The Victoria NATURALIST

MARCH
APRIL
2008
VOL 64.5

VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Victoria NATURALIST

Published six times a year by the
VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
P.O. Box 5220, Station B, Victoria, BC V8R 6N4

ISSN 0049—612X Printed in Canada

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Desktop Publishing: Frances Hunter, 479-1956
Distribution: Tom Gillespie, Phyllis Henderson
Printing: Fotoprint, 382-8218

Opinions expressed by contributors to *The Victoria Naturalist* are not necessarily those of the Society.

Annual Dues, Victoria Natural History Society
Payable online – see website for details
Includes *The Victoria Naturalist* and *B.C. Naturalist*
Regular $30.00 Golden Age $25.00
Family $35.00 Student $20.00
(Any donation in excess of the above fees is income tax deductible)

Type of Membership: Individual subscribing $30*; Family subscribing $35*; Subscription only: $20; Membership without subscription: $10/$15.
*less discount: Senior $5. *less discount: Student $10

RARE BIRD ALERT: 592-3381 **VNHS EVENTS TAPE**: 479-2054

VNHS Website: www.vicnhs.bc.ca

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

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Deadline for next issue: **April 1, 2008**
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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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We acknowledge the financial support of the government of Canada through the Publications Assistance Program. PAP Registration No. 9841

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COVER PHOTO: Western Grebe. *Photo*: Marie O'Shaughnessy

I can't even pretend to be disappointed that some of this space had to be relinquished due to a full issue. Dominating this issue are the results of the Christmas Bird Count (p.12-18), but it is also filled with items that others wrote with little-to-no arm twisting. Thank you!

And keep it coming!

Claudia

2008 Natural History Courses

Here's a chance to support the Society while learning a bit more about natural history. These programs will be taught by experienced VNHS trip leaders who have volunteered their time. The proceeds will support VNHS conservation and education activities. Please note the lower prices for members (yet another reason to join!). We are interested in offering other courses but require more leaders to come forward. Please contact Darren Copley at 479-6622 if you have any suggestions.

Beginning Birding

An easy introduction to the pursuit of birding for those with little or no previous experience. The emphasis will be on bird identification in the field. We will start with an illustrated lecture on March 6, 2008 and six Saturday morning field trips from March 8 to April 26. The cost will be $75 for non-members and $45 for members.

Beyond Beginning Birding

Take the next step beyond the basics of identification. Our group of local VNHS experts places an emphasis on birding by ear and the identifying field marks of those difficult groups and species. This course includes eight very diverse field sessions around Victoria led by eight different leaders. Sessions run on Sunday mornings beginning on April 27, 2008. The cost is $95.00 for non-members and $65.00 for members. The course is limited to fifteen participants.

If you have any questions, or would like to register, please contact Darren Copley at 479-6622 or dccopley@telus.net. More detailed brochures will be available in the new year.

Victoria Natural History Society

Commarginal Bittersweet – a New Clam Species to the B.C. Fauna

By Bill Merilees

The recent publication *Bivalve Seashells of Western North America* has provided a great impetus and tool to accurately identify the clams that frequent our local beaches and offshore waters. This monograph brings together in one volume all the clam species known to our Pacific Coast from Alaska to Baja California. Though the photographic illustrations are in black and white, their size and crispness of detail is superb. With this reference in hand, the task of identifying our clams is greatly simplified. It also allows material tentatively identified in times past to be re-evaluated and brought up-to-date.

Such was the case of a sample dredged from the entrance to Hardy Bay (Port Hardy) just off the Masterman Islands, June 7, 1996. From 22½ fathoms a large bag of fine shell was brought to the surface to be sorted. It was an "interesting haul" containing a number of not often seen species. The Indian Money Tusk, *Dentalium pretiosum*; the Attenuate Fileclam, *Limatula attenuata*; and the caecum, *Micracranellum crebricinctum*, were present, along with a great many Western Bittersweet clams, *Glycymeris septentrionalis*, a common subtidal clam. While re-examining this group of clams, two individuals appeared to be different. With the aid of the new reference mentioned above, they have been identified as *Glycymeris keenae*, the Commarginal Bittersweet, "Thus far known only from Forrester Island, southeastern Alaska".

The presence of the Commarginal Bittersweet at Hardy Bay extends the range of this species southward from 54.8 degrees North to 50.45 degrees North, a distance of approximately 485 km, and provides the first record for this species from British Columbia and a new species for Canada.

The opportunity to sample at the Masterman Islands was courtesy of Frank Stoney from his fishing vessel the *Marbella*.

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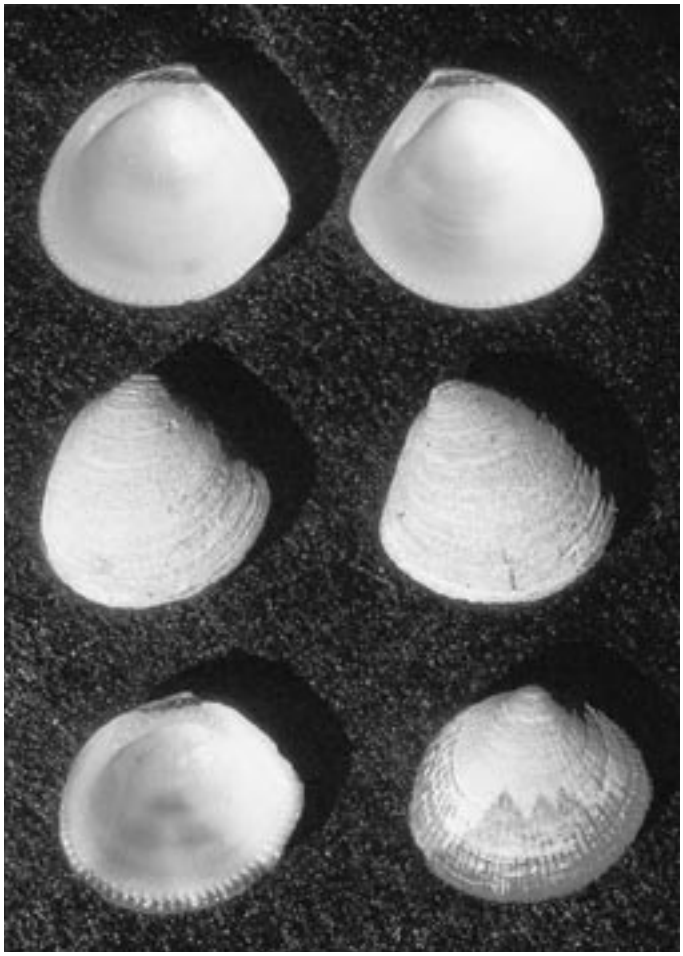

Top and middle rows: Commarginal Bittersweet (*Glycymeris keenae*) Bottom Row: Western Bittersweet (*Glycymeris septentrionalis*). *Photo provided by author*

Do You Remember Harry Davidson? 1915–2007

By Bob Chappell

Photo provided by author

I cannot ever forget him! I was 20 years old when I was hired out of Vancouver, and joined his Electronic Engineering group at the Pacific Naval Laboratory, in the Esquimalt Dockyard. Harry was a scientist (electrical engineer) and former member of the National Research Council. He was also my first Section Head and a member of the Victoria Natural History Society, way back in time, and for two years was the organizer of the annual bird count in the Victoria area. His office gave him a 180-degree view of the ocean, and his binoculars were hung in his office, always at the ready for a new bird. He was a fierce adversary on the badminton and tennis courts, and finally hung the rackets up after 83 years. He was an avid sailor, plying local waters and cruising the Gulf Islands with his wife Eileen.

I wish him fast winds and smooth sailing on his new adventures!

The British Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas

By Ann Nightingale

The BC Breeding Bird Atlas is a seven year project to determine the distribution and relative abundance of birds across the province. The Maritimes, Ontario and Alberta already have atlases, but this is the first project of its kind undertaken in BC. For the next five years, birders will be asked to report evidence of breeding – ranging from appearances of pairs of birds, or males singing all the way to seeing young fledging from nests. The last two years of the project will be used to compile and analyze the results.

Altases provide frameworks for monitoring long-term changes in biodiversity across large geographic areas, which can in turn be related to changes in climate, habitat and land-use. The British Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas builds on the experience gained on other projects. The province has been is divided into 10 km atlas "squares". Regional coordinators will assign these squares to individuals or groups of birders who then go out and systematically survey, square by square, for evidence of breeding birds. These grid-based atlases differ from the distribution maps found in your favourite field guide because they represent a "snap-shot" in time, rather than a compilation of historical records, and present information on a fine enough scale that even small changes in breeding bird distribution will be apparent in the future.

The project has a Coordination Office supporting a network of volunteer Regional Coordinators. You need to be able to identify birds correctly but you do not need to be expert – all records are welcome. Individuals who don't wish to take on a square can still participate by providing information on their own sightings throughout the region. To make the task of compiling the information easier, we encourage all data to be entered on-line. We'll have other methods for those without access to a computer to submit their information. The results will appear in real-time on this web site.

For more information, go to the BCBBA website at http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca. To register to participate, please use the form on the BCBBA website or contact your Regional Coordinator. There are six regions on Vancouver Island:

18.	**Victoria/S. Gulf Islands** birdatlasbc18@gmail.com	**Ann Nightingale** 250-652-6450
19.	**Nanaimo-Qualicum** birdatlasbc19@gmail.com	**Steve Baillie** 250-754-5297
20.	**Bamfield-Port Alberni** birdatlasbc20@gmail.com	**Sandy McRuer** 250-723-7102
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23.	**North Island** birdatlasbc23@gmail.com	**Annemarie Koch** 250-973-6465

Exotic Species in Capital Regional District Parks

By Hillary Ward, Daryl Suen and Dr. Wayne Goodey

Achieving the goal of conservation in parks depends upon the ability of the area to maintain habitats and populations of regional native species. Ecological changes driven by the effects of urbanization have permitted the replacement of some indigenous plant species by exotic (non-indigenous) ones, and many urban areas are becoming dominated by exotic species (Turner *et al*., 2005). Exotic species can pose threats to native species and change ecosystem function. It is necessary to understand the role of invasive species in order to adequately develop management strategies to protect and preserve natural areas.

