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VICTORIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY





# The Victoria NATURALIST

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### Guidelines for Submissions

Members are encouraged to submit articles, field trip reports, natural history notes, book reviews, etc. 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 1200 x 1550 pixels, or 300 dpi at the size of photos in the magazine. We prefer electronic submissions in an IBM compatible word processing format. Anything submitted in hard copy will be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included with the material.

## ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

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Ad Size	Price	Dimensions (in inches)
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1/4 page, horizontal	\$40	7.5" width x 2.25" height
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## COVER PHOTO

Twelve species of *Equisetum* grow in BC according to the Eflora website < <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/>>. They are commonly known as horsetails or scouring rush because of their silica-rich stem tissue. This is probably the Giant Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*).  
*Photo: Darren Copley*

In almost every issue of *The Naturalist* I have faced the challenge of common names for species: should they be capitalized or not? In the past I only used capitals on the names of birds because they had been internationally standardized, so when someone writes about a Barn Owl, the rest of the world knows exactly which species is being discussed. But the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is now promoting the use of capitals on all common names for clarity, so I will follow their lead from now on.

Another change to the magazine is thanks to a suggestion from a member. Paul Johansen thought that we should provide a full-colour version to members as a benefit to receiving their copy electronically, which reduces the mailing costs for the club. Thanks for your great idea Paul! We've adopted it, starting with this issue.

If you went to a VNHS presentation in February you may have already filled out a survey (pages 5/6), but if not please do. An online version will also be available via a link on our website starting in March, but only for a couple of weeks. We welcome your ideas, input, and assistance in keeping the Society vibrant.

*Claudia*



# President's Message

By Darren Copley

We're coming up on that time that all society presidents must fret about: the Annual General Meeting. How did the year go? Have I made a difference? Will all of our directors continue to volunteer on the board? Will new members agree to stand? These are the questions that are top of mind for me these days. Our Society can only be as successful as the people who volunteer for it, and we are very lucky to have some great volunteers. But as is typical of many societies, the work is being done by very few people – fewer than 30 out of a society of more than 600 members.

So along with my fretting about attracting new and motivated board members, I got to thinking about the reasons why people volunteer, and how to get more of you to be involved. Human issues certainly seem to win out over nature most of the time. I also hear people say that they are too busy because they work. I can appreciate that one – I and most of your Board of Directors still work, so I know that it can be a challenging balance. I've heard it argued that where

people volunteer shows what they value. I agree with this, but I also worry that many people aren't provided with the opportunity to volunteer, simply because they aren't being asked. So if that's true, I'm asking. We need your help in lots of areas, or perhaps there is something you've thought of that we haven't. We are asking for more people to help out with promoting our Society at events like the Swan Lake Native Plant Sale (p. 6) and our *International Migratory Bird Day* Event at Beaver Lake (p. 23), with providing coffee at our evening presentations, helping with *The Naturalist*, leading field trips, fundraising, and we are short several Board Members. If any of these are a fit for you, please contact me.

A simple Google search provided me with many lists of reasons why we volunteer. Some of the main themes were to help the community and others, increase self-esteem, help out friends, make new friends, try out a job, polish resumes, develop new skills, and enjoy something they love. Most of the lists seem to miss the reasons why I volunteer for nature. I do it for the towhee that is just starting to sing out my back window, and the Violet-green Swallows that return to nest every year in our yard. I do it for the dragonflies that I catch and show my nieces and nephew. I do it for my favourite local natural space. I also do it because I want to get more people to care about nature more than they care about their iPod.

So if you want to help, please fill out the survey (pages 5 and 6) and get it back to us with your ideas, and how you'd like to help. Please make suggestions for improvements to the Society and about how to generate more interest in membership. Remember, we are probably one of the largest entirely volunteer-run organizations in BC, and have been for more than 70 years.

Even if you can't volunteer, you can show your support of nature in many other ways. With your donations (last year it was more than \$3000) we can help support other projects that benefit nature. Last fall the VNHS donated \$5000 to the Swan Lake boardwalk project (see their letter of thanks – p. 19), and we hope to raise another \$5000 (with your help) to provide interpretive signage for it. We also donated \$2000 to HAT's Conservation Covenant program, where land is protected in perpetuity. Others have donated their artistic talent to the Society – a recent example is our use of a beautiful painting from member Joanne Thomson (<JoanneThomson.com>) and incredible photographs from member Marie O'Shaughnessy (<smg.photobucket.com/albums/v391/FISHINGOSPREY>) to create a new banner for public outreach events. However you help, whether it is by being a member, supporting our conservation activities, volunteering, and/or telling others about our group – I'd like to say thanks! And see you at the AGM!

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# VNHS Membership Survey

PURPOSE: VNHS is conducting this survey to determine the needs of our members and to implement your suggestions/changes. Please fill out the survey and return it to VNHS. Your help is greatly appreciated. PLEASE ✓ or CIRCLE ANSWERS

1. How did you hear about VNHS?  
\_\_Friend/Family  
\_\_At an event (i.e. Field Trip, Lecture, Seedy Saturday, etc.)  
\_\_Through a community/public announcement (i.e. newspaper, CBC, etc.)  
\_\_Other:
2. Why did you first join VNHS? (please rate from 1 to 4 with 1 being the highest/most important rating)  
\_\_Conservation/Stewardship\_\_Education & Outreach\_\_Field Trips\_\_Other:
3. What do you think the role of VNHS is? (please rate from 1 to 4 with 1 being the highest/most important rating)  
\_\_Conservation /Stewardship\_\_ Education & Outreach\_\_Field Trips\_\_Other:
4. Did you know that you can give a VNHS gift membership? YES NO
5. Do you tell friends and family about VNHS? Our events and what our organization does/supports? YES NO
6. Would you attend programs, events, and field trips being offered for families? YES NO  
If YES what kinds of programs would you like to see:  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Did you know that VNHS members and non-members can contribute articles and photos to *The Victoria Naturalist* magazine? Would you or anyone you know like to contribute articles and photos? YES NO  
If YES please provide name & contact information:  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. *The Victoria Naturalist* magazine comes bi-monthly at present via mail (black & white) and email (pdf with colour pictures). Would you prefer to receive it via:  
\_\_Email\_\_Canada Post\_\_Download from the VNHS website (i.e. in a members only section)
9. What changes or articles would you like to see in *The Victoria Naturalist*?  
Please provide suggestions:  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Would you like VNHS to host social events such as BBQ's? YES NO  
If YES what kind of social events would you like see:  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you use the VNHS website to keep up-to-date on presentations, events, field trips, etc.? YES NO
12. We are currently updating the VNHS website. What changes would you like to see on the website?  
\_\_Links to social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter)  
\_\_Downloadable resources & documents  
\_\_More links (i.e. resources, clubs)  
\_\_A members only section with on-line access to *The Victoria Naturalist* & other resources  
\_\_Other: Please specify (i.e. Nature Blog)
13. Are there any changes you would like to see to VNHS events, programs, and field trips? YES NO  
If YES, please comment:  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. VNHS is looking for more field trip leaders, are you or anyone you know interested in leading or organizing any field trips? YES NO  
If YES, please provide name & contact information:  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. Which VNHS activities have you attended most often in the last two years?  
 \_\_Presentations\_\_Field Trips\_\_Events(i.e. International Migratory Bird Day, Hawkwatch)
16. Do you have any ideas to increase our membership? If YES please provide comments.
- 
17. Do you have any ideas to help increase VNHS' presence in the community? If YES please provide ideas:
- 
18. Did you know you can receive email notification about events/announcements? YES NO  
 If you would you like to receive these emails please provide your email address:
- 
19. Have you volunteered for VNHS in the last 2 years? YES NO If NO is it:  
 \_\_Because you haven't been asked?  
 \_\_Because you are not interested in the activities?  
 \_\_Other:
20. If you would like to make any other comments about this survey or about VNHS in general please use this section.
- 
- 
- 

# Native Plant Sale

**Saturday and Sunday,  
 April 16 & 17, 2011  
 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Sale: over 120 species of Native Plants**

**Displays on native plant gardening,  
 attracting and supporting wildlife, and  
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**Plant list available at [www.swanlake.bc.ca](http://www.swanlake.bc.ca)**



## 2011 Birding Courses



Here's a chance to support the Victoria Natural History Society and the Rocky Point Bird Observatory while learning about our local birds. These programs will be taught by experienced trip leaders who have volunteered their time, and the proceeds will support the conservation activities at Rocky Point Bird Observatory. Please note the lower prices for VNHS members (yet another reason to join the Society!).

### 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 3, 2011 and follow with six Saturday morning field trips from March 5 to April 16. The cost will be \$95 for non-members and \$65 for members.

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 10, 2011, with the two long weekends skipped. The cost is \$105.00 for non-members and \$75.00 for members. The course is limited to 15 participants.

### Beyond Beginning Birding



To register, please go to <http://rpbo.org/> or contact [birding@rpbo.org](mailto:birding@rpbo.org). If you have any questions, please contact Ann Nightingale at 250-652-6450 or [motmot@shaw.ca](mailto:motmot@shaw.ca).



