get a good look at the birds that we generally strain to see from land. We will leave on the 9:35 a.m. ferry and return to Swartz Bay at 1:15 p.m. The ferry will stop at Pender, Galiano, Mayne and again at Pender before returning to Swartz Bay. We don't get off the ferry at the stops. Bring a lunch as food services are minimal on the ferry. Don't forget your binoculars and dress warmly as we will be outside most of the time. Fare is \$13.45 for a foot passenger.

Contact Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca or (250) 721-0634 to confirm attendance or for more information.

Tuesday, January 16

BOTANY NIGHT

Protection and Enhancement of Plant Species at Risk in City of Victoria parks

The City of Victoria has employed staff dedicated to protection and management of the natural areas of City's parks for more than a decade. The City's parks contain 90 ha of natural areas, remnants of the Garry Oak ecosystems that once covered the Victoria area. These ecosystems contain at least 10 plant species at risk protected by the Species at Risk Act. One particular focus for ecological restoration work is a recent project started in Beacon Hill Park and Summit Park: Environment Canada has supported a three-year project to protect habitat and enhance populations of five rare plants. Additional resources have been dedicated to re-introduction of golden paintbrush, a plant that disappeared from the parks almost 10 years ago. **Thomas Munson** provides information on project goals, methodology, successes and future directions for protection of these rarest of plant species in Victoria parks. Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature House, 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Saturday, January 20

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 2)

Birding Saanichton Bay Park

You are welcome to join the VNHS Saturday Birding Group who will be going to Saanichton Bay Park. As this is a birding hot-spot for wintering waterfowl, we should see loons, grebes, diving ducks and dabbling ducks. It is also a good area for passerines. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot off Mount Newton Cross Rd just a short distance past the all ways stop with Lochside Drive. Watch for the Central Saanich Park sign on the left. Call Rick at (250) 885-2454 or email Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca for more information.

Sunday, January 21

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 2)

Common Mosses of the Victoria Area

Our trip leader **Kem Luther** has stated that if we learn just 20 of the common moss species in the area that we will recognize about 95 percent of the moss plants we see in the woods around Victoria. Kem will show us most of the twenty to get us started. You must pre-register as the number of participants will be



Bonaparte's Gull. Photo: Marie O'Shaughnessy

limited to minimize habitat damage and allow optimal exchange of information. So register early. You are encouraged to bring a hand lens if you have one and dress for the weather. Contact Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca or 250-721-0634 for further information and to register.

Wednesday, January 24

BIRDERS' NIGHT

Things I Learned in 31 Years of Birding with Tom Briggs—A Man I Never Met

David Fraser will bring us insights into changes in BC bird numbers, distributions and nomenclature gained from entering 31 years of bird notes from Victoria birders Tom and Gwen Briggs from 1959 to 1990. Can you help solve the mystery of the appearing journals? We meet in Room 159 of the Fraser Building, UVic at 7:30 p.m. Come early to socialize! Presentation begins after VNHS announcements and coffee. Everyone is welcome. Note: UVic parking is \$3.

Monday, January 29

MARINE NIGHT

Microplastics in the Ocean: What We Know, and What We Don't.

Garth Covernton is a PhD student at the University of Victoria studying microplastics. Tiny pieces of plastics smaller than 5 mm are an emerging threat to the ocean's ecosystems, with ingestion now known to occur in animals ranging from small zooplankton to large baleen whales. The specific effects of microplastics on animals in the wild is still uncertain, yet scientists have shown negative impacts on animals which ingest high concentrations. This presentation will explore how microplastics get into our oceans, their impacts on marine animals, and discuss current work in B.C., including by the research group to which Garth belongs: the Ecological Interactions Research Program, based out of Vancouver Island University and the University of Victoria. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 159, Fraser Building, University of Victoria. Everyone is welcome. Note: UVic parking is \$3.

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 3

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 2)

Birding Saxe Point and Macaulay Point Parks

You are welcome to join the VNHS Saturday Birding Group who will be going to Saxe Point Park and Macaulay Point Park. Meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot at the end of the road in Saxe Point Park. To reach the park, turn south off Esquimalt Rd on to Fraser St which ends in the park. We can enjoy the ocean birds as well as some that are tucked away close to shore in protected waters. There are also some good bush birds, and often we see the resident Cooper's Hawk. Macaulay Point is more open and surprises there have included a Spotted Sandpiper and a Meadowlark, even at this time of year. One challenge is to find the California Quail who hide in the thickets. Call Rick at (250) 885-2454 or email Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca for more information.