Species richness (the number of species present) within parks is known to be a function of park size, and of land use both within the park and in the area outside park boundaries (Rivard *et al*., 2000). The establishment of exotic species is favoured by human activity and disturbance, which, in turn, affect the vegetation structure of an area (Celesti-Grapow *et al*., 2006). Frequent and/or intense disturbances are likely to disrupt the natural successional sequences of an area, and lead to the possibility of exotic species out-competing native species in establishment (Celesti-Grapow *et al*., 2006). Effective management of native species requires detailed information on the location of native vegetation, the type of vegetation, and the historic and current ecological processes influencing the native vegetation community in an area. An understanding of the combined influence of human activity and park size on park vegetation structure and composition is necessary to appropriately determine park management strategies for invasive species.

This study examined differences in species composition in six regional parks varying in size and level of visitor use. Vegetation surveys were conducted using randomly placed plots in open grass-dominated areas in six different parks within the Greater Victoria area. Vegetation in each plot was identified to species level, and the percent cover of each species within a plot was estimated. We found that each park had its own unique plant community differing in plant species and species proportions. The present study provides a preliminary look at the diversity of vegetation at the species level in a few parks. Our results provide insight into what factors should be considered in future studies on the effect of park size and disturbance level on the invasion of non-indigenous plant species in parks in the CRD Parks system.

The range of mean species richness (number of species per plot) values for the high-use parks and low-use parks was similar (5.71 species per plot to 10.00 species per plot and 5.05 species per plot to 10.71 species per plot respectively). Land use changes (both within and surrounding parks) can facilitate the establishment of exotic plant species, which in turn negatively affects the ability of the remaining intact habitat to support native species (McKinney, 2002). As a result, it is likely that species richness within these study parks is affected by the degree of urbanization within close proximity to park boundaries. This factor has important management implications for both the maintenance and acquisition of regional parks.

The relative abundance (measured by percent cover) of exotic species was similar in all parks except in Devonian Regional Park. The extremely high exotic abundance in Devonian Regional Park further supports the finding that species composition is influenced by surrounding land use (Rivard *et al*., 1999). Adjacent to Devonian Regional Park is a pasture composed of invasive grasses (mainly quackgrass, *Agropyron repens*). *Agropyron repens* was the dominant species (>30% plot area coverage) in Devonian Park, suggesting that this one homogeneous pasture may be the driving force in the invasion of the whole park. No such single influence was apparent in any of the other parks, suggesting that the type of land-use must be considered when applying park size and surrounding land-uses for an explanation of the success of exotic invasives.

Park Size and Annual Number of Visitors for Six CRD Parks

Park	*Number of Visitors*	*Park Size (Ha)*
Devonian Regional Park	27 962	16
Island View Regional Park	257 070	42
Mount Work Regional Park	172 195	575
Thetis Lake Regional Park	562 832	831
Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt Regional Park Reserve	32 000	1628
East Sooke Regional Park	109 710	1435

Open grassland in Devonian Regional Park. *Photo provided by author*

How exotic invasion proceeds is still a matter of contention. The results of this study showed that an increase in overall species richness corresponded to a proportional increase in native species richness. This provides support for the idea that as species richness increases, the native plant community is apparently better able to exclude the establishment of exotic species. The observed variation in diversity, species richness, and abundance between parks suggest that park size and visitor use are two factors that influence the vegetation community within parks. The amount of variation may be related not only to park area and numerical visitor use, but also to land use within and surrounding the parks. As a result, appropriate invasive species management strategies require a detailed understanding of the interactions of many different forces that influence exotic species establishment.

This study showed that large park areas support the greatest species diversity, and it is therefore recommended that purchases focus on obtaining large sections of new land. Furthermore, connectivity of land parcels provides very little benefit for maintaining natural plant community structures if connecting sections are small in size. Corridors with large edge-to-area ratios increase the "edge effect" by increasing the dispersal rate of invasive plant propagules and seeds per unit area of the corridor, and can facilitate the spread of exotic species from adjacent areas. The same edge effects have been shown to facilitate abiotic disturbances, for example fires, by increasing the proportion of park area exposed to such disturbances (Krebs, 2001). Theoretical work suggests that corridors connecting small patches of remnant habitat to larger reserves may actually facilitate the spread of colonists to the larger reserve because the corridors are likely disturbed habitat and act as a corridor for invasive species as well as indigenous species (Krebs, 2001). This suggests that although human visitors may benefit from the access provided by corridors, the potential ecological costs of disturbed corridors may outweigh these benefits.

The restoration of compromised ecosystems poses many challenges. No matter what restorative measures are to be taken, the first step to reducing the impact of exotic species is to not only quantify the amount of disturbance but also the type and the associated vectors of exotic species establishment. Additional studies are required throughout every park in the CRD, and in more detail than possible in the present study; repeated sampling of sites every few years would give an ongoing measure of the dynamic processes of invasion and stability. This long-term monitoring would provide a basis for evaluating changes. Since invasions are dynamic, you first need a reasonably long baseline period to see how they are advancing. Once you are sure of the naturally occurring patterns, you can use the ongoing observations to track the effects of management intervention. It will be up to the managers whether they want to manage some parks and leave others alone, for a better-controlled evaluation of the practices.

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Four Views of Global Warming

K.R. Prior

Villanelle for an Overheated Planet

The forecast calls for constant heavy rain,
Wal-Mart is selling aspirins by the pound:
is FEMA ready for a hurricane?

climate change is in the news again,
globalization spreads the risk around:
the forecast calls for constant heavy rain.

first world and third alike must share the pain,
(preliminary talks have broken down):
is FEMA ready for a hurricane?

the social contract went right down the drain
as we waited for the wealth to trickle down:
the forecast calls for constant heavy rain.

authorities are bracing for the strain,
bureaucracy's the only game in town:
is FEMA ready for a hurricane?

this is no time for asking who's to blame,
we've got to get this road map off the ground:
the forecast calls for constant heavy rain,
is FEMA ready for a hurricane?

Bushmeat

pay no attention to the human shapes,
it's meat, that's all, like Sunday roast or chops,
when all is said and done, they're only apes.

you really have to judge it by the taste
--we're talking top class dining, haute cuisine:
pay no attention to the human shapes.

we're carnivores, and nature makes it plain
that any other species is fair game:
when all is said and done, they're only apes.

they eat each other given half a chance
(the very choicest meat is in the hand):
pay no attention to the human shapes,

the bleeding hearts, the carcasses in heaps,
come to the store and pick your favourite cut:
when all is said and done they're only apes.

can they survive? just don't get up your hopes
for protein-rich, nutritious chimpanzees.
(pay no attention to the human shapes,
when all is said and done they're only apes).

Ballad of the Golden Cow

I tell the tale of the golden cow
that ate the world,
ate Alberta and Arizona,
most of Amazonia
and the whole of Patagonia

they laughed all the way to the bank in Alberta
and south of the border
they worshipped the cow
for beefing up the NASDAQ
and nourishing the Dow,
for there poured forth
from the holy beast
copious streams of liquid gold
and regular heaps
of gleaming nuggets, bars and ingots.

it didn't matter what it ate
the more it ate the more it laid,
golden eggs, golden handshakes,
gilt-edged stocks, Treasury bonds,
high-yield assets, mutual funds,
bulls and bears and golden geese,
golden bread, golden meat,
golden even wine and water,
endless sparkling golden rain
glutting streams and feeding rivers
swelling rising golden seas
as far as lens can reach
and beyond
where under skies of molten gold
the waves break on the dwindling shores
of a golden silent world.

“all of creation” (Hildegard of Bingen)

all of creation
she gave to us
to use, to enjoy

all this creation
that we misuse
will bring us surely
all to damnation

the lady’s justice
is insistent
on sequence
causality not punishment

best of all mercy:
we have forgotten who she is.

from mountain peak
to ocean trench
all of creation
she gave us
to use and enjoy

should we misuse
this priceless gift
it will bring us
all to damnation

nature being as it is
not punishment
but consequence

turning to Kali
all of creation.

Banana Slugs

By Moralea Milne

One of the creatures which most astounds visitors to our wet, west coast is our Pacific banana slug (*Ariolimax columbianus*). Evincing gasps of astonishment and revulsion in equal measure, banana slugs can reach 25 cm in length and weigh 113 grams! Usually a light tan colour with random, darker blotches, like an over ripe banana, they can be anything from white to black, spotted or not. Although they are common in rural and natural areas, they have not adapted well to urbanization and are rarely found in developed regions; there you will find a selection of introduced, invasive species that bedevil gardeners and greenhouse operators alike.

The great grey garden slug (*Limax maximus*) is a formidable pest of the agricultural industry as well as home gardeners. Another introduced slug species, the black or licorice slug (*Arion rufus*), has strayed far from urban centres. This glossy, (usually) black pest can be found rapaciously feeding from ocean side to mountaintop. Wild native slugs are generally territorial and solitary animals, preferring to remain in the vicinity of a favoured, protected space.