**Victoria Natural  
 History Society**



# Owl Rescue

By Nancy Issenman

**E**arly one Sunday morning one of my dogs, Coco, heard some noise, a crash perhaps, and asked to go outside. She had stayed outside for almost 20 minutes without responding to my calls, so I went to check on her. I found her down on the lower patio, hovering over a white mass which I was unable to make out in the darkness. Initially I thought it must have been something that Coco had killed. But I got closer, shined my flashlight and observed fluffed up feathers, and then, was stunned to see the pulsing of a tiny heart. It took my breath away. It was obviously a bird but seemed too small to be an owl. I quickly brought Coco inside and decided to leave it there either to finish dying or to take flight.

After a half hour I went down to check again and the heart was still beating though the little bird had made no movement. I knew that I had to get it help. I lined a box with a towel, gently lifted it in and covered it over with the corners of the towel. At that point I identified it as an owl but I didn't want to look too closely and frighten it more. It fell onto its back and kicked its talons up in the air. It was so small that I thought it had to be a baby but at this time of year that was unlikely. I packed the dogs into the car and at 4:30 a.m. we



Northern Saw-whet Owl.  
*Photo: Glenn Bartley*

drove off to the emergency vet hospital which is the pick-up point for the Wild Animal Rehabilitation Center (Wild ARC) during off hours. The staff took the box to the back examining room and told me to call Wild ARC the next day.

On Monday I was told that the bird was in fact an owl, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, one of the smaller owls. It didn't seem hurt and was actually walking when it was let out of the box. I was given an identification number and encouraged to call

back in a few days. As it turned out the little owl had a head injury (probably from crashing into the glass enclosure surrounding my back deck) and needed about a week to recover his equilibrium. Then they would release it back to the wild, which happens to be my back yard! Did I want to be present for the release? Absolutely!!

One night, after a clear and relatively mild day, the little guy was brought back to my house. While the young woman staff held him by the talons I looked straight into his two piercingly yellow-amber eyes and shuddered when I felt some recognition! Given his freedom, he lighted onto a cedar branch overhanging the deck, stared at us for a minute or two and then flew off to another tree further away from us. Safe, at home again!

---

## Calling All Bald Eagle Enthusiasts!

**T**he Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program (WiTS) has recently received funding from the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations to compile data for Bald Eagle territories in the CRD area. Ian Moul, the Provincial Coordinator of WiTS, is hoping to work with volunteers from the community to gather recent data on territories, breeding pairs, nest success, and nest or perch trees.

The data will be compiled and available on a new public version of the WiTS Atlas that has been set up with a territory feature and report that summarises all the nests within each territory. You can reach this site by going to <[shim.bc.ca/atlas/wits2/witsloginscreen.htm](http://shim.bc.ca/atlas/wits2/witsloginscreen.htm)> and click the 'Launch Atlas' button. You can then zoom into the territories, individual nests, and view reports.

The wildlife tree, nesting, and breeding data on WiTS Atlas is also distributed to local municipal and regional government personnel such as planners. For example, the District of Saanich is currently developing a new planning tool called an Environmental Developmental Permit Area (EDPA). An



Bonded pair of eagles.  
*Photo: Marie O'Shaughnessy*

EDPA is used to negotiate the protection of the environment prior to development and will protect known sensitive species and ecosystems. Saanich will be including the WiTS data layer as a part of their new EDPA Atlas if approved by Council.

For more information on WiTS go to <[www.wildlifetree.org](http://www.wildlifetree.org)>. If you have any information on Bald Eagles in the CRD region you would like to contribute, please contact:

Ian Moul from the Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program:  
250-890-0713 or [wits.bc@shaw.ca](mailto:wits.bc@shaw.ca)

# 2010 Butterfly Count Report

By James Miskelly

Let's hope that 2010 stands for a long time as the worst butterfly year we can remember. After a bad spring in 2006, butterfly numbers appeared to be making slow gains for the last few years. The 2010 count season decisively curtailed that trend. Figure 1 shows the count totals for all species from 2006 to 2010. No one who participated in the 2010 count will be surprised to see the precipitous drop at the end of the graph.

2010 started out hopeful. The early spring was warm, and ten species were recorded in our area prior to the beginning of our count season. However, the weather quickly soured and fewer species were recorded in April than in March! We had some good weather in the summer, but May and September were particularly bad, and the wet weather is reflected in our totals.

One bright spot on the 2010 counts was the addition of the Western Pine Elfin, which had not been recorded for several years. These little brown butterflies are fairly

common in open Shore Pine woods on hill tops, especially to the north and west of our count area. They are rarely recorded by the Victoria Butterfly Counts because most of the counting is done closer to the core of the count region. Greater participation in the western communities or in locations that require a stiffer hike will help keep up numbers of species like Western Pine Elfin, Moss' Elfin, and Propertius Duskywing. We may also be able to snare the occasional record of oddities like Clodius Apollo and Great Arctic. If you would like to participate, please write me or give me a call (james.miskelly@gmail.com, 250-477-0490).

One other species that occurs just outside our count area is worth a special mention for the coming year. The local subspecies of Western Branded Skipper, known as the Oregon Skipper or Oregon Branded Skipper, will be the subject of a federal status report beginning later this year. This butterfly once occurred in at least nine locations within our count area, but now is restricted to a few populations just outside. The Oregon Skipper is restricted to dry meadows with an abundance of native grasses and is closely associated with Garry Oak ecosystems. Let's hope that the report that will begin in 2011 will pave the way for greater protection of these ecosystems in BC, and that there may one day be a reintroduction program that lands the Oregon Skipper on some future Victoria Butterfly Count Report.



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Western Pine Elfin. Photo: James Miskelly



## 2009 Victoria Butterfly Count Results

Species	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Proterpius Duskywing	5	8	1	0	0	0	14
Two-banded Checkered Skipper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Skipper	0	0	45	65	3	0	113
Woodland Skipper	0	0	2	45	334	12	393
Clodius Apollo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anise Swallowtail	1	1	4	5	0	0	11
Western Tiger Swallowtail	0	1	30	34	1	0	66
Pale Swallowtail	0	0	6	5	0	0	11
Pine White	0	0	0	0	4	3	7
Cabbage White	44	18	85	201	43	21	412
Sara's Orangetip	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
Purplish Copper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Hairstreak	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Brown Elfin	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Moss' Elfin	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Western Pine Elfin	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Grey Hairstreak	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Western Spring Azure	113	44	5	0	0	0	162
Silvery Blue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Satyr Anglewing	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Green Comma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mourning Cloak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
California Tortoiseshell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Painted Lady	0	3	2	0	0	0	5
Westcoast Lady	1	0	0	3	0	0	4
Red Admiral	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Mylitta Crescent	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lorquin's Admiral	0	0	46	77	9	0	132
Common Ringlet	0	10	78	1	0	0	89
Common Woodnymph	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Arctic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1452</b>

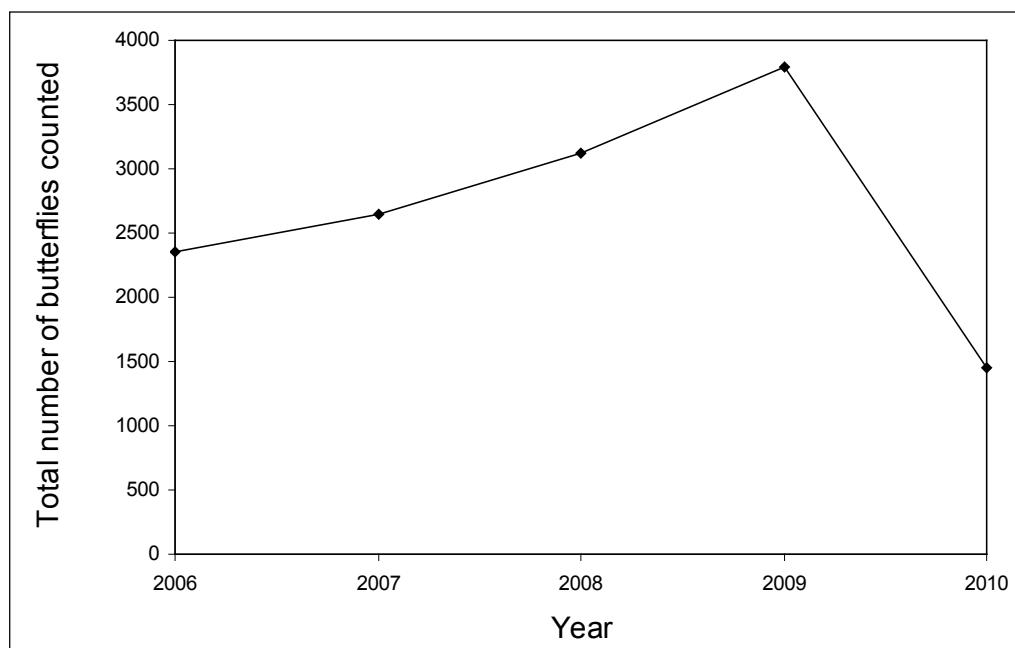


Figure 1. The total number of butterflies of all species recorded by the Victoria Butterfly Counts from 2006 to 2010.

# My Body of Oystercatchers

By Anne Hansen

Some time ago, I announced that after painting “*Oystercatchers #100*,” I would “re-evaluate my subject matter ... and paint more oystercatchers.”

