

INFORMATION PLEASE

Most of our members will already have heard of the effort being made this summer to try and locate nesting sites of the Whooping Crane. This survey is being sponsored by the Fish & Wildlife Service of the United States and the National Audubon Society and is being undertaken in Canada by Fred Bard of the Saskatchewan Provincial Museum who has been loaned to these organizations through co-operation of F. Dunk, Director of the Provincial Museum. Mr. Bard has been in the field since June 1. The Whooping Crane, largest bird on the American continent, at one time nested in many marsh areas in north-western Canada. Today, however, it faces extinction. One or two birds were reported as seen in migration this spring, and if anyone can supply any further information they are asked to communicate with the Provincial Museum. If a nest is discovered it is proposed to plant a constant guard to protect the birds and their young from any disturbance or predation. Added protection will also be given these birds in their wintering grounds in Texas. Also watch for the Whooping Crane in the Fall migration and if seen, wire or get in touch immediately with the Provincial Museum at Regina.

Last summer we asked for information regarding the number of Mourning Doves as compared with previous seasons, since a serious drop in numbers had been noted by United States authorities. Out of 12 replies received, only three reported any noticeable decrease and most correspondents stated that the Mourning Dove was one bird which had become increasingly common in recent years. However, this year we have noticed a decided scarcity of Mourning Doves in the Yorkton area and we should like reports from other members, particularly those who wrote in last year.

The Turtle is one animal which never seems to have been mentioned in the "Blue Jay." The Snapping Turtle has been taken in the Souris River, and the Painted or "Mud" Turtle is not infrequently seen in the Qu'Appelle Valley - Yorkton fishermen noted one sunning itself on a log at Round Lake, May 24. Does the Painted Turtle occur north of the Qu'Appelle? And has any member ever had the luck to come upon a female turtle excavating a hole in which to deposit her eggs?

We had a most interesting reply from Judge A.E. Bence, North Battleford, to our query re the Pinnated or Square-tailed Grouse (the true Prairie Chicken). He states - "Pinnated Grouse used to be plentiful on the open prairie adjoining the Quill Lakes. During the past ten years I have run into the odd covey north of Saskatoon. I once had the pleasure of seeing a courtship display of the cock Pinnated Grouse. There were just a pair of birds near a slough between Radison and Borden. The cock was about fifty feet from the female and would strut a few paces, then stop and inflate his orange neck pouches till they were nearly the size of a golf ball. At the same time, as the pouches were inflated, the stiff feathers on the side of the neck were raised up until they stood above the head. As the pouches were deflated, the side feather fell too. The booming sound was made during deflation. This performance was repeated several times during the quarter of an hour I stopped and watched. My car was within 100 yards."

Some years ago, Ladislove Martinovsky, Gerald, came across a yellow-flowered form of the Red Lily. Although he has often tried to find the variety again, he has never been able to, and if anyone has plants of this yellow-flowered lily, Mr. Martinovsky would be glad to purchase a few bulbs.

We would like any notes as to the occurrence of the Chimney Swift in Saskatchewan