All slugs are molluscs, a group that also includes oysters, octopus and snails. Invertebrates with soft bodies, often with hard outer shells, molluscs are most often found in aquatic environments. Those that have adapted to land, particularly without shells, need sufficient moisture to survive and you will most often find them out on rainy days or in the night.

Banana slugs can crawl along at the great speed of ten metres per hour, the locomotion provided by a powerful band of muscle in the sole of its foot. For interest, place a slug on a piece of plate glass and view the fascinating interplay of rippling muscles in action from below.

Slugs are voracious, some eating up to several times their weight each day. With the help of up to 27,000 backward pointing teeth-like projections (the radula), they devour fungi, lichens and plants, while a few species prefer a modicum of protein in their diets and consume insects, carrion, even other slugs.

Slugs process information through sensory cells that are found throughout their bodies, especially around their mouths, tentacles and along the foot. Slugs have two sets of tentacles, the longer pair are tipped with eyes that can distinguish light from dark and are possibly able to detect

Banana slug (*Ariolimax columbianus*). *Photo*: Moralea Milne

Black or licorice slug (*Arion rufus*). *Photo*: Darren Copley

sources of heat. A shorter set, close to the ground, are used for taste and smell.

What is more synonymous with slugs and our sense of disgust than slug slime? Slugs produce two types of mucus that aid in locomotion, prevent dehydration and protect them from predators. Their mucus has the ability to absorb water up to 100 times its initial volume; in practical terms, this means do not try to remove slug slime from your hands with water, it will only increase the amount of mucus. Instead, roll it off your hands, the same way you would with glue or gum. Scientists are studying slug mucus and exploring ideas that use the mechanics of slug mucus in new drug delivery systems, as pollutant traps for sewage treatments plants, and as water based lubricants. In recent scientific experiments it has been found that slug slime accelerates decomposition in leaf litter, contributing to soil accumulation and forest health.

Banana slugs hibernate through the hot, dry summer months (aestivate). Wet weather triggers their mating instincts, so in the Pacific Northwest, that means mating can occur during much of the year.

Warning!!! The sex life of a slug is an x-rated affair and if you are easily offended or suffer from a delicate condition, you should skip this section! Slugs are hermaphrodites, that is, they are equipped with both male and female sex organs and if a potential partner is not in the vicinity, they can successfully reproduce by themselves. In the long term, however, the genetic vitality of the species as a whole is increased through the exchange of genes. Slugs have developed an elaborate courtship; they spend hours circling one another, while lunging, nipping and sideswiping each other with their tails. They have a disproportionately enlarged penis, up to half their total body length. The species name for the Santa Cruz or slender banana slug, a near relative of our Pacific banana slug is *dolichophallus*, or long penis. As the mating progresses the slugs entwine into an S position, continuing to stimulate and encourage each other for hours, finally releasing and receiving sperm simultaneously. Banana slugs go even further into the world of the bizarre; after hours of sticky foreplay with such well-endowed sex organs, they can become stuck together, like the two randy dogs I recently witnessed in a doorway of a Mexican hotel. To uncouple, one will chew off the penis of the other slug. Hmmm, apparently the penis-less slug will now act the role of a female, supplying eggs only, while the victorious penis-endowed slug will be able to both provide and receive fertilisation, giving it a genetic advantage. Enough said!

Finally, three to fifty white or golden eggs are laid in a suitably moist location, under a rotting log or in a hole in the ground. Depending on weather conditions, the eggs will hatch in three to eight weeks, although eggs laid in the fall will usually overwinter.

Banana slugs are generally not a major problem for gardeners but the introduced species can destroy tender young shoots soon after planting. Slug bait formulations can be bought at garden supply outlets but they are ***extremely toxic*** to birds, cats, dogs and young children. Some kill off earthworms and other soil fauna. Instead, when waging battle against these ravenous molluscs, try some of the following, less harmful methods. Alter the environment by removing slug hiding places; avoid overwatering; cultivate bare soil to destroy slug eggs; supply habitat for snakes, such as south facing rock piles (all of our snakes are harmless and feast on the slimy molluscs). Most slugs feed at night. You can pick them by hand and drop them into soapy water. Please do not use salt, which is a cruel and painful end. Build beer traps and let the dead slugs accumulate; they are an added enticement to the thirsty, alcoholic slugs. Erect low, solid copper barriers around your most sensitive and favoured plants; contact between slug and copper produces an unpleasant electric shock, which will deter all but the most dim-witted slugs!

There are several other native slug species on southern Vancouver Island. Taildroppers, as their name implies, have the ability to release a tasty section of their tail, cover themselves in a less appetizing mucus and, hopefully, gain time to escape their predator. In BC, the blue-listed scarlet-back taildropper (*Prophysaon vanattae*) is found only in the Southern Vancouver Island area and the blue-grey taildropper (*Prophysaon coeruleum*) is a rare, red-listed species, recently found at Mary Hill and Devonian Park in Metchosin. The more common yellow-bordered taildropper (*Prophysaon foliolatum*) I found on Camas Hill was about 2.5 cm long, with an almost teal blue foot that had a faint yellow edge. It is actually quite remarkable when viewed in a magnified photo.

Another new discovery is the dromedary jumping slug (Hemphillia dromedarius), found at Muir Creek. Jumping slugs protect themselves by twisting, turning, and leaping frantically when disturbed. (*Editor's note*: Thanks to Kristina Ovaska, you can now see jumping slug acrobatics on utube: <http://www.youtube.com/>)

Don't be repulsed by our native slugs, they play an important ecological role in our forests by hastening decomposition of organic materials, by fertilizing the soil and by dispersing seeds and spores. Marvel at their unique lives and appreciate their contribution to our distinctive southern Vancouver Island ecosystems.

2007 Christmas Bird Count Results

By Ann Nightingale

Sooooo close! For me, the highlight of the 2007 Christmas Bird Count was the number of field participants: 196, including several under 18 year olds. This is the same number of participants as we had in 2004, the year we made the big push for (and made) the Canadian species record. We had awesome numbers of participants, especially considering the weather. It ranged from dry in parts of the circle to a full day downpour in others. Thanks very much to everyone who got out and counted and extra kudos to the folks in the western and northern parts of the circle who got drenched while recording the birds! I have no doubt we'll be breaking that 200 mark very soon. Our feeder watcher numbers remain disappointingly low, with fewer than 30 households reporting their birds. I'm at a loss to explain this, and welcome any advice and help!

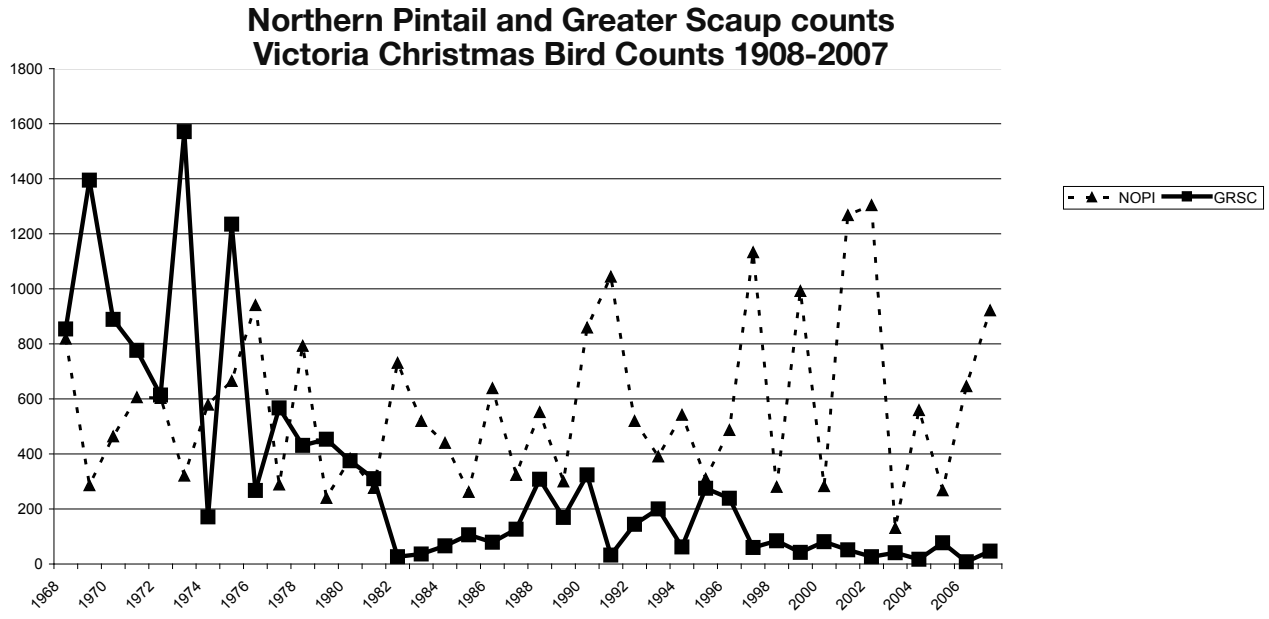
Once again, despite our low to average bird turnout (69,903), we managed to get several record high counts (Brant, Cackling Goose, Mourning Dove, American Tree Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow) and one new species – Osprey. The Osprey was a double surprise – it was reported from two adjacent zones (Central Highlands, Langford Lake) on the count day, and was seen again in the Happy Valley area a few days later. Other rarities for the day included a Rusty Blackbird and two Horned Larks at Martindale Flats as well as the previously mentioned Brant (Island View Beach) and American Tree Sparrows (Swan Lake). Our most notable miss was the American Dipper, which managed to avoid our rain-soaked team at Goldstream Park on the count day, but was seen during the count week.