True to my word, I have remained faithful to my mission, and have just completed “*Oystercatchers #238*”.

I can barely keep pace with the inspiration derived from the oystercatcher’s habitat: the flowy seaweed in greens, browns and pinks, the pewter mountains, ultramarine ocean, lush foggy forests, and log-strewn beaches. Who wouldn’t be mesmerized by tidal species whose scientific names are *Asterina miniata*, *Alaria marginata*, or *Laminaria saccharina*?

To use some lyrics from a poem by Diane Ackerman, if I were to “offer myself humbly as a guardian of nature” or a “messenger of wonder”, what better candidate is there than the oystercatcher to help with my task?

In an interview on CBC Radio’s *North By Northwest*, I noted that although there are many west coast artists painting beautiful pictures of whales, bears, eagles, and herons, who else is featuring oystercatchers?

It is surprising that some people are unfamiliar with oystercatchers – even beachcombing folk who have lived in Victoria all their lives. It’s not as though these birds are uncommon, quiet, or nondescript.

Some of the remarks I’ve received on my subject matter border on Monty Pythonesque: “Anne, I love your penguins!” (When I stated to the woman that I paint oystercatchers, she actually started arguing with me about what I paint.) Other comments: “Oystercatchers – I’ve never heard that expression before.” “What is it that you like so much about crows?” “Are those rooks in your pictures?” “I notice you have black birds in all your paintings. Is there some significance to that?”

Indeed, there is some significance to oystercatchers. Upon seeing my first one, it was love at first sight. It was on the beach at Holland Point, a few months after I had moved to Victoria. This striking bird was flopping around a hunk of brilliant green seaweed back-lit by the setting sun. Water droplets were flying all over the place, and the light was shining through its brilliant bill. The experience was intoxicating for me. I rushed home and cracked open my Peterson guide.

I would have been incredulous if, five years ago, I was told I’d move to the west coast. Further, that I would become enamored with a particular bird species to the extent that I’d produce more than 200 funky, folksy paintings celebrating their likeness. However, this artistic trajectory that started in November 2007 with one little 8" x 8" painting, has tided me along ever since. Perhaps my new calling in life isn’t all that surprising, given that I inherited birdwatching from my parents, and at times have been a prolific painter.



Oystercatchers #237 by Anne Hansen.

That doesn’t mean I’m a scientific authority on oystercatchers. There are people in the naturalist clubs who have been around these parts much longer than I, who are far better qualified on matters of oystercatcher biology. However, that doesn’t prevent me from having a visual and visceral relationship with these beach clowns.

I rarely attend an environmental rally without an oystercatcher painting. These birds and their kin thrive on relatively undisturbed shoreline from Alaska to California. The habitat of seashore ecosystems is threatened by rampant clear-cutting, luxury tourist development, fish farming, and the spectre of oil tankers plying the jagged, shipwrecking Vancouver Island coast.

In May 2010, a friend and I each carried one of my oystercatcher paintings on the last leg of the *Get Out Migration*, a 30-kilometre hike from Sidney to Victoria, to protest open-pen fish farming on the BC coast. This historic event, organized by biologist extraordinaire Alexandra Morton, was attended by thousands.

Reading Alexandra Morton’s *Listening to Whales* affirms to me that the Rachel Carsons, Jane Goodalls, Farley Mowats, David Suzukis, Jacques Cousteaus, Lawren Harries, and Tom Thomsons – and the gardeners and naturalist club members among us – all likely cultivated their love of the natural world by experiencing it, not by watching it on a television or computer screen.

I am thankful to my parents for steering me in the direction of the oystercatchers.



Oystercatcher #236.

See Anne Hansen's art at <<http://www.oystercatchergirl.blogspot.com>>

A selection of Anne's *Oystercatchers* will hang in the Oak Bay Library in Victoria (until June), and in the Esquimalt Library (February-March).

The Haida Gwaii-based Laskeek Bay Conservation Society offers volunteers an opportunity to help biologists conduct oystercatcher monitoring (among other things) for week-long camp duty during their field season in May and June. <<http://www.laskeekbay.org/>>/

## Welcome to New VNHS Members

Our Society grew by 27 new members since the last issue. The following agreed to have their names published in our "welcome" column:

**Merrie-Ellen Wilcox**  
Acton Street  
*Birds, plants, marine life*

**Rhiannon Cockayne**  
St. Patrick Street  
*Youth education (K-12),  
botany, and marine  
species*

**Jessie Fanucchi**  
Mysty Woods

**Chris Miles**  
Cadboro Bay Road  
*Birds, photography*

**Hana Bullard**  
Despard Avenue  
*Birds, botany, forest  
ecology*

**Anny Scoones**  
Glamorgan Road  
*Riparian, watersheds,  
foreshore, habitat  
enhancements*

**L. Ross McPhee**  
Old Esquimalt Road  
*Birding, hiking*

**Chris Junck**  
Bracken Avenue

**Jacques Sirois**  
St. Patrick Street  
*Marine conservation,  
and Garry oak ecosystems*

**Wayne and Diane Swanson**  
Torrington Place  
*Birds, bugs, and  
photography*

**Alicia Yeend-Brown**  
Cambridge Street  
*Music, reading*

**Peter and Chris Kabel**  
Milner Avenue  
*Birds and marine*

**Maryanna Kenney**  
Mortimer Street  
*Yoga, ecological  
restoration, gardening,  
permaculture, berry  
picking, biking, medicinal  
plants, hikes*

**Samantha Robinson**  
Strange Street  
*Mostly wildlife,  
particularly birds; would  
like to learn more about  
botany*

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FREE newsletter



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**RAYMOND JAMES** Member CIPF

# Development Could Take Wilderness Out of Juan de Fuca Trail

By Quintin Winks

A portion of the wild Juan de Fuca Marine Trail winding along Vancouver Island's southwest coast could change forever if a Lower Mainland developer gets his way.

Ender Ilkay plans to build 279 cabins, seven residential homes, a lodge, and caretaker cottages alongside the Juan de Fuca Marine Park. Spread out along seven kilometres, the cabins and access roads would end within 100 meters of the wilderness trail. Ilkay's proposal calls for tree-line trimming to ensure ocean views for the new homeowners, forcing the trail to be relocated in several places to steeper banks. Ilkay says that roads and cabins would not be visible from the trail.

But according to Gordon O'Connor, a Vancouver Island campaigner with the environmental group Dogwood Initiative, the proposed resort would add to tourism sprawl, increase demands for roads, increase greenhouse gases, drive out wildlife, and ruin the wilderness experience of the Juan de Fuca Trail.

The trail itself begins a short distance west of Jordan River, which is famous for its surfing. Park at the China Beach parking lot and begin walking west along Mystic Beach, Bear Beach, Sombrio, Payzant Beach, and Botanical Beach. The 47-kilometre trail eventually ends at Port Renfrew.

But what will become of all this, the bears and eagles, cougars and seals, whales and towering old growth trees if Ender Ilkay gets his way? Environmental stewards like O'Connor argue that the park and the trail won't, can't even, get through the development unscathed.

On the one hand, Ilkay's project will likely create jobs. That's particularly appealing to members of the Pacheedaht Nation living in Port Renfrew, just a few minutes up the road. Unemployment is high, money's tight and Ilkay's proposal could be a possible solution. Contractors, labourers, drivers, and machine operators would all be put to work, not to mention potential future spin-off in the form of increased traffic to the area and overseas money being pumped into the local economy through tourism. Lastly, there's potential for permanent employment in order to maintain and service the holiday cabins that Ilkay is proposing.

Ilkay is also trying to mitigate environmental and trail impact by donating land to the Juan de Fuca Provincial Park. He has proposed a green space buffer zone between the cabins and the parkland where no building will take place.

On the other hand, Ilkay's proposed project has drawn

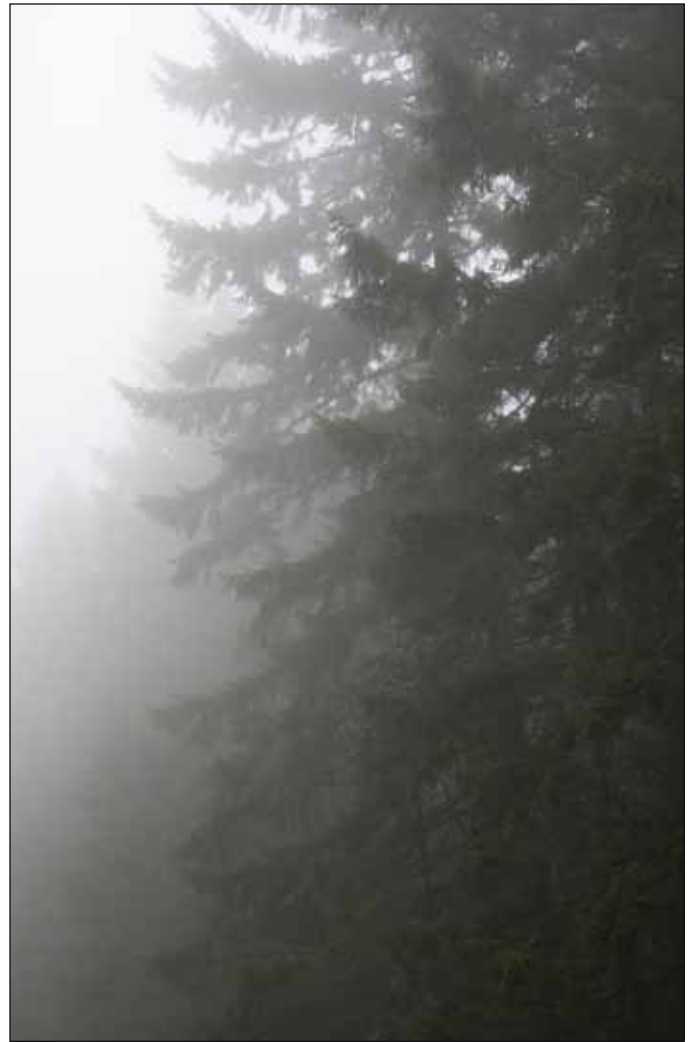


Photo: copyright Mikhail Belikov/<[www.focusonwild.com](http://www.focusonwild.com)>

heated opposition from those who see the Juan de Fuca Trail and Provincial Park as a legacy for future generations that will be severely compromised by development.