Sunday February 11

EVENT

20th Valentine Couples Birdathon

How time flies. The Valentine Birdathon has left behind its callow teen-aged years and entered early adulthood. This annual event provides a fine opportunity for congenial couples to get up at 5:30 or 6 on a dark February morning and proceed to bird their brains out. The object of this very friendly competition is to find more species than anyone else in the prescribed 6 a.m. to noon period. Participants can walk, pedal or drive their way to glory, anywhere within the Victoria checklist area. Everyone meets at the Swan Lake Nature Centre afterwards to brag about their successes and lament their disappointments. An array of attractive prizes are typically provided, chief among them being the honour of seeing one's name inscribed on the storied Anderson Trophy. The cost of the event is \$10 per couple, the proceeds going entirely to VNHS conservation efforts. To register, or to request copies of the event rules and checklist contact Alan MacLeod: bigadore@gmail.com

Tuesday, February 13

NATURAL HISTORY NIGHT

Documenting Environmental Change with the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network

The myriad manifestations of global environmental change throughout ecosystems on every scale are tending to outpace institutional or centralized approaches to understand these changes. Citizen science approaches, however, are rapidly gaining capacity, raising the prospect that a popular resurgence of interest in natural history could play a crucial role in understanding and adapting to the rapid environmental change that is shaping the future of life on Earth. Adjunct Professor of Environmental Studies **Tom Okey** will invite us to learn about, engage, and participate in the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network. LEO can be explored at leonetwork.org. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 159 of the Fraser Building at the University of Victoria. Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to bring a friend. Note: UVic parking is \$3.

Saturday, February 17

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 3)

Boundary Bay and Raptors

Join us for a trip to Boundary Bay in Vancouver. We can expect to see large flocks of wintering waterfowl and shorebirds as well as visit some of the best wintering habitat for raptors in western Canada. There should be time for a trip to Reifel Bird Sanctuary as well. Bring a lunch and drinks as we will not be stopping for refreshments. Dress warmly as it can be windy near the water. We go rain or shine. Participants will carpool from in front of the Elk-Beaver Lake Regional Park Sign on Elk Lake Drive at 5:45 a.m. for the 7:00 a.m. ferry sailing. We plan to return on the 5:00 p.m. sailing. You must pre-register by contacting Agnes. First 8 people to sign up have the option of coming in her van. Others to carpool by pre-arrangement as number of cars are limited. Cost to come in the van or carpool with others will be about \$70 for the day from Victoria. Contact Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca or (250) 721-0634 to confirm attendance or for more information.

Tuesday, February 20

BOTANY NIGHT

A Short Walk in the Aussie Bush

Take a break from the short, cold, wet days of February to learn about the flora of southeast Australia. From remote beaches in Tasmania to the highest peaks of the Australian Alps, **Matt Fairbarns** will show us the plants and ecosystems of Australian National Parks. Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature House, 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Sunday, February 25

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 2)

Lichens on the Westshore Waterfront

After a stimulating presentation on lichens by Curtis Björk (Swan Lake, November 21), are you ready to see some of the lichens in East Sooke Regional Park? **Ryan Batten** and **Hans Roemer** have agreed to lead this field trip and share what they know about shoreline lichens. You must pre-register as the number of participants will be limited to minimize habitat damage and allow optimal exchange of information. So register early. You are encouraged to bring a hand lens if you have one and dress as warm and waterproof as possible. Contact Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca or (250) 721-0634 for further information and to register.

Monday, February 26

MARINE NIGHT

Respect Your Elders: Rockfish Conservation in the Salish Sea

Rockfish are fascinating fish, with more than 30 species in B.C., some have been aged at more than 200 years. Many species of rockfish are in peril in B.C.'s waters, and despite conservation efforts, recovery in the Strait of Georgia is slow. **Dr. Natalie Ban**, Associate Professor, UVic and **Jenna Falk**, Galiano Conservancy Association will tell the story of a partnership among the University of Victoria, the Galiano Conservancy Association and Valdes Island Conservancy, seeking to understand why compliance with conservation rules is lackluster, and acting to turn the tide for rockfish. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 159, Fraser Building, University of Victoria. Everyone is welcome. Note: UVic parking is \$3.

Wednesday, February 28

BIRDERS' NIGHT

West Papua New Guinea and Birds of Paradise

Don Cecile will share the experiences of a small group of birders that spent nearly a month exploring the jungles of West Papua New Guinea in search of the most elaborately plumed birds in the world. Their courtship rituals are nothing less than extraordinary! We meet in Room 159 of the Fraser Building, UVic at 7:30 p.m. Come early to socialize! Presentation begins after VNHS announcements and coffee. Everyone is welcome. Note: UVic parking is \$3.