There has been a lot of emphasis this year on declining common birds. Several species that appear on the Audubon Society's "top 20" species in decline over the last 40 years are found here in the winter, some as rarities, others as common sightings. I've put the two most common of these in a graph to see what is happening here.

Interestingly, our Northern Pintail numbers seem to be holding their own. Despite huge fluctuations through the years, there is no clear declining trend. Continent-wide, the numbers for this species are down 77% in the last 40 years.

Greater Scaup, however, seem to be following the North American trend here. The Audubon Society reports a decline of 75%. Our drop appears even more significant than that. One cause for local decline is undoubtedly the extension of the Clover Point outfall. Longtime birders report huge rafts just offshore in the '60s and '70s, which disappeared when the outfall was lengthened. This local anecdote exemplifies the importance of a coordinated continental count, and our contributions to it. We might have assumed that these birds had simply moved on to a more abundant food source if the only data we could see was our own. However, the Audubon Society used information from all of the Christmas Bird Counts as well as other bird population sources to make the determination of the bird's status. The Greater Scaup is in serious trouble throughout the continent!

After the count, we had our first pot luck dinner in recent CBC history. There was a great turnout for the hot meal, and thanks go to everyone who participated. Several people chipped in for the cleanup, and we got everything washed,



dried and put away within about 20 minutes! We'll do it again – if I can find someone else to coordinate it. If you are an aspiring (or retiring) social planner, I'd love to talk to you. It's not a lot of work – just too much to handle on top of the regular bird count responsibilities.

2008 will be the 50th Anniversary of our count circle, established by David Stirling and others back in 1958. We'll definitely be pulling out all the stops for this one! Mark your calendars for December 20, 2008!

Participant List, Victoria CBC 2007

Arnold Adlkirchner
Dave Aldcroft
Robert Alison
Mary Andrews
Clare Aries
Cole Barber
Ian Barclay
Debra Barr
Jacklyn Barrs
Lonny Bate
Doug Bateman
Ron Bates
Brent Beach
Sylvia Beacon
Lindsay Beal
Barb Begg
Fred Beinhauer
Louise Beinhauer
Iris Bensari
Mike Bentley
Janice Brown
Daniel Bryant
Martha Burd
Kathy Calvert
Ian Cameron
David Campbell
Muriel Carlson
Beverley Catrall
David Cattral
Bob Chappell
Aziza Cooper
Claudia Copley
Darren Copley
Pat Cownden
Elizabeth Cross
Ian Cruickshank
Helen Currie
Jim Currie
Bill Dancer
Laura Darling
Gabriel David
Isobel Dawson
Brent Diakow
Warren Drinnan
Veronica Druce
Don Eastman
Mike Edgell
Ros Eldridge
Chris Engelstoft
Sue Ennis
June Evans
Jenny Feick
Cam Finlay
Joyce Finlay
Dave Fraser
Moretta Frederick
Marilyn Fuchs
Jeff Gaskin
Jeremy Gatten
Tracee Geernaert
David Gellately
Tom Gillespie
Heather Glass
Sharon Godkin
Rob Gowan
Mitchell Grant
Frances Gundry
Robert Hadley
Andrew Harcombe
Bruce Hardy
Chris Harris
Gordon Hart
Ian Hatter
Phyllis Henderson
John Henigman
Ron Hoppe
Bob Houston
Geoff Huber
Edith Hunsberger
Doreen Hunter
Gaileen Irwin
Lynda Jamison
Colin Jennings
Gary Kaiser
Susan Karens
Barb Kirby
Jim Kirby
Adrian Koolman
Rhonda Korol
Barbara Lake
Bob Lake
Marilyn Lambert
ian Larval
Arlene Lavall
Warren Lee
Margaret Lidkea
Kitty Lloyd
Eric Lofroth
Kem Luther
Agnes Lynn
David Lynn
Bob Mackie
Cheryl Mackie
Alan MacLeod
Pat MacLeod
Morwyn Marshall
Jeanne S. Martin
Derrick Marven
Ean Maxwell
Pat Maxwell
Barb McGrenere
Mike McGrenere
Bill McMillan
Marilyn Miller
Kirsten Mills
Gail Mireau
Marilyn Misner
Glen Moores
Judy Moores
Ken Morgan
Mary Morris
Donna Murray
Trev Neufeld
David Newell
Geoffrey Newell
Ann Nightingale
Lois North
Brian Nyberg
Hennie Nyhof
Mark Nyhof
Marie O'Shaughnessy
Patti Parish
Ed Pellizzon
Patricia Perkins
Tom Plath
June Pretzer
Mike Price
Clive Prior
Alwen Rambo
Leah Ramsay
Paul Randusen
Cathy Reader
Emma Reader
Rebecca Reader
David Riedel
Wayne Robertson
Dave Robichaud
Mary Robichaud
Robin Robinson
Heidi Roemer
Donna Ross
Madeline Routeley
Chris Saunders
Ann Scarfe
Rick Schortinghuis
Vicky Scott
Margie Shephard
Michael Simmons
Rosalind Simmons
Juliet Simon
Camilla Smith
Norma Smith
Joan Sommers
Unjit Songseecnongu
Sheila South
Margaret Stevens
Tom Stevens
Andy Stewart
Ann Stewart
Irene Stewart
David Stirling
Patti Sullivan
Jack Sutherland
Ken Sutill
Adam Taylor
Jacquie Taylor
Danielle Thompson
Michael Tripp
Andy Tuecher
Ed Tupper
Gail Tupper
Wendy Tyrell
Max Urbanoski
Joyce Vezina
Leo Vezina
Peter Vivian
Fern Walker
Ted Walker
Carol Wardle
Stephanie Weinstein
Sharon White
Bruce Whittington
Harvey Williams
Genie Wright
Lars Yunker
Mark Yunker

2007 Victoria Christmas Bird Count including Feeder Watch

Count Areas	Butchart Gardens / Northern Highlands	Central Highlands	Goldstream	Thetis Lake / Hastings Flats	Langford Lake	Albert Head / Triangle Mtn	Esquimalt Lagoon / Mill Hill	Esquimalt Harbour	Portage Inlet / The Gorge	Victoria Harbour	Beacon Hill	Oak Bay	UVIC/ Cadboro Bay	10 Mile Point	Gordon Head / Mount Douglas	Swan Lake / Cedar Hill	Blenkinsop / Panama Flats	Elk Lake / Cordova Bay	Prospect Lake / Quicks Bottom	Martindale / Bear Hill	Albert Head / Esq Harbour (offshore)	Feeders	Victoria Count (Field & Feeder)	** indicates new record in 2007
Species	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**23**		**Total #**	**Prev High**
Snow Goose																				1			**1**	68
Brant																				4			**4**	**3
Cackling Goose				1													60			45			**106**	**47
Canada Goose	1398		3	168	80	55	142	39	61			1	23		26	6	737	155	149	825	10	21	**3,899**	5156
Mute Swan							25		6														**31**	77
Trumpeter Swan	160			31		1										6	49		35	29			**311**	458
Wood Duck													19		12	3							**34**	74
Gadwall	39			2	2	9											31		47	32			**162**	170
Eurasian Wigeon	1		1				1				1					1	1			2			**8**	28
American Wigeon	2043		25	37		13	85	4	62	2	291	2	36		10	162	242	103	7	206			**3,330**	14889
Mallard	3576	5	12	96	32	52	94	24	44	75	464	3	144	122	184	292	872	440	83	596			**7,210**	10336
Northern Shoveler	54			2	4					1			7			4	20	17	7	24			**140**	476
Northern Pintail	840			7			37										38						**922**	1304
Green-winged Teal	52		1	24		3			1								31		7	187			**306**	685
Canvasback									26								2	80	3				**111**	230
Ring-necked Duck	84	2	4	6	12	7		10	10				2			6	38	11	302	6			**500**	663
Greater Scaup									35							1			8	3			**47**	3100
Lesser Scaup	6			4			15		170		2	3				1				12			**213**	1012
Unidentified scaup																			1				**1**	
Harlequin Duck						11	2	4		5	17	26	1	17	7			7			6		**103**	410
Surf Scoter						67	31	30		39	18	14		52	5			58		50	60		**424**	1478
White-winged Scoter						38	3	15				4		9	1			5		1	70		**146**	834
Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)						5		25				3		35	27			117		5	40		**257**	577
Bufflehead	42	14		5	23	130	254	118	224	158	56	59	43	22	97	26	8	192	19	75	20		**1,585**	2863
Common Goldeneye	1		2			3	34	4	9	68	6	1			27			91	5	18			**269**	745
Barrow's Goldeneye			63																				**63**	361
Hooded Merganser	29	18	4	3	15	9	4	35	40	27	3	76	11	17	9	153	40	5	15	15	15		**543**	662
Common Merganser	23	2	5	8	11	3	2	25	11	23		51		43	1	2	3	34	14	6	10		**277**	1600
Red-breasted Merganser			1		2	18	12	52		75	34	21	10	22	68			252		34	6		**607**	791
Ruffed Grouse		1																				42	**1**	10
California Quail	98	17		21		19	11		12		5								28	22		42	**275**	580
Red-throated Loon							3	4	1	3		1						14		2			**28**	140
Pacific Loon			1			8		2	1	3	1	6	2	45	42			17		7	2		**137**	488
Common Loon	3					3	2	2		6	6	2	1	2	6			10		8	4		**55**	109
Pied-billed Grebe		1		2	34		4		2	1						3	3	24	6				**80**	100
Horned Grebe	1					35	6	6		2	2	4	1	12	4			55		5			**133**	1100
Red-necked Grebe					11	6	1	18		22		21	2	10	8			7		5	40		**151**	671
Western Grebe						1	71	12	2	2		5		1				2		5	6		**107**	3314
Brandt's Cormorant						4	2				7	10		18				1		6			**48**	3549
Double-crested Cormorant	5	2	7	2	73	19	14	44	17	117	7	21	1	31	21	15	5	56	25	6	90	1	**579**	1004
Pelagic Cormorant						4	1	26		39	5	20	2	35				27		6	80		**245**	2300
Unidentified cormorant																		15					**15**	
Great Blue Heron	3	1	1	1		7	2	3	1	1	5		3	3	1	4	3	8	5	15			**67**	162
Turkey Vulture								1															**1**	11
Osprey		1			1																		**1**	new record
Bald Eagle (adult)	8	4	15	6	6	6	2	8	3	5	1	2	1	9	9	3	1	4	9	7			**109**	448
Bald Eagle (immature)		2	13	2	1	5	6	2				2	1	2	2			2	4	7	2		**53**	incl above
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2												1				1	1	2			**7**	30
Cooper's Hawk	1					1			4	1	1		1	1	1			1		4		3	**19**	62
Red-tailed Hawk	9	1		5		3								1	3	2	2	1	6	8			**41**	79
American Kestrel	1																			4			**5**	8
Merlin	1	1		1			1		1				2	1				1		3			**12**	25
Peregrine Falcon										1			2	2			1	1		2			**5**	15
Ring-necked Pheasant																				3			**3**	93