Also fueling resistance are First Nations land claims within the Juan de Fuca area. Those land claims have been working their way through the courts for decades, with no end in sight. But until the claims are settled all land sales should be frozen, says Russell Jones, an elder of the Pacheedaht Nation. He's referring to the sale of tree farm license land to Ilkay by the logging company Western Forest Products. Adding to Jones' frustration is a letter from his band council supporting Ilkay's proposed development, even though no consultation took place between the band council and its electorate, he says.

For its part the Capital Regional District, the governing body presiding over the Juan de Fuca lands, is neither opposed to the development nor in favour of it, says Mike Hicks, chair of the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee. "We don't want it done if it will be a harm to the Juan de Fuca Trail," he says. "Simple as that. If it can be done without harming the trail, then we'll look at it."

As a result of public feedback in 2010, Ilkay made



amendments to his development plan, which included the buffer, parkland donations, and the assertion that the resort development would not be visible from the trail. The public comments, and Ilkay's resulting changes, are available on the CRD website at <www.crd.bc.ca> under Document Library: reports: Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee: February 15.

Now the CRD planning staff are recommending a public information session sometime in the middle of March, says June Klassen, local planner for the CRD. The results of that session will then be compiled, together with feedback from referral agencies and any additional changes to the proposal, and submitted to the Land Use Committee. Ilkay then gets another chance to make any changes to address public concerns. The committee can then either recommend denying the application, asking for additional comments or moving forward to first and second reading and on to a public reading. "If everything moves smoothly, that might happen in April," says Klassen. "The development proposal goes to the board in May, there would be public hearings in the first week of June and then it goes back to the board in July."

Approval is then needed from the provincial Ministry of Transportation, followed by a third reading before finally being returned to the board for final adoption in the fall. Anyone wanting to participate in the process or who has concerns about the proposed development can either submit comments to [jdfinfo@crd.bc.ca](mailto:jdfinfo@crd.bc.ca) or attend the public information session in March. Specific details of that meeting will be available from the CRD after the February 15 meeting.



Skunk Cabbage. Photo: Darren Copley

## A Darwinian Connection to Canada's 5-Cent Stamp

By Bill Merilees

An increase in postal rates is credited with exposing a fascinating story for naturalists. Canada Post's beneficial insect series of low denomination stamps includes a Northern Bumblebee on a head of Red Clover.

This is the humble-bee of Charles Darwin (bumblebee to us) and a reminder of one of his experiments that showed "*How plants and animals are bound together by a web of complex relations*". Darwin counted the seeds produced by an equal number of Red Clover flower heads, some that were available to humble-bees, while others were protected from bee contact. The score was 2,700 seeds to zero!

This dependence of Red Clover on humble-bees for pollination is now a well-established fact, as is the importance of insects to pollination on a global scale. Darwin, however, took this relationship two steps further. In England it was known that mice were active predators of humble-bee nests. Therefore, around human habitations where cats are more numerous, this explained the



observable increase in the presence of Red Clover.

Others have extended this web even further, and it goes like this. The more wars Britain was engaged at in Europe, the more widows in England; the more widows, the more cats: the more cats meant fewer mice; fewer mice meant more humble-bees, and therefore more Red Clover.

I do not think Canada Post had this story in mind when the Northern Bumblebee was chosen for the 5-cent Canadian stamp. However it took an increase in postal rates to rekindle this connection to perhaps the greatest naturalist of all time!

# 2010 Christmas Bird Count Results – A New Record!

By Ann Nightingale

Every year, the Victoria and Ladner Christmas Bird Count teams battle it out to see which count circle will have the highest number. In 2010, we both did. Ladner took the top spot for number of bird species seen with 143, but finally Victoria has the record that we've been seeking for years – we had more than 200 people, 217 to be exact, counting in the field on December 18. This says a lot for the experienced and novice birders in our area. The day was dreary, very windy in places and drizzly in others. I truly thought that 2010 would be another “miss” for the target, but all of you counters did not let me down. Thank you! And just to give you a bit of perspective on what this really means in the big picture, there is a very real possibility that this may be the highest number of counters for a circle anywhere in 2010. (Santa Barbara, California had the greatest number of participants in 2009 with 220, but the Audubon site <<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>> shows only 199 participants in 2010).

A total of 140 species were observed on the Victoria count in 2010. That's about average for us. The winds may not have deterred the counters, but they did manage to keep the number of individual birds down to 58,180 – our lowest number since the miserably cold and wet count day in 2000, and well below the ten-year average of 72,175. A lot of the “missing” birds were offshore, hidden among the waves, and invisible to the counters on the shore. The weather kept our boat teams land-locked this year.

Despite the low overall numbers, four species managed to have new high count records this year: Cackling Goose (381), Wood Duck (128), Turkey Vulture (17) and Eurasian Collared-Dove (17). Cackling Geese, Dusky Canada Geese and Snow Geese put on quite a show during the fall, with higher than normal numbers visiting farms and wetlands. As talks of a goose cull are increasing, it's going to become very important to ensure that those responsible are aware of the differences between the migratory birds and the resident imported Canada Geese. Wood Ducks are appearing at more and more locations around Victoria, delighting fans of this “art deco” species.

Turkey Vultures are staying here in good numbers each winter, suggesting a change to their winter range (corresponding to their known expansion northward for breeding). The graph shows the occurrence of Turkey

Vultures during Christmas Bird Counts in the Pacific Northwest since 1980. The first for the Victoria Christmas Bird Count were in 1996. The numbers are still small, but we'd be more surprised not to see them now than to see them.

Our latest introduced – soon to become invasive – species, Eurasian Collared-Dove, was seen in two zones this year. If the North American trend continues for this species, we'll be seeing them in ever greater numbers throughout the region over the coming years.

Missing in action this year were Black Scoter, a frequent miss due to their small numbers here, and surprisingly, American Pipit. The last time this species evaded detection was in 1982. Equally surprising, it was also missed during the South Salt Spring/Sidney count. Both species were seen during the count week. Surfbirds were also missed on the count day.

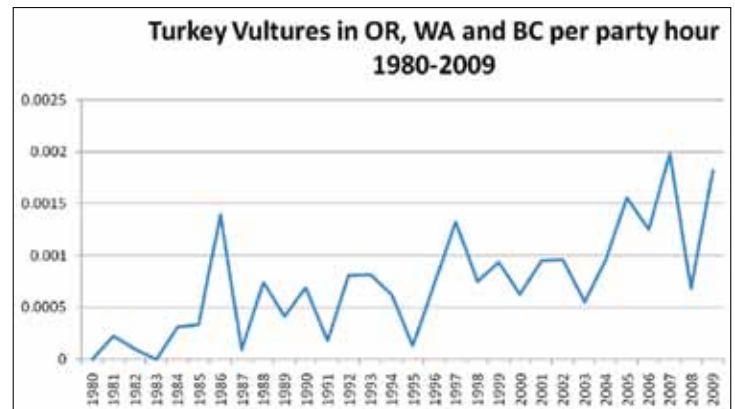
The most unusual bird of the Victoria count was an Iceland Gull found by Val George at Esquimalt Lagoon. This gull drew crowds – and debate about its pedigree for at least a month after the original sighting.

To see how other species have been doing in the Victoria (BCVI) count circle or any others, visit the Audubon Society's web site. You can get statistics going all the way back to the very first official Christmas Bird Count, graphs, maps, and all sorts of other cool information.

Christmas Bird Counts were also held in Sooke (coordinated by Daniel Bryant), South Salt Spring/Sidney (coordinated by Karen Ferguson), and Duncan (coordinated by Derrick Marven). Results for these counts are posted on the VNHS website.

Thanks go out to the zone leaders and everyone who makes the effort to participate in one or more of the Christmas Bird Counts. By doing so, you are contributing to the longest standing Citizen Science project in North America, and putting a very bright light on the birding community on southern Vancouver Island!