FRIDAY APRIL 27 - SUNDAY APRIL 29
FRI: 7 PM - 9 PM | SAT - SUN: 7 AM - 6 PM

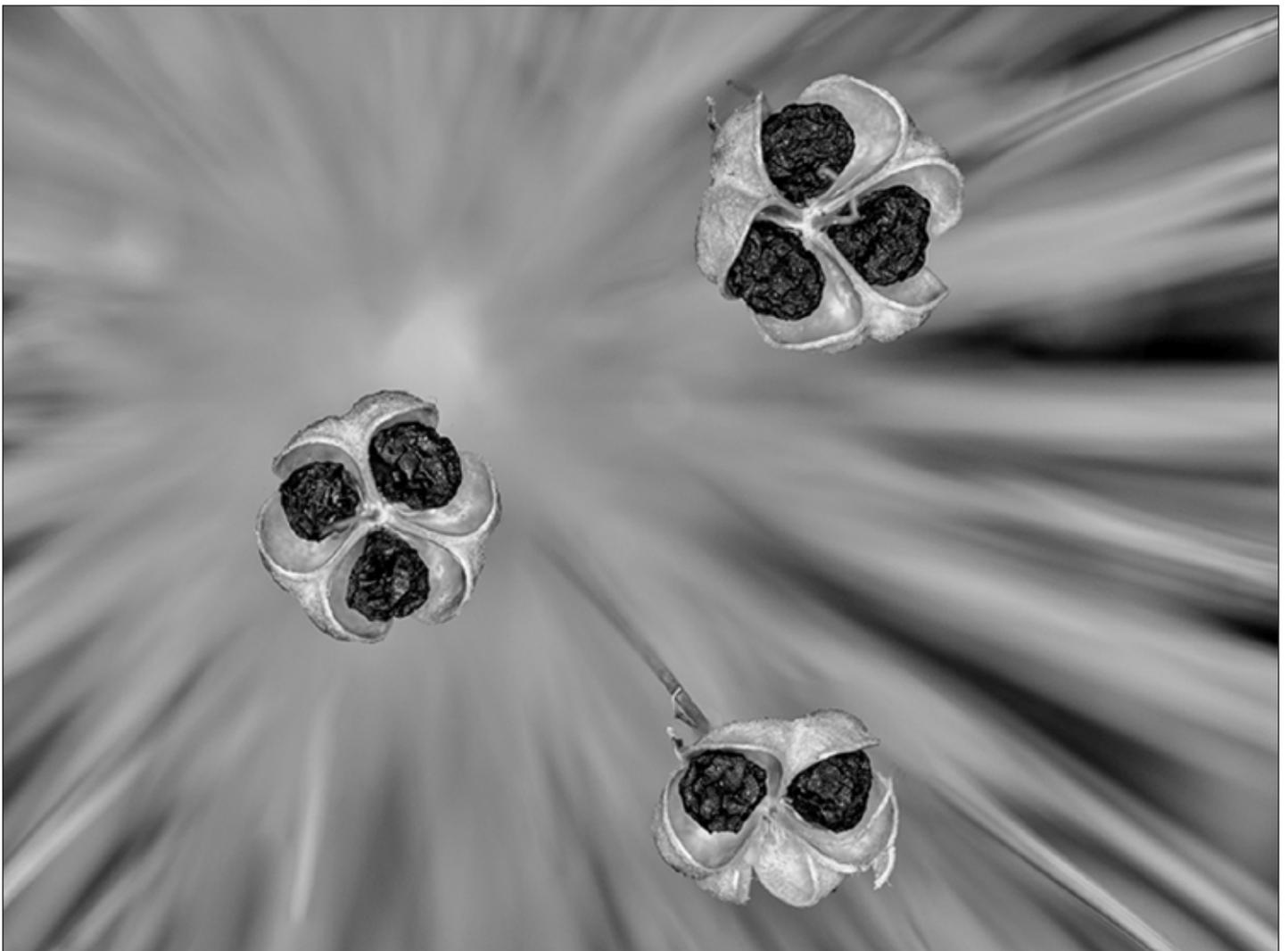
This three-day course, led by renowned bird experts, **Drs. David Bird and Rodger Titman**, is perfect for bird enthusiasts from novice to expert!

about their fascinating behaviours; delve into their biology to investigate how their bodies work; and last but not least, how to identify the vast array of these feathered marvels.

Be prepared to discover how birds do what they do; learn

COST \$275/person \$250/person
 Non Members Members

For more information or to register, please call 250-479-0211 or visit the Nature House at 3873 Swan Lake Rd, Victoria BC.



VNHS Photo contest first prize Botany/Fungi: small allium seeds. *Photo: Neil Boyle.*