2007 Victoria Christmas Bird Count including Feeder Watch

Count Areas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	23	Feeders	Victoria Count (Field & Feeder)	** indicates new record in 2007
Species	Butchart Gardens / Northern Highlands	Central Highlands	Goldstream	Thetis Lake / Hastings Flats	Langford Lake	Albert Head / Triangle Mtn	Esquimalt Lagoon / Mill Hill	Esquimalt Harbour	Portage Inlet / The Gorge	Victoria Harbour	Beacon Hill	Oak Bay	UVIC/ Cadboro Bay	10 Mile Point	Gordon Head / Mount Douglas	Swan Lake / Cedar Hill	Blenkinsop / Panama Flats	Elk Lake / Cordova Bay	Prospect Lake / Quicks Bottom	Martindale / Bear Hill	Albert Head / Esq Harbour (offshore)		Total #	Prev High
Virginia Rail																		5	3				8	14
American Coot	8				5		43		1	2						2	72	706	6	4			**849**	1712
Black-bellied Plover														1									**1**	282
Killdeer	22										1	16							1	150			**190**	370
Black Oystercatcher						3				2	2	7	2	4							6		**26**	96
Spotted Sandpiper										1													**1**	4
Greater Yellowlegs										1		3											**4**	70
Black Turnstone						20	52	13		38	11	42		32				1		30			**239**	370
Surfbird						16																	**16**	70
Sanderling										4										20			**24**	67
Dunlin							31				4			1						6			**42**	960
Wilson's Snipe										1					1		6			3			**10**	37
Bonaparte's Gull										1							1				20		**22**	5004
Mew Gull		3	4		55	182	782	172	4	141	21	111	1	30	130	5	4	76	4	600	30		**2,355**	16375
California Gull																				1			**1**	130
Herring Gull	3		2				1																**6**	288
Thayer's Gull	1		1		41	17	5	21		1		22				1		4		3	40		**157**	3110
Western Gull						1																	**1**	18
Glaucous-winged Gull	774	50	395	114	70	284	144	121	295	475	214	62	112	68	139	204	129	211	176	380	120	40	**4,577**	16794
Unidentified Gull								15							32			102					**149**	6589
Common Murre						2	4			11			1	5						5	80		**108**	9938
Pigeon Guillemot.						7				5		2		15	2			44		8	6		**89**	260
Marbled Murrelet							4				2												**6**	290
Ancient Murrelet						120				33		1		1							150		**304**	6401
Rhinocerous Auklet						11	2			3				1									**17**	113
Rock Pigeon	2			1			60		101	53	54	15	12	8	22		18	2	14	64		78	**504**	1198
Mourning Dove																				23			**23**	**21
Western Screech-owl																			1				**1**	23
Great Horned Owl		1				2													5	1			**9**	44
Barred Owl	1												1						1			1	**4**	11
Northern Saw-whet Owl																			1	1			**2**	4
Anna's Hummingbird	8	5		8	3	9	6	7	30	11	15	24	21	50	18	21	24	11	23	14		65	**373**	391
Belted Kingfisher	4					3		2	3	1			4	1	1		2		1	1			**23**	71
Red-breasted Sapsucker																				1			**1**	12
Downy Woodpecker	4	1	1	5	1	4	2	4	3	3	9	6	6	4	1	10	5	6	10	5		22	**112**	152
Hairy Woodpecker	1												2						1	1		2	**7**	26
Northern Flicker	32	9		18	6	23	16	14	30	9	6	12	16	13	40	22	13	12	30	30		36	**387**	447
Pileated Woodpecker	2	3					1						2	2	3				3	1			**17**	51
Northern Shrike	1																			2			**3**	11
Steller's Jay	3	4	1	1	6	1	1												3			3	**23**	659
Northwestern Crow	122	1	9	134	32	18	16	51	324	63	39	52	106	51	694	370	486	94	43	268		89	**3,062**	10002
Common Raven	33	31	2	16	5	11	6	2			1	2	8	12	8	2	3	8	43	30		3	**226**	420
Sky Lark																				8			**8**	125
Horned Lark																				2			**2**	32
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	69	53	12	78	13	33	50	50	87	15	37	36	115	69	191	43	74	83	208	79		108	**1,503**	2312
Bushtit	28	27		66	20		30	7	135	36	8	59	18	50	85	30	45	88	28	30		351	**1,141**	2522
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	9	1	14	5	9	9	11	14	5	17	1	14	32	13	5	4	8	28	6		29	**240**	558
Brown Creeper	2	3	3	3		4	1	5	5	4	6	2	4	6	5	5		2	5	6		4	**75**	171
Bewick's Wren	6	6	1	5	3	2	6	6	23	7	4	4	13	13	6	17	12	9	18	14		14	**189**	324
Winter Wren	6	40	9	21	3	23	20	12	14	2	5	1	31	10	21	9	4	12	38	13		6	**300**	569
Marsh Wren					1											5	1	4	7	7			**25**	52
Golden-crowned Kinglet	56	203	43	202	12	35	64	104	75	33	93	8	36	41	83	30	30	35	332	108		21	**1,644**	4000
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	12	3	6	10	18	12	3	25			1	19	11	8	38	22	15	17	13		2	**243**	402
Hermit Thrush		2		1	1	2	2						2	2				1	1				**14**	51

2007 Victoria Christmas Bird Count including Feeder Watch

Count Areas	Butchart Gardens / Northern Highlands	Central Highlands	Goldstream	Thetis Lake / Hastings Flats	Langford Lake	Albert Head / Triangle Mtn	Esquimalt Lagoon / Mill Hill	Esquimalt Harbour	Portage Inlet / The Gorge	Victoria Harbour	Beacon Hill	Oak Bay	UVIC/ Cadboro Bay	10 Mile Point	Gordon Head / Mount Douglas	Swan Lake / Cedar Hill	Blenkinsop / Panama Flats	Elk Lake / Cordova Bay	Prospect Lake / Quicks Bottom	Martindale / Bear Hill	Albert Head / Esq Harbour (offshore)	Feeders	Victoria Count (Field & Feeder)	** indicates new record in 2007
Species	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**23**		**Total #**	**Prev High**
American Robin	486	18	1	261	42	25	68	47	236	69	108	60	103	111	246	428	332	272	969	900		136	**4,918**	14327
Varied Thrush	9	14	2	1	2	13	8	3	1					2	14			1	7			1	**78**	1200
European Starling	523	25		104	51	50	50	20	235	40	201	7	13	53	260	135	446	224	452	990		422	**4,301**	18183
American Pipit																				140			**140**	272
Cedar Waxwing									1	22	26			19		18	8	10	18	1			**123**	600
Orange-crowned Warbler									2		1												**3**	6
Yellow-rumped Warbler										1			2			17				1			**21**	25
Townsend's Warbler																						1	**1**	3
Spotted Towhee	65	20	1	19	14	31	18	18	23	11	3	25	37	30	30	38	48	25	129	67		39	**691**	949
American Tree Sparrow																3							**3**	**2
Savannah Sparrow													1		4		5	1	1	12			**24**	112
Fox Sparrow	17	19	3	13	7	24	25	5	13	6		2	16	22	8	17	29	32	81	43		5	**387**	709
Song Sparrow	14	15	5	12	5	14	11	4	17	2		16	18	13	4	22	34	15	31	54		14	**320**	937
Lincoln's Sparrow	3								2								5		1	22			**33**	89
Swamp Sparrow																1							**1**	6
White-throated Sparrow									1				1						1				**3**	13
White-crowned Sparrow	1			1		1			6				8	4		5	54	3		164		19	**266**	376
Golden-crowned Sparrow	85	14		41	66	45	38	9	45	27		15	45	54	14	54	77	30	174	269		61	**1,163**	**1124
Dark-eyed Junco	539	201	33	130	195	141	122	115	213		71	7	111	93	169	62	160	322	492	705		368	**4,249**	8823
Red-winged Blackbird	13	40		54	12	44	26									42	136	6	146	91			**610**	2160
Rusty Blackbird																				1			**1**	1
Western Meadowlark									3								6			3			**12**	126
Brewer's Blackbird				9		57	18							20	80	48	234			200			**666**	1377
Brown-headed Cowbird	10																			2			**12**	22
Purple Finch		3				3	2	2	6			4		5		1	3	1	27	1		1	**59**	293
House Finch	36	2		14	5	18	6	5	79	25	25	27	50	33	95	58	79	52	37	66		123	**835**	1973
Red Crossbill		178	4	67		12	26	2	10			45		30	103		4		146				**627**	1830
Pine Siskin	1040	201	7	292	480	309	90	153	747	11	56		116	200	177	3	186	265	396	392		49	**5,170**	9386
American Goldfinch						2								6								37	**45**	240
House Sparrow	110	22		73	44	31	27	55	492	63	14		29	56	71	124	267	59	94	99		261	**1,991**	2975
Count Totals	**12,626**	**1,309**	**701**	**2,218**	**1,522**	**2,225**	**2,772**	**1,571**	**4,044**	**1,916**	**1,988**	**1,055**	**1,410**	**1,793**	**3,349**	**2,585**	**5,255**	**4,671**	**5,039**	**8,414**	**963**	**2,478**	**69,903**	125518
Species Totals	**65**	**48**	**38**	**53**	**45**	**73**	**70**	**55**	**59**	**62**	**50**	**56**	**58**	**65**	**56**	**54**	**60**	**71**	**68**	**98**	**26**	**37**	**134**	154