Mark your calendar for next year's Victoria Count – December 17, 2011. Watch for updates on the VNHS website: <[vicnhs.bc.ca/cbc/](http://vicnhs.bc.ca/cbc/)>



# 2010 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		Feeders		Victoria Count (Field & Feeder)		** Indicates new record in 2010																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20				
Ring-necked Pheasant				4																		4	93	
Virginia Rail																			2			5	14	
American Coot	8			3														634	12			659	1712	
Black-bellied Plover			1																			5	282	
Killdeer												7			12					25		45	370	
Black Oystercatcher						2		3		2		6		1								14	96	
Greater Yellowlegs												11										11	14	
Spotted Sandpiper						3																3	70	
Black Turnstone						15	47	2		74	2	8		3	2							153	370	
Sanderling										3												3	67	
Dunlin							11					6										17	1073	
Wilson's Snipe	1						1	1				1										6	37	
Bonaparte's Gull								1											1				5004	
Mew Gull					16	91	300	379		55	30		2	10	1	2	30	91	4	76		1,087	16375	
California Gull													1		8					2		11	130	
Herring Gull	1																					1	288	
Thayer's Gull	113		2		1	66	10	1	4		1	24			2	18	59					301	3110	
Iceland Gull							1															1	1	
Western Gull	2						3		1		1											7	18	
Glaucous-winged Gull	748	61	56	20	84	142	150	256	313	428	337	167	118	58	126	130	164	214	222	239	21	4,054	16794	
Common Murre						1		4			8	1	1	2	2				3			22	9938	
Pigeon Guillemot						1					5			19	6			1		2		34	260	
Marbled Murrelet								2		1		5						2				10	290	
Ancient Murrelet								3		10	6			2								21	6401	
Rhinoceros Auklet						2		6		2				6								16	113	
Eurasian Collared-dove							13																	
Rock Pigeon	32	1	27		6	16	89	3	45	84	70				14	43			2	71	4	570	1198	
Mourning Dove	3																					16	31	
Barn Owl																				13		1	6	
Great Horned Owl									1										8	1		10	44	
Northern Pygmy Owl			1																			1	5	
Barred Owl	1								2							1			2			7	11	
Short-eared Owl																						2	2	
Anna's Hummingbird	17	25	5	8	18	21	15	21	24	25	3	15	11	35	20	37	11	15	35	17	26	404	556	
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1			3	4	2	1				2	3	1		1	2	2	1		26	71	
Red-breasted Sapsucker											1											3	79	
Downy Woodpecker	2	7	1	2	5	7	4		3	6	3	2	3	6	8	9	7	2	14	9	6	106	212	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	2	1	1		1	2								3		15	1	3		2	32	36	
Northern Flicker	21	19	4	13	47	26	7	21	9	9	8	10	7	6	17	16		26	24	35	11	336	599	
Pileated Woodpecker	1	2	4	1										1	4			4	6	1	1	26	51	
Northern Shrike																						1	11	
Hutton's Vireo																			1			1	8	
Stellar's Jay	13	32	7	5	11	18	7	2	1			1	11	5	11	4	3	4			5	185	659	
Northwestern Crow	45	4	6	13	8	35	3	53	191	63	38	35	261	28	1266	441	205	151	47	82	14	2,989	10002	
Common Raven	59	77	30	22	14	18	9	7	3		4	3	4	19	30	7	5	17	43	20	2	393	420	
Sky Lark																						20	125	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	70	160	39	113	26	66	138	26	64	55	44	60	95	100	117	64	65	132	288	148	64	1,934	2312	
Bushtit	24	96		24	38	19	18	28	71	117	109	16	78	80	47	92	67	199	34	54	179	1,390	2522	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	21	2	12	7	7	12	2	7	3	6	1	11	8	7	3	3	5	37	6	13	182	647	
Brown Creeper	9	10	3	7	5	8	1	17			3	2	7	5	14	4	4	17	36	4	3	159	171	
Bewick's Wren	12	15	1	6	5		8	19	13	2	4	15	11	7	19	23	13	15	25	17	13	243	324	
Pacific Wren	10	44	39	14	1	26	29	22	14	12	12	8	16	22	30	23	6	17	42	13	5	405	569	
Marsh Wren					3	2		1								2	1	2	5	2		18	52	
American Dipper			2																			2		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	37	231	91	118	32	90	63	102	32	17	33	50	77	28	109	11	9	25	335	41	4	1,535	4000	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	18	3	8	41	4	6	7	12			2		4	8	9	4	7	15	4	2	159	402	
Hermit Thrush	2	2	1	1	1	5	1	2	1	3			2	2	1	1	1			1	2	27	51	



# 2010 Victoria Christmas Bird Count including Feeder Watch

Count Areas		Victoria Count (Field & Feeder)																				** Indicates new record in 2010	
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	Marintdale / Bear Hill	Feeders	Total #	Prev High	
Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
American Robin	101	61	4	39	25	41	45	122	217	97	78	65	36	53	258	861	189	72	121	388	59	2,932	14,327
Varied Thrush	11	24	15	8	13	12	4	6	8	1	3	1	7	7	16	10	3	14	31	10	11	215	1200
European Starling	269	73		69	16	29	6	19	248	171		6	53	23	172	34	70	54	221	936	78	2,547	18183
Cedar Waxwing													2	5		10				6		23	600
Orange-crowned Warbler										1												1	6
Yellow-rumped Warbler																7			1		8	25	3
Townsend's Warbler					1																	1	
Spotted Towhee	52	72	11	26	21	40	9	29	26	11	10	27	33	38	47	41	34	53	84	62	34	760	1099
Savannah Sparrow																		2		8		10	112
Fox Sparrow	32	28	14	19	8	31	3	33	23	2	2	10	16	22	27	15	23	24	48	61	14	455	923
Song Sparrow	29	35	14	8	7	23	21	24	12	14	11	16	18	26	17	23	23	50	24	46	1	442	937
Lincoln's Sparrow				1		2		4									1	3	3	6		20	89
Swamp Sparrow	1																					1	6
White-throated Sparrow		1				1		1	1						2						2	8	13
White-crowned Sparrow				7		1	1	5		1		24	1		12		5	5		45	1	108	376
Golden-crowned Sparrow	97	66	16	77	14	116	27	72	60	22	15	17	33	50	63	99	14	75	154	113	27	1,227	1331
Dark-eyed Junco	331	145	46	161	126	115	149	109	151	22	51	21	78	163	175	102	130	277	295	405	191	3,243	8823
Red-winged Blackbird	72	10			23	11	11		40							64	8	9	121	352		721	2160
Western Meadowlark																				1		1	126
Brewer's Blackbird		3					67	2					25		361	30	32	2		236		758	1377
Brown-headed Cowbird																				5		5	22
Purple Finch				2		4	6	1						6			11	4	4		2	54	293
House Finch	23	20	13	36	2	46	34	16	58	23	3	22	43	29	41	30	42	63	13	43	88	688	1973
Red Crossbill					1									3									
Pine Siskin	2	59				208	12	6		8			48	67	45		26	152	4	110	7	746	9386
American Goldfinch								4					10								2	24	240
Evening Grosbeak		1	1																			2	187
House Sparrow	45	35	2	79	58	92	59	106	392	207	28	5	37	15	66	139	79	92	58	42	45	1,681	2975
Unidentified Gull				5			200		42		103							100				652	
GWGXWEGU							150												4			154	
Count Totals	7,496	1,577	570	1,764	1,024	2,183	2,570	2,547	3,215	2,237	1,671	1,262	1,536	1,253	3,779	3,223	4,347	3,482	2,850	8,633	961	58,180	125,518
Species Totals	69	47	47	48	49	69	68	73	56	53	53	59	50	56	67	61	56	71	66	93	38	140	154

## Participant List, Victoria Christmas Bird Count 2010

Arnold Adlkirchner	Mike Davis
Dave Aldcroft	Neal Donegani
Diana Aldcroft	Daniel Donnecke
Sophie Amin	Warren Drinnan
Tracy Anderson	Veronica Druce
Bob Arbess	Don Eastman
Mischa Arbess	Mike Edgell
Alanna Baird	Ros Eldridge
Karlee Bamford	Christian Engelstoft
Glenn Bartley	Kathy English
Lonny Bate	Willow English
Doug Bateman	Sue Ennis
Brent Beach	Jenny Feick
Sylvia Beacom	Jamie Fenneman
Barb Begg	Cam Finlay
Fred Beinhauer	Joy Finlay
Louise Beinhauer	Maija Finvers
Mike Bentley	Jason Found
Marjon Blouw	Ron Fownes
Michael Borins	Dave Fraser
Penny Boyce	Melissa Frey
Janice Brown	Marilyn Fuchs
Daniel Bryant	Terry Gagne
Timon Bullard	Jeff Gaskin
Heather Bunner	Jeremy Gatten
Martha Burd	Val George
Barb Burnside	Heather Glass
Carol Callahan-	Sharon Godkin
Maureen	Mitchell Grant
Cynthia Callahan-	Millie Grant
Maureen	Poul Hansen
Ian Cameron	Andrew Harcombe
Bob Carroll	Gail Harcombe
Jan Carroll	Bruce Hardy
Dannie Carsen	John Harper
Paul Chytyk	Margaret Harrison
Rhiannon Cockayne	Rand Harrison
Rosalind Coleman	Gordon Hart
Aziza Cooper	Ian Hatter
Claudia Copley	Phyllis Henderson
Darren Copley	John Henigman
Pat Cownden	Ron Hoppe
Elizabeth Cross	Edith Hunsberger
Ian Cruickshank	Doreen Hunter
Lianne Cuillerier	Kelly Hunter
Paul Cumberland	Gaileen Irwin
Helen Currie	Lynda Jamison
Jim Currie	Colin Jennings
Bill Dancer	Kristina Kezes