2007 Christmas Bird Count, Sooke, Saltspring/Sidney, Duncan

Count Areas	Sooke	Saltspring/ Sidney	Duncan	Count Areas	Sooke	Saltspring/ Sidney	Duncan
Species				**Species**			
Gr. White-fronted Goose	9			Herring Gull	1	1	4
Snow Goose	1	1		Thayer's Gull	21	8	52
Brant		37		Western Gull	2		2
Cackling Goose	11	16	2	Glaucous-winged Gull	768	1647	1588
Canada Goose	397	1529	3756	Glaucous Gull			4
Mute Swan	3	39	8	Unidentified Gull	70		199
Trumpeter Swan		40	990	Common Murre	2287	160	4
Tundra Swan			cw	Pigeon Guillemot.	8	77	2
Wood Duck		7	29	Marbled Murrelet	17	7	1
Gadwall	14		4	Ancient Murrelet	88		
Eurasian Wigeon	5	cw	12	Rhinoceros Auklet	8	3	
American Wigeon	1057	647	2564	Rock Pigeon	126	198	76
Mallard	296	633	2700	Mourning Dove		15	
Northern Shoveler		1	109	Band-tailed Pigeon	27		1
Northern Pintail	4		1674	Great Horned Owl	2	1	4
Green-winged Teal	11	64	699	Northern Pygmy Owl	1		1
Common (Eurasian) Teal*			cw	Barred Owl	1	1	1
Canvasback	1		8	Anna's Hummingbird	20	62	11
Ring-necked Duck	53	7	198	Belted Kingfisher	10	8	20
Greater Scaup	20	21	75	Red-breasted Sapsucker	2	1	14
Lesser Scaup	1	35	920	Downy Woodpecker	12	26	47
Harlequin Duck	19	76		Hairy Woodpecker	5	10	9
Surf Scoter	143	184	142	Northern Flicker	77	115	101
White-winged Scoter	10	58	10	Pileated Woodpecker		13	8
Black Scoter			1	Northern Shrike		1	2
Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)	11	81		Hutton's Vireo	1	2	2
Bufflehead	943	974	394	Steller's Jay	22	38	82
Common Goldeneye	74	345	188	Northwestern Crow	143	927	710
Barrow's Goldeneye	12	58	99	Common Raven	167	93	331
Hooded Merganser	46	75	113	Sky Lark		14	
Common Merganser	22	48	390	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	301	357	388
Red-breasted Merganser	95	448	28	Bushtit	26	223	105
Ruddy Duck			1103	Red-breasted Nuthatch	23	82	44
California Quail	37	123	115	Brown Creeper	30	18	86
Yellow-billed Loon	1			Bewick's Wren	10	71	139
Arctic Loon			1	Winter Wren	115	99	108
Red-throated Loon	11	5	13	Marsh Wren	2	3	12
Pacific Loon	25	153	27	American Dipper	1	1	3
Common Loon	23	45	19	Golden-crowned Kinglet	853	444	486
Pied-billed Grebe	14	1	20	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	41	53	75
Horned Grebe	29	167	25	Hermit Thrush	8	1	2

2007 Christmas Bird Count, Sooke, Saltspring/Sidney, Duncan

Count Areas	Sooke	Saltspring/ Sidney	Duncan
Red-necked Grebe	30	13	5
Western Grebe	34	9	11
Brandt's Cormorant	33	22	4
Double-crested Cormorant	135	187	430
Pelagic Cormorant	89	203	6
Great Blue Heron	20	39	42
Turkey Vulture	17		
Bald Eagle (adult)	27	31	216
Bald Eagle (immature)	15	8	164
Northern Goshawk	1		
Northern Harrier			6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3	6
Cooper's Hawk	3	6	4
Red-tailed Hawk	11	13	30
Golden Eagle			1
American Kestrel		2	1
Merlin	3	2	4
Peregrine Falcon	2	7	5
Virginia Rail	3		
American Coot	3		456
Killdeer	4	1	23
Black Oystercatcher	10	7	
Spotted Sandpiper	1		1
Greater Yellowlegs			1
Black Turnstone	79	50	3
Wilson's Snipe	2		3
Red Phalarope	6		
Bonaparte's Gull	1		
Mew Gull	898	378	878
Ring-billed Gull			1

* indicates that this is not a different species than the more common variety.

Count Areas	Sooke	Saltspring/ Sidney	Duncan
Say's Phoebe			1
American Robin	326	1782	915
Varied Thrush	42	58	121
European Starling	544	1258	2166
American Pipit		30	12
Cedar Waxwing	1	4	4
Yellow-rumped Warbler			2
Townsend's Warbler		1	
Spotted Towhee	119	252	318
American Tree Sparrow			1
Savannah Sparrow		18	
Fox Sparrow		115	188
Song Sparrow	117	151	176
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	10	5
Swamp Sparrow			1
White-throated Sparrow	2	2	1
White-crowned Sparrow	2	58	59
Golden-crowned Sparrow	280	193	387
Dark-eyed Junco	923	1303	1903
Dark-eyed (Slate-col.) Junco*	1		
Red-winged Blackbird	387	13	383
Western Meadowlark	3	5	
Brewer's Blackbird	77	56	67
Brown-headed Cowbird			2
Purple Finch	27	56	160
House Finch	86	189	246
Red Crossbill	314	81	381
Pine Siskin	1553	3448	6103
American Goldfinch	1		29
Evening Grosbeak			21
House Sparrow	152	458	364
Count Totals	15180	21240	37477
Species Totals	114	108	120

2007 Butterfly Count Report

By James Miskelly

The spring of 2007 was a frustrating time for butterfolk. Cool, wet weather seemed to thwart any attempt at butterfly watching. Unfortunately for the butterflies, the same cool weather was also thwarting any attempt to simply feed and breed and reproduce themselves. Several early spring fliers were at or near the lowest lows recorded in the almost fifteen years of the Victoria butterfly counts. These included the two-banded checkered skipper (none recorded), Moss' elfin (none recorded), Propertius duskywing, and satyr anglewing. Low numbers of Propertius duskywing and Moss' elfin are disconcerting, as these are both species of conservation concern already. Now, in addition to worries about the constant destruction of their favourite haunts in the western communities, these species have to contend with poor spring weather. Low numbers of satyr anglewings are somewhat surprising. I would have thought that this species, native to coastal rainforests and sage country, mountain meadows and urban parks, would have been less troubled by unusual weather.

Interestingly, one of the most distinctive species of the early spring, Sara's orangetip, was totally unbothered by the dampness. This species also showed no ill effects from similar spring weather in 2006. Perhaps these very characteristic denizens of our hot, rocky hilltops are there only for the mustards, and not the sunny weather.

The summer provided more hope for butterfly watching. In July we had the hottest day ever recorded in Victoria, too hot, in fact, for most butterfolk. Of course, on southern Vancouver Island, it will never be too hot for the butterflies themselves. Hope that the hot weather would hold up faded, as the longest period ever of July rain soon followed. The summer butterflies, however, proved more resilient than their spring cousins. Western tiger and pale swallowtails and European and woodland skippers all had higher counts than in 2006. The European skipper continues to pop up in new areas every year, and may be destined to colonize every open habitat in British Columbia. However, another recent addition to our count area, the common woodnymph, was absent for the second year in a row. A few years ago, it seemed on the way to establishing itself throughout our urban parks, but its advance has apparently stalled.

Of course, one way to post higher numbers for species like Moss' elfin, Clodius apollo, green comma, and great arctic would be to have more counters active on the western edges of our count area (Goldstream area). If you would like to participate in the counts anywhere from Goldstream to Central Saanich, please write to jmiskelly@telus.net or call 477-0490.

Species	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Propertius Duskywing	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Two-banded Checkered Skipper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Skipper	0	0	61	48	2	0	111
Woodland Skipper	0	0	0	231	510	2	743
Clodius Apollo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anise Swallowtail	7	12	18	9	11	0	57
Western Tiger Swallowtail	8	18	132	109	2	0	269
Pale Swallowtail	7	10	21	4	0	0	42
Pine White	0	0	1	34	4	0	39
Cabbage White	43	86	45	189	124	38	525
Sara's Orangetip	90	9	0	0	0	0	99
Purplish Copper	0	0	6	4	7	1	18
Cedar Hairstreak	0	6	1	0	0	0	7
Brown Elfin	4	6	4	0	0	0	14
Moss' Elfin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grey Hairstreak	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
Western Spring Azure	216	67	3	4	0	0	290
Silvery Blue	4	1	0	0	0	0	5
Satyr Anglewing	8	2	0	0	0	0	10
Green Comma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mourning Cloak	1	1	3	0	0	0	5
California Tortoiseshell	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Painted Lady	1	0	0	3	0	0	4
Westcoast Lady	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Admiral	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mylitta Crescent	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Lorquin's Admiral	0	0	44	180	9	1	234
Common Ringlet	0	74	56	1	27	0	158
Common Woodnymph	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**391**	**295**	**397**	**821**	**697**	**42**	**2643**

Sara's orangetip on one of its favourite larval host plants, tower mustard. *Photo*: James Miskelly

HAT Volunteers Perform Skin Transplant

By Todd Carnahan

It was a cold and wet December day when our small group, armed with linoleum knives, scaled Mount Douglas to rip off living tissue from massive boulders.

We learned about this opportunity through the Saanich Native Plant Salvage Program. The Garry oak site adjacent to the park was approved for development, and much of the property would be blasted to bedrock. Almost entirely covered in native licorice fern, this doomed habitat became a 'skin' transplant donor for HAT's Matson Conservation Area in Esquimalt.

Carefully slicing, ripping, and peeling live mats off the rocks onto stretchers below, the team hoisted more than 10 square metres of fern to the waiting ambulance. Precious minutes later, the group re-assembled at the new Swallows Landing condominiums beside another Garry oak meadow to place the fern mats in their new home.

The donor site was a gravel slope fringing the newly opened trail leading down to beautiful West Bay. They placed and pinned the heavy fern mats directly onto the gravel, where previous testing proved the recipient's compatibility.

While the patient is stabilized and well hydrated, we'll continue to monitor the graft to ensure success. As a demonstration site for best management practices in urban conservation, the Matson Conservation Area now showcases another fine eco-restoration feature. The Friends of Matson Lands have cleared invasive plants for many years, with dramatic effects in the wildflower meadows. More recently, HAT and the Junior Naturalists Club installed a native plant garden that thrives in a very harsh site with no irrigation.

We hope that by controlling exotic invaders like English Ivy and Scotch broom, the licorice ferns will spread over the entire slope in time. In addition to preventing erosion, we expect that the ferns will act as an acid filter, buffering the alkaline drainage seeping from the new concrete walkway. All Garry oaks know that alkaline (pH 8+) water kills roots. Licorice fern is a very tough and resilient native species that takes easily to shady rock balds, logs, and tree bases. It is also a medicine and flavouring used by Salish First Nations.

Remember that your naturescaped garden should feature seeded, nursery-grown, or ethically salvaged plants: Never harvest plants from wild places because they already have an important job and a right to stay at home.

If you would like to join the Saanich Native Plant Salvage Program, please call Nathalie Dechaine at 475-5475 to register for an orientation course.

HAT

Creating Conservation Legacies

Photo provided by author

Welcome to New VNHS Members

Our Society grew by 19 new members since the last issue. The following agreed to have their names published in our "welcome" column:

Gail Snider
Rockheights Avenue
birds, marine

Bob and Lesley Cockrell
Layritz Avenue
photography

Joanne Thomson
Crossandra Crescent

Hamish Ballantyne
Sherringham Place
birds, marine life, mushrooms, primates, and most Canadian mammals

Carolyn Hayward
Cahilty Lane
birds, botany

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., in Murray and Anne Fraser Building, Room 159, 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., Murray and Anne Fraser Building, Room 159, University of Victoria. **Marine Night**: the last Monday, 7:30 p.m., in Murray and Anne Fraser Building, Room 159, University of Victoria. Locations are given in the calendar listings. Telephone the VNHS Events Tape at 479-2054 for further information and updates. The VNHS Calendar also appears on the Internet at: <http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca>, and is updated regularly.

MARCH

Saturday, March 8

FIELD TRIP
Brant Geese, Sea Ducks and Gulls in the Qualicum Parksville area
This should be the peak of the Herring spawn, so we should see lots of Brant Geese, sea ducks and gulls. Meet at the Helmcken Park and Ride at 7 a.m. to carpool. This will be an all day trip so bring a lunch. **Rick Schortinghuis** will be your leader. Call 652-3326 for more information.

Tuesday, March 11

NATURAL HISTORY PRESENTATION AND AGM
Extraordinary Video
Come and see a different view of the natural world. **Bob Chappell** has been placing his video cameras in some interesting places and has gotten footage of some unique behavior in nature. You will really enjoy this presentation. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 159 of the Fraser Building at UVic. Everyone is welcome and bring a friend.

Tuesday, March 18

BOTANY NIGHT
Plants and Landscapes of the North Yukon Slope
In 2005, **Terry McIntosh** travelled by boat with **Bruce Bennett** collecting plants and lichens at various beautiful sites along the north Yukon slope. It was perfect time for flowering plants and for tramping over the vivid but dangerous, landscape.

Friday, March 21

FIELD TRIP
Satin Flowers at Mount Wells
This trip is planned to see the best display of satin flowers (*Olsynium douglasii*) in the whole area. Please note the trail is steep and challenging but will be taken at a leisurely pace to enjoy the habitat. Bring a walking stick and wear sturdy shoes. Take the Trans-Canada highway towards Goldstream Park. Turn left on Sooke Lake Road shortly before Goldstream. Turn left on Humpback Road at Ma Millar's pub. At the intersection with Irwin Road, stay right. Follow Humpback Road to the park entrance. Meet at the parking lot on the right at 10:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and drinks for the all day outing. No pets please. Contact **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca or 721-0634 for more information.

Sunday, March 23

FIELD TRIP
Satin Flowers and Birds at Juan de Fuca
For those of you who are not up to the strenuous walk up Mount Wells, this outing is another chance to see the satin flowers (*Olsynium douglasii*) as well as other early spring flowers. Plus it is an excellent place to check out the birds. Bring a snack and a drink if you wish. Meet at Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre, 1767 Old Island Highway, at 10:00 a.m. We will start from the end of the parking lot nearest to town. No pets please. Contact **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca or 721-0634 for more information.

Wednesday, March 26

BIRDERS' NIGHT
Alpine Birds
Ever wondered about those species that make their homes at higher elevations on Vancouver Island? **Kathy Martin** will be here to talk about these species which includes songbirds and ptarmigan and the vulnerability of these species and their habitats to climate change. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 159 of the Fraser building at UVic. Everyone is welcome.

Monday, March 31

MARINE NIGHT
Comparing Notes on BC's Endangered Killer Whales and Taiwan's Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins
Dr. Peter Ross, Research Scientist at the Institute of Ocean Sciences (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) will bring us up to date on his research into marine mammal contaminants. 7:30 p.m. Room 159, Fraser Building, University of Victoria. Everyone welcome.

APRIL

Saturday, April 5

FIELD TRIP
Birding Rithet's Bog
There should be a good number of early migrants around. Meet at 8 a.m. along Dalewood Lane (just off Chatterton Way) in the northwest corner of the bog. Leader is **Marie O'Shaughnessy**, call her at 598-9680 if you would like more information.

Sunday, April 6

FIELD TRIP
Celebrate the Wildflowers at Oak Haven/Gore Parks
The spring wildflowers are early in these two delightful Saanich Peninsula parks, so they will wet your appetite for what will follow over the next month or two. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the entrance to Oak Haven Park on Garden Gate Dr, off Benvenuto Ave., off West Saanich Rd. Bring a snack and drink if you wish. No pets please. Call **Rick** at 652-3326 for more information.

Tuesday, April 8

NATURAL HISTORY PRESENTATION (TBA)
At press time a presenter had not been scheduled but check the VNHS web site calendar to see who has been scheduled. **PLEASE NOTE ROOM CHANGE FOR THIS EVENING** We meet at 7:30 p.m. in room C103 (Matthews/McQueen Theatre) in the David Strong Building.

Saturday, April 12

FIELD TRIP

Birding Mystic Pond, UVic and Haro Woods

Join Bill Dancer in birding the UVic area. Meet at Gyro Park in Cadboro Bay at 8 a.m. Call **Bill Dancer** at 721-5273 if you need more information.

Saturday, April 12

FIELD TRIP

Meander Around UVic Finnerty Gardens

The Finnerty Gardens are the most visited venue at the University of Victoria. Although the gardens have something of interest on every day of the year, the rhododendrons and other companion plants are at their peak at this time. Meet outside the UVic Interfaith Chapel at 1:30 p.m. To find the Chapel, go around the Ring Road and look for Parking Lot 6. This outing is intended as a follow-up to the morning birding outing on campus. There should be time between the events to eat your packed lunch (no food outlets open on campus). Also it is pay parking, even on Saturday. No pets please. Contact **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca or 721-0634 for more information.

Sunday, April 13

FIELD TRIP

Wild about Wildflowers at Mill Hill

Meander to magnificent Mill Hill for a spectacular spring show of wildflowers. Join us for guided flower walks, activities, displays and more from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. **Joy Finlay** and **Agnes Lynn** of VNHS will lead walks to the top at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to make this a combined CRD and VNHS event. Please note the trail is steep and rough on the way down but will be taken at a leisurely pace to enjoy the habitat. Other shorter walks will be held on the more level area at the bottom. Meet at the Mill Hill Regional Park information kiosk. To get there, take the Colwood exit off the Trans-Canada Hwy and follow the Old Island Highway. Turn right on Six Mile Rd., then left on Atkins Rd. Turn left at the four-way intersection to continue on Atkins Ave. that leads to the park entrance on the right. No pets please. Contact **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca or 721-0634.

Sunday, April 13

FIELD TRIP

Birding Swan Lake

Come and check out the early migrants at Swan Lake. Meet at the main parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Leader TBA.