Jason Kimm	Susan Martin	Mark Nyhof	Rick Schortinghuis	Jules Thomson
Jeremy Kimm	Margie Mayfield	Colleen O'Brien	Karen Schrey	Michael Tripp
Barb Kirby	Sarah McArthur	Morrough O'Brien	Mel Scott	Ed Tupper
Jim Kirby	Barb McGrenere	Orla Osborne	Margie Shephard	Gail Tupper
Todd Kohler	Mike McGrenere	Marie O'Shaughnessy	Rob Shephard	Liz Turner
Adrian Koolman	Bill McMillan	Tom Plath	Michael Simmons	Nicky Tutt
Don Kramer	Theresa McMillan	Elaine Preston	Juliet Simon	Ben van Drimmelen
Vanessa Kramer	Amy Medve	Lee Priftakis	Patricia Simpson	Joyce Vezina
Audrey Kyle	Kirsten Mills	Jenn Provencher	Nikko Snow	Leo Vezina
Barbara Lake	James Miskelly	Jacqueline Ramsay	Joan Sommers	Fern Walker
Bob Lake	Marilyn Misner	Ken Ramsay	Margaret Stevens	Ted Walker
Marilyn Lambert	Rod Mitchell	Leah Ramsay	Tom Stevens	Sarah Weber
Tom Lane	Marion Moore	Cathy Reader	Andy Stewart	Stephanie
Laura Lasby	Glen Moores	Emma Reader	Ann Stewart	Weinstein
Shona Lawson	Judy Moores	Rebecca Reader	Irene Stewart	Bruce Whittington
Warren Lee	Mary Morris	Mindy Richter	David Stirling	Ann Widdowson
Agnes Lynn	Donna Murray	Wayne Robertson	Jason Straka	Tom Widdowson
David Lynn	Heather Murray	Dave Robichaud	Jack Sutherland	Jean- Anne
Art Macgregor	David Newell	Mary Robichaud	Ken Sutill	Wightman
Cheryl Mackie	Geoffrey Newell	Robin Robinson	Jan Talbot	Lars Yunker
Alan MacLeod	Jean Newell	Donna Ross	Jeremy Tatum	Mark Yunker
Pat MacLeod	Rae Ann Newman	Katherine Rowe	Mark Taylor	Kim Zurmach
Morwyn Marshall	Ann Nightingale	Mary Sanseverino	Mitchell Temkin	Ryan Zurmach
Megan Marshall	Sheila Norton	Chris Saunders	Andy Teucher	
Jeanne S. Martin	Hennie Nyhof	Ann Schau	Danielle Thompson	



**Olympic Birdfest 2011  
April 8-10, 2011 in Sequim, WA**

A bird watching vacation for beginners to experts, from leisurely strolls to active hikes. Bird for a few hours, or all day ... from the dawn chorus to the evening owl prow. We will wake you with coffee, nourish you with locally grown organic food, and celebrate a traditional salmon bake.

Enjoy the show from guided birding trips, boat tours, a silent auction, banquet, and many other presentations. Our festival has a full slate of extraordinary offerings awaiting you.

**BirdFest program information and registration can be found at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)  
Or email [opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com](mailto:opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com)**



**San Juan Islands  
April 10-12, 2011, Sequim, WA**

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this spring for a three-day cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Cruise to Roche Harbor Resort and San Juan Island, whale-watching along the way. Picnic on Sucia Island State Park, and cruise home via dramatic Deception Pass.

**Contact 360-681-4076, or email [opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com](mailto:opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com). Register at [www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org](http://www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org)**

# Letters

I would like to thank you for your generous support of my research in the Department of Biology through the Alice M. Hay Scholarship. Your contribution will help me to achieve my goals as a graduate student in ecology and conservation, studying threatened and endangered species. This is the first year of my M.Sc. degree in Biology, before which I spent three years working as a wildlife biologist and research assistant at the BC Ministry of Environment and at the University of Victoria. Since 2003 I have contributed to studies on conservation of the threatened Marbled Murrelet in British Columbia, mainly on western Vancouver Island.

For my graduate degree I will be studying the ecology and conservation of both the Marbled Murrelet and the closely related Kittlitz's Murrelet in Alaska. My research focuses on the flight behaviour of these birds at breeding sites in a treeless landscape on Kodiak Island, where I will investigate behavioural adaptations to this landscape using marine radar to track flying birds. Additionally, my research will contribute to the management of these threatened species by developing monitoring protocols that can be applied throughout their ranges in Alaska. I am grateful for your support of my research, which entails significant costs to work in such remote areas.

I enjoyed presenting to the Victoria Natural History Society in January 2011 about my experiences on Kodiak Island, Alaska, where I began my fieldwork last summer. In future I hope to continue my career in environmental research and conservation in British Columbia. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Jenna Cragg

My name is Katrina Nikolich, and I am the recipient of this year's Freeman F. King scholarship at the University of Victoria. I am very grateful to have received this award, and would like to thank you very much for your donation. I am finishing my degree in Biology this year, with an emphasis

on terrestrial and marine ecology and conservation. The \$400 I received from your generous donation will help me complete my final semester at the University of Victoria and move on to a career in the field as soon as possible!

Growing up in Victoria, I have had a chance to appreciate the diversity of life and ecosystems, both on land and in the surrounding ocean, since a young age. I feel it is a privilege to live and study in a coastal environment, especially one as rich and relatively wild as Vancouver Island. My career goals include a job interacting with endangered or critical species in the field, and my dream is to have the opportunity to do this in and around the Victoria area. Having lived here all my life, I cannot imagine a better place to study our wild surroundings and make a difference in preserving the biodiversity and natural beauty that our Island is famous for.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your donation, and I hope I may someday soon find myself working alongside the VNHS to appreciate and protect the natural wonders that surround us.

With many thanks,  
Katrina Nikolich

On behalf of the membership, board, and staff of the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, I wish to express our sincere thanks for the VNHS' generous support of our *Bridges to Nature* Campaign.

Your donation of \$5000 towards the construction of the floating boardwalk will be recognized on interpretive signage to be placed on one of three teaching platforms that form an integral part of the new design. Your coverage in *The Victoria Naturalist* has assisted in raising the profile of the project within the Victoria community.

The relationship between the Victoria Natural History Society and Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary spans more than 30 years, and our shared commitment to stimulating interest in natural history has created a strong partnership. Through our mutual efforts we can continue to provide an educational opportunity for generations to come.

Yours truly,  
Terry Morrison, Executive Director



## Where is the Colour? It's Out There!

Visit it in nature and bring it home in Patrice's art

For original art; museum quality limited edition reproductions, notecards and commissioned art, please contact:

**PATRICE PLANK FINE ART**

250-474-3907 or [sons60rg@earthlink.net](mailto:sons60rg@earthlink.net)

[www.patriceplankfineart.com](http://www.patriceplankfineart.com)

# BULLETIN BOARD

**Calling all Nature Photographers!!!** Some exciting news! Three colleagues (P. Williams, L. Richardson & R. Thorp) and myself are putting together a field guide to the bumble bees of North America. Our agent is Russell Galen (of Sibley's Bird Guide fame) and our publisher is Princeton U. Press. One part of this guide will be the photos of bumble bees in the wild to help people identify them to species. Unfortunately the guide is due this upcoming winter, which gives us only one field season to capture photos from the males and females of all 46 species. I've a few trips planned, but covering the continent while doing our own field work is going to be a huge challenge. If you know any amateur naturalists who would like to contribute photos, or an aspiring nature photographer, who could benefit from a published photo please forward our request. We particularly need photos from the west coast, anywhere in Canada other than southern Ontario, Alaska, and the southern parts of the US. Bumble bees are in flight from Feb-Nov, depending on the weather. If we can't grab good shots, I will be forced to pose dead bees on flowers which is always a little sad! At this point we can't offer any money, just the satisfaction of photo credit on a widely distributed, one-of-a-kind guide. Thanks for reading! My email address is Sheila Colla: sheila\_123@hotmail.com

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

**People love their coffee and cookies!!** Volunteer(s) are needed to prepare refreshments for Natural History Night – the second Tuesday of each month. The job is easy – you will receive all the necessary equipment and supplies. Each night you purchase cookies and milk. You arrive 30 minutes in advance to make the coffee and set up, you collect the money and clean up afterwards. Proceeds go to supporting the VNHS. Advantages: it gets you out of your house to wonderful presentations on a wide variety of natural history topics, you get to meet great like-minded people, make friends, and learn about the natural world we inhabit. Please contact Donna if you are interested in this volunteer position: hoshihana@shaw.ca

**Every Wednesday and Sunday Bird Walk.** Meet at the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary parking lot: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. For everyone!

**Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary courses and events:** For more information <www.swanlake.bc.ca> or call 250-479-0211.

**Olympic Birdfest Sequim, WA and a San Juan Island Cruise:** April 8-10, 2011 – A bird watching vacation for beginners to experts, from leisurely strolls to active hikes. Stay on for a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the spectacular San Juan Archipelago: April 10-12, 2011. Contact 360-681-4076, or email opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com. Register separately at <www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org>. BirdFest program information/registration at <www.olympicbirdfest.org>.

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## 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 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>, and is updated regularly.

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

### MARCH

#### Saturday, March 5

##### FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 1)

##### *Birding in Parksville*

Come see the spectacle of the annual Pacific Herring spawn. Massive numbers of sea ducks and gulls follow the herring in close to shore, so we can easily observe the birds feeding

on the herring roe. We can also enjoy the beginning of the congregation of the Brant Geese in the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area and vicinity. This will be an all day trip, so bring lunch and snacks. No pets please. Meet at Helmcken Park & Ride at 7:00 a.m. Carpool expenses will be about \$20.00 per person. Contact **Rick Schortinghuis** at 250-885-2454 for more information or Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca or 250-721-0634 to reserve a spot in her van.



## Sunday, March 6

### FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 3)

#### **Royal Roads' Big Trees**

**Hans Roemer** will share his knowledge of the big trees on the Royal Roads University and neighbouring Department of National Defense properties. Hans has been researching these trees for several years and it is delightful to walk through the woods with him, admiring giants that include Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*) and other natives. Hans will explain how they have reached these huge proportions as well as talk about other interesting natural features in the area. Although we will be walking at a slow pace, this will be an outing for those who are comfortable clambering up and down hills on uneven ground. A walking stick and good hiking boots are recommended. Dress for the weather. Bring a snack and a drink if you wish. No pets please. Starts from the Cedar Building at 10:00 a.m. Turn into Royal Roads University at traffic light, take first right that winds down to stop sign at bottom, right to Cedar Building. Parking is right & left of stop sign. There is a fee for parking (~\$3). Contact **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca or 250-721-0634 for more information.

## Tuesday, March 8

### NATURAL HISTORY NIGHT AND AGM

#### **Mothers in a Dangerous Time: Raising Lemurs in the Malagasy Rainforest**

Following on the heels of her 2010 exploratory survey, in June 2011 **Jody Weir** will be setting up camp in the Madagascar jungle to follow the feeding behaviours and diet of young Indri and Diademed Sifaka Lemurs for a year. Infant survival in these two endangered species is intimately linked with nutrition, which itself is dependent on food availability, access to food resources, the amount of food consumed, and the nutritional content the food provides. Knowledge of plant species consumed by young lemurs will inform reforestation and plant nursery efforts currently underway at Maromizaha Forest. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 159 of the Fraser Building, UVic. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and a coffee mug.

## Saturday, March 12

### FIELD TRIP (LEVEL TBA)

#### **Saturday Morning Birding**

Call the Rare Bird Alert, 250-704-2555, or click 'Rare Bird Alert' on the VNHS website <www.vicnhs.bc.ca> on the Thursday or Friday before to find out this week's location. Usually start at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. For more details, call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 or email **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca. Everyone welcome.

## Tuesday, March 15

### BOTANY NIGHT

#### **Protected Areas, Climate Change, and the Path Forward**

**Dr. Tory Stevens** (Protected Areas Ecologist, BC Ministry of Environment) will give an overview of some of the specific changes that have already been recorded in the province that have resulted from changing climate, how the protected areas system might influence the conservation of biodiversity in this context, and where we go from here from a provincial perspective. Swan Lake Nature House, 7:30 p.m., everyone welcome.

## Thursday, March 17

### FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 1)

#### **Botany Behind the Scenes Tour at the Royal British Columbia Museum**

Join us for a private "behind the scenes" look at the botany collection with **John Pinder-Moss**, Collections Manager.

Botanists have collected plants from British Columbia for more than two centuries and the Royal BC Museum has been active in botany for more than a century, with collections going back to those early days. Over the past five decades the RBCM has been at the forefront in the botanical exploration of British Columbia: the province with the richest flora in Canada. The area is small so each tour is limited to 10 people. While the allotted time suggested by the Museum is 30 minutes, our last Paleontology trip lasted two hours and was extremely well-received. Cost per person is \$8.25 (group rate). The tour will start at 10 a.m. sharp, so please leave enough time for parking. We will meet at the 3-dimensional BC Map in the museum lobby. As we have a group tour rate, please do not buy your tickets. No backpacks, large bags, food, or drinks are allowed in the Fannin Building, but these can be left with the coat check (by donation). The Fannin building is not wheelchair accessible. You must pre-register by contacting **Gwen Walter** before Tuesday, March 15: 250-727-7376.

## Saturday, March 19

### FIELD TRIP (LEVEL TBA)

#### **Saturday Morning Birding**

Call the Rare Bird Alert, 250-704-2555, or click 'Rare Bird Alert' on the VNHS website <www.vicnhs.bc.ca> on the Thursday or Friday before to find out this week's location. Usually start at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. For more details, call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 or email **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca. Everyone welcome.

## Wednesday, March 23

### BIRDERS' NIGHT

#### **Cache Only – The Feeding Habits and Ecology of the Gray Jay, Canada's Bird for All Seasons**

**Bryan Gates**, former long-time host of Birders' Night, returns with a slide presentation describing the 40+ years of research on the Gray Jay by Dan Strickland of Ontario. Dan, Bob Mitton, and Bryan visited Vancouver Island recently to compare aspects of our local subspecies of the jay with those of other subspecies across Canada. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 159 of the Fraser Building, UVic. Everyone welcome. Bring a friend and coffee mug.

## Saturday, March 26

### FIELD TRIP (LEVEL TBA)

#### **Saturday Morning Birding**

Call the Rare Bird Alert, 250-704-2555, or click 'Rare Bird Alert' on the VNHS website <www.vicnhs.bc.ca> on the Thursday or Friday before to find out this week's location. Usually start at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. For more details, call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 or email **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca. Everyone welcome.

## Monday, March 28

### MARINE NIGHT

#### **UVic's Marine Protected Area Research Group: From Whale Sharks To Clam Gardens, What Are They Doing?**

The Marine Protected Area Research Group (MPARG), based in the Department of Geography, is involved in numerous studies relating to marine conservation. **Dr. Philip Dearden**, Professor and Chair of the Department, will present an illustrated talk covering projects in Central America, Africa, and South-east Asia, as well as Canada: why they are involved and what they are hoping to accomplish. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 159 of the Fraser Building, UVic. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.

## **APRIL**

### **Saturday, April 2**

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL TBA)

#### ***Saturday Morning Birding***

Call the Rare Bird Alert, 250-704-2555, or click 'Rare Bird Alert' on the VNHS website <www.vicnhs.bc.ca> on the Thursday or Friday before to find out this week's location. Usually start at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. For more details, call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 or email Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca. Everyone welcome.

### **Sunday, April 3**

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 2/3)

#### ***Enjoy Early Spring Beauty at Gore and Oak Haven Parks***

What better way to spend an early spring morning than in these two delightful Saanich Peninsula parks with their exquisite spring wildflowers? To allow more people to partake in the level section in Gore Park, we will do this park first. Oak Haven Park has a climb to the summit but we even take that slowly. A walking stick and good hiking boots are recommended for the Oak Haven section. Bring a snack and drink if you wish. No pets please. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the entrance to Gore Park. To reach Gore Park, proceed along Benvenuto Dr. towards Butchart Gardens. Turn right on Amwell Dr. Follow Amwell Dr. to reach Greig Rd. Turn right to the park entrance on the right. We usually walk to Oak Haven from Gore Park and return. Call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 if you need more information.

### **Friday, April 8**

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 1)

#### ***Ornithology Behind the Scenes Tour at the Royal British Columbia Museum***

Join us for a private "behind the scenes" look at the Royal BC Museum bird collection, which primarily consists of specimens from British Columbia. It contains 19,335 study skins, 3,027 skeletons, 2,713 clutches of eggs, 375 nests and 43 fluid-preserved specimens. The collection is strong in seabirds, waterfowl, raptors, grouse, shorebirds, alcids, gulls, woodpeckers, and common passerines. Our guide will be **Dr. Gavin Hanke**, Curator of Vertebrates. The area is small so each tour is limited to 10 people. While the allotted time suggested by the Museum is 30 minutes, our last Paleontology trip lasted two hours and was extremely well-received. Cost per person is \$8.25 (group rate). The tour will start at 10 a.m. sharp, so please leave enough time for parking. We will meet at the 3-dimensional BC Map in the museum lobby. As we have a group tour rate, please do not buy your tickets. No backpacks, large bags, food, or drinks are allowed in the Fannin Building but these can be left with the coat check (by donation). The Fannin Building is not wheelchair accessible. You must pre-register by contacting **Gwen Walter** before Wednesday, April 6: 250-727-7376.

### **Saturday, April 9**

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL TBA)

#### ***Saturday Morning Birding***

Call the Rare Bird Alert, 250-704-2555, or click 'Rare Bird Alert' on the VNHS website <www.vicnhs.bc.ca> on the Thursday or Friday before to find out this week's location. Usually start at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. For more details, call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 or email **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca. Everyone welcome.