Tuesday, April 15

BOTANY NIGHT

Treasures of the Cloud Forest Botanical Explorations in Vietnam's Huang Lien Mountains

The Huang Lien Mountain Range in Northern Vietnam includes high altitude cloud forests possessing remarkable beauty and biodiversity. **Brian White** has conducted five research expeditions on Mount Fan Si Phan in Huang Lien National Park. This presentation will introduce the ecosystems, unique plant species, and current threats to this mountain wonderland.

Friday, April 18

FIELD TRIP

Visit to Honeymoon Bay Wildflower Reserve

There are not enough weekend days to see all the birds and flowers at this time of year so take a vacation day and join us. We will visit the pink fawn lilies (erythronium revolutum) as well as stop to explore other areas along the Cowichan River and in the Duncan area. You must register for this event as the number of visitors is limited. VNHS members get preference. Meet at Helmcken Park and Ride at 9:00 a.m. to car-pool. Bring a lunch and drinks for the day-long outing. No pets please. Contact **Agnes** after March 3 at 721-0634 and leave your name and contact info or, preferably, email her (thelynns at shaw.ca) to register or if you need more information.

Saturday, April 19

FIELD TRIP

Enjoy All that Jocelyn Hill Has to Offer

Join **Rick Schortinghuis** to enjoy the wildflowers and the birds as well. Our goal is to see the gold stars (*Crocidium multicaule*) in bloom but we will not be disappointed if we miss them as there is an amazing array of other delights and great panoramic views from the ridge. Please note the trail is steep and challenging but will be taken at a leisurely pace to enjoy the habitat. Follow the Trans-Canada Highway to Millstream Rd. exit. Turn right on Millstream Road and continue to the junction of Millstream Lake Rd. Keep left to continue on Millstream Rd. Go past Lone Tree Hill Park on your right and watch for Emma Dixon Rd. and a large Stonecrest sign on the left. The trail head is on Millstream Rd. just past the sign. Park on the right-hand side of the road. Meet there at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and drinks. No pets please. Call **Rick** at 652-3326 for more information.

Saturday, April 19

FIELD TRIP

Birding Blenkinsop Lake

Come and check out the early migrants at Blenkinsop Lake. Meet at the south end off Lochside Drive at 7:30 a.m. Leader TBA. Call **Rick Schortinghuis** for more information: 652-3326.

Sunday, April 20

FIELD TRIP

Enjoy the Wonders of Thetis Lake Park

This park is overflowing with wild flowers, common and uncommon. Pause to enjoy the ferns, lichens, mosses and other supporting cast as well. Botanist **Hans Roemer** will be there to help us to enjoy the spring wildflowers. Meet at the main parking lot at 9:30 a.m. To reach the park, take the Colwood exit off the Trans-Canada Highway and follow the Old Island Highway. Turn right on Six Mile Road. Continue on this road and you will come to the Thetis Lake Park parking lot. No pets please. Contact **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca or 721-0634 for more information.

Wednesday, April 23

BIRDERS' NIGHT

Members Night

Have you been taking lots of pictures or maybe video of birds during the past year, well we would love to see them and members night is the best place to show us your stuff. We can accommodate digital pictures, video on cd, dvd, or even vhs tapes, and of course 35mm slides. Call Ed Pellizzon for more information at 881-1476. **PLEASE NOTE ROOM CHANGE FOR THIS EVENING** We meet at 7:30 p.m. in room C103 (Matthews/McQueen Theatre) in the David Strong Building.

Saturday, April 26

FIELD TRIP

Birding Viaduct Flats and Quicks' Bottom

Come out and check out the great trails around Viaduct Flats, Quicks' Bottom and Layritz Park. A lot of the early migrants should be around. Meet at the foot of Viaduct Flats at 7:30 a.m. Leader TBA. Call **Rick Schortinghuis** for more information.

Sunday, April 27

FIELD TRIP

Mount Tzouhalem Ecological Reserve

It has been said that this ecological reserve in the Duncan area is one of the most well preserved examples of a Garry Oak Ecosystem. Come and see for yourself. We will also be visiting another Garry Oak area close by as well. You must register for this event as the number of visitors is limited. VNHS members get preference. Bring a lunch and drinks for the day-long outing. We will car-pool and start from Victoria at 9:00 a.m. No pets please. Contact **Agnes** after March 3 at 721-0634 and leave your name and contact info or, preferably, email her (thelynns at shaw.ca) to register or if you need more information.

Monday, April 28

MARINE NIGHT

Porpoises of British Columbia. **NOTE ROOM CHANGE!

Anna Hall, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of BC, will present an overview of porpoise natural history and conservation, with a discussion of past and present scientific research, aimed at understanding these small marine mammals. Anna has recently been studying the elusive Harbour Porpoise. NOTE ROOM CHANGE: 7:30 p.m. Matthews /McQueen Theatre C-103, David Strong Building, University of Victoria. Everyone welcome.

MAY

Friday, May 2

FIELD TRIP ***Saltspring Botanical Adventure***

We enjoy the local wildflowers but sometimes it is nice to just venture a bit farther afield to see what grows on our nearby Gulf Islands. This trip is intended as an exploratory trip, dabbling in a few areas that have been recommended as having a diverse selection of wildflowers. Please note some trails may be steep and challenging but will be taken at a leisurely pace. We will carpool to catch the 9:00 a.m. ferry, returning around supper time. Participants will be expected to share in transportation expenses. Bring a lunch and drinks for the day. No pets please. You must register for this event to assist in planning. Contact **Agnes** after April 1 at 721-0634 and leave your name and contact info or, preferably, email her (thelynns at shaw.ca) to obtain final details.

Saturday, May 3

FIELD TRIP ***17th Annual Camas Day in Beacon Hill Park***

Co-sponsored by the Victoria Natural History Society and the Friends of Beacon Hill Park, this celebration of one of our region's special places starts at 7 a.m. and continues all day. This event will include guided walks for Birds at 7:00 and 9:00 a.m., Wildflowers at 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. and Archaeology at 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Walks are about one hour each. More details nearer to the event on the website. Other events may also be happening. Meet at the flag pole atop Beacon Hill. Jointly sponsored by VNHS and Friends of Beacon Hill Park Society. No pets please. Contact **Helen** after April 1 at 592-6659 or email **Agnes** (thelynns at shaw.ca) for more information.

BULLETIN BOARD

Introductory Bird Monitoring and Banding Workshop, March 28-30 The Rocky Point Bird Observatory is offering a bird monitoring and banding workshop at Royal Roads. The workshop will focus on bird identification, sexing and ageing for people with little or no bird handling and/or banding experience, but those with intermediate skills will also find the workshop a good way to build knowledge. The cost is $350 per participant with a $50 reduction for students. The workshop will be limited to 18 participants. For more information or to register, please see the RPBO website (rpbo.org) or contact rpbo@rpbo.org, or Donna Ross at hoshihana@shaw.ca.

Science Fair If any VNHS members are interested in participating in this year's Science Fair (April 12-14, 2008, University of Victoria, uvic.ca/~virsf/), please contact the Science Fair Regional Chairperson for our area for information concerning individual events Rossi Marx (Department of Biology, University of Victoria , 250-721-7141/ rmmarx@uvic.ca). More information can also be found in Joan Snyder's Education Report on page 6 of the Fall 2007 issue of BC Nature.

Photography of Native Plants, April 26, 2008, 9:00-12:30 This workshop will appeal to anyone who wants to improve their plant photography, including both beginning and experienced photographers. The focus will be on native plants, from mosses to maples, with an emphasis on practical strategies for creating "images with impact." Burl Jantzen, brings his teaching expertise, his experience with garden photography and his love of native plants together in this informative and practical workshop. Call Swan Lake for details and to pre-register: 479-0211.

Garden Design with Native Plants Learn principles of landscape design and suitable native plants and plant communities for the residential garden setting. Bring a mug, refreshments will be supplied. Pre-registration, please. Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Road Sunday, April 27, 2008. 9:30-1 p.m. $40, Friends of Swan Lake, $36. To register, or for more information: Ann Scarfe, 479-0211

Botany BC 2008: May 15-May 18, 2008 Botany BC will be based out of Powell River on BC's Sunshine Coast. Field trips will visit sites around Powell River including Texada Island and possibly Savary Island. Botany BC is an annual meeting of botanists and plant enthusiasts of British Columbia and is open to anyone interested in plants. Registration and detailed program are posted to the website: (http://members.shaw.ca/dmeidinger/botanybc/). For more information, please contact: Elizabeth Easton (250) 953-3488 e-mail: Elizabeth.Easton@gov.bc.ca

Volunteer for Nature Come enjoy the spring season at Swan Lake and share the fun with visiting school groups. Volunteer Assistant Naturalists are now being recruited for programs through April and May. Contact Joan at 479-0211 or email: volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca

Saturday Birding Group We will no longer be meeting opposite the entrance to Beaver Lake Park on Elk Lake Drive (between Haliburton and Royal Oak) at 8:00 a.m. We will now send out the time and location on the RBA (Rare Bird Alert) (592-3381) on the Thursday and Friday before that weeks' walk. For more information, call Rick Schortinghuis at 652-3326.

Year-round Tuesday Morning Birding Group Meet at the foot of Bowker Ave. at 9:00 a.m. Birding activities take place at various locations around Greater Victoria. For information, contact **Bill Dancer** (721-5273) or dcdancer@shaw.ca.

The Victoria NATURALIST

P.O. Box 5220, Stn. B.,
Victoria, BC, V8R 6N4

Publication Mail Commercial Sales
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Publications Mail Registration No. 09841

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