### **Tuesday, April 12**

NATURAL HISTORY NIGHT

#### ***Garry Oak Meadow Restoration: Traditional and Contemporary Techniques***

In 2009 masters student **Kate Proctor** used traditional Coast Salish harvesting practices and fall burning in an area with camas bulbs. Join Kate as she talks about the effects of these activities on the camas plant community and the overall plant diversity at the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve. She will also talk about the current interest and challenges to integrating cultural and ecological restoration. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 159 of the Fraser Building, UVic. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and a coffee mug.

### **Saturday, April 16**

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL TBA)

#### ***Saturday Morning Birding***

Call the Rare Bird Alert, 250-704-2555, or click 'Rare Bird Alert' on the VNHS website <www.vicnhs.bc.ca> on the Thursday or Friday before to find out this week's location. Usually start at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. For more details, call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 or email **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca. Everyone welcome.

### **Sunday, April 17**

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 4)

#### ***Enjoy All That Jocelyn Hill Has To Offer***

Join us 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. A walking stick and good hiking boots are recommended. Bring a lunch and drinks for this all-day outing. No pets please. Follow the Trans-Canada Highway to Millstream Rd. exit. Follow signs to the Highlands and you will be on Millstream Rd. 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. on the left. The trail head is on Millstream Rd. just past that intersection. Park on the right-hand side of the road. Meet there at 9:00 a.m. Call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 if you need more information.

### **Tuesday, April 19**

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 3)

#### ***Intertidal Exploration Trip***

Join **Phil Lambert**, former RBCM Curator of Invertebrates – and meet various molluscs, sea stars, worms, crustaceans, sea anemones, and other creatures living under the rocks of Macauley Point. It will be wet and slippery underfoot so wear rubber boots, bring walking poles and don't forget your camera. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at the foot of Lampson St. at Fleming Beach in Esquimalt. We will then walk to Macauley Point for our search. Contact **Gwen Walter** 250-727-7376 for more information.

### **Tuesday, April 19**

BOTANY NIGHT \*\*\*\*\*PLEASE, NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE\*\*\*\*\*

#### ***Two Ladies That Painted Mushrooms***

**Dr. Jim Ginns** (retired Research Mycologist with Agriculture Canada) will talk about two extremely talented ladies. One from the 19th century was a sheep breeder and world famous

author. The other from the 20th century was a naturalist and horticulturalist. Both were fascinated by mushrooms and left a significant legacy through their mostly watercolour paintings. **Please note the location change:** University of Victoria, Elliott Room 167, 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, everyone is welcome.

### Friday, April 22

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 2)

#### **Good Friday Visit to Honeymoon Bay Wildflower Ecological Reserve**

**Marilyn Lambert** from the Friends of the Ecological Reserves will be joining us on our visit to the Pink Fawn Lilies (*Erythronium revolutum*) at Honeymoon Bay. We will also stop to explore other areas along the Cowichan River. Bring a lunch and drinks for this all-day outing. No pets please. We will car-pool and start from Victoria at 9:00 a.m. You must register for this event as the number of visitors is limited. VNHS members get preference. Contact Agnes at thelynns at shaw.ca or 250-721-0634 after March 3 to register or if you need more information.

### Saturday, April 23

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL TBA)

#### **Saturday Morning Birding**

Call the Rare Bird Alert, 250-704-2555, or click 'Rare Bird Alert' on the VNHS website <www.vicnhs.bc.ca> on the Thursday or Friday before to find out this week's location. Usually start at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. For more details, call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 or email **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca. Everyone welcome.

### Sunday April 24

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 3)

#### **Easter Sunday Visit to Mount Tzouhalem Ecological Reserve**

What a beautiful place to enjoy Easter Sunday morning. We will be guided by Warden **Syd Watts** who has been working on this site for many years. 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. We also plan to visit another Garry Oak area close by to see the Yellow Montane Violets (*Viola praemorsa*). A walking stick and good hiking boots are recommended. Bring a lunch and drinks for the all day-long outing. No pets please. We will car-pool and start from Victoria at 9:00 a.m. You must register for this event as the number of visitors is limited. VNHS members get preference. Contact **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca or 250-721-0634 after March 3 to register or if you need more information.

### Monday, April 25

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 4)

#### **Later Season Visit to Mount Wells**

Investigate Mount Wells, a gateway to the Sooke Hills Wilderness Regional Park Reserve. We normally go early in the season to view the Satinflowers (*Olsynium douglasii*) but this year we will go to see the many other wildflowers in bloom later in the season instead. Enjoy views of Juan de Fuca Strait and the Sooke Hills. This location also offers a good chance to see a Golden Eagle soaring above us. Please note the trail is steep and challenging but will be taken at a leisurely pace to enjoy the habitat. A walking stick and good hiking boots are recommended. Bring a lunch and drinks for this all-day outing. No pets please. Take the Trans-Canada highway towards Goldstream Park. Turn left at the new Westshore Parkway shortly before you get to Goldstream Park. Turn right at the roundabout and carry on left when you reach Sooke Lake

Rd. Turn left on to Humpback Rd. at Ma Millar's Pub. At the intersection with Irwin Rd., stay right. Follow Humpback Rd. to the park entrance. Meet at the parking lot on the right at 10:00 a.m. Don't be late as we may be ferrying people to the start point. Contact **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca or 250-721-0634 if you need more information.

### Monday, April 25

MARINE NIGHT

#### **Exploring Mineral and Genetic Resources from Hydrothermal Vents**

What is the reality of managing the resource potential at deep-sea hydrothermal vents? **Sheryl Murdock** looks at this unique and dynamic ecosystem from an economic and conservation perspective. Sheryl is research assistant to Dr. Kim Juniper, the BC Leadership Chair in Ocean Ecosystems and Global Change. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 159 of the Fraser Building, UVic. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.

### Wednesday, April 27

BIRDERS' NIGHT

#### **Photographing the Birds of Canada**

**Glenn Bartley** is a professional nature photographer and author who focuses on creating images of birds in their natural habitat. Join Glenn as he shares his photos from a 2-month bird photography trip across Canada. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 159 of the Fraser Building, UVic. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and a coffee mug.

### Saturday, April 30

FIELD TRIP (LEVEL 2)

#### **Saturday Morning Birding**

Call the Rare Bird Alert, 250-704-2555, or click 'Rare Bird Alert' on the VNHS website <www.vicnhs.bc.ca> on the Thursday or Friday before to find out this week's location. Usually start at 8:00 a.m., rain or shine. For more details, call **Rick** at 250-885-2454 or email **Agnes** at thelynns at shaw.ca. Everyone welcome.

### Saturday, April 30

EVENT

#### **19th Annual Camas Day in Beacon Hill Park**

This event includes guided walks for birds at 7 and 9 a.m., wildflowers at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., archaeology at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., bark beetles at 11 a.m., and an insect walk at 1 p.m. Walks are about one hour each. Meet at the flag pole atop Beacon Hill. Jointly sponsored by VNHS and Friends of Beacon Hill Park Society. For more information, call **Helen Oldershaw**: 250-592-6659, or check the website at <www.friendsofbeaconhillpark.ca>

## **MAY**

### Saturday, May 14

EVENT

#### **Winged Migration – International Migratory Bird Day!**

Celebrate the return of our feathered friends! May 14 is International Migratory Bird Day. Join CRD Regional Parks, Rocky Point Bird Observatory, and the Victoria Natural History Society for this day-long event at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park. Birding, children's activities, bird banding demonstrations, presentations, and more. Check the CRD Regional Parks website for details: <www.crd.bc.ca/parks/>. Meet at the nature centre in the main Beaver Lake parking lot anytime between 8 a.m.–3 p.m.– this is a free, drop-in event, and all ages are welcome.

## 20th Annual CAMAS DAY

**WHEN:** Saturday April 30, 2011, 7:00 am – 2:00 pm  
**WHERE:** Beacon Hill Park (walks begin at flagpole on top of Beacon Hill)

### **Guided Walks (each 1-2 hours long)**

*Rick Schortinghuis*, Victoria Natural History Society **7:00 am, Early Birding Walk**

*David Riedel*, Victoria Natural History Society **9:00 am, Birding Walk**

*Fred Hook*, Environmental Technician, City of Victoria Parks **11:00 am, Wildflower Walk**

*Grant Keddie*, Curator of Archaeology, Royal BC Museum

**11:00 am, Native History of Beacon Hill Park**

*Fred Hook*, Environmental Technician, City of Victoria Parks **1:00 pm, Wildflower Walk**

*Grant Keddie*, Curator of Archaeology, Royal BC Museum **1:00 pm, Native History of Beacon Hill Park**

*Dr. Michelle Gorman*, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, City of Victoria Parks **1:00 pm, Insect Walk**

**There may be additions to the schedule.**

**Please check the website at [www.friendsofbeaconhillpark.ca](http://www.friendsofbeaconhillpark.ca)**

Sponsored by the Victoria Natural History Society and Friends of Beacon Hill Park  
For more information, call Helen Oldershaw (592-6659)