

## GENERAL NOTES

The Yorkton Natural History Society is losing several of its most active members this year. Miss Ruth Beck, our energetic secretary for the past year, has left to attend Normal School at Moose Jaw this winter. At the last executive meeting of the Society, Sept. 4, Miss Beck was presented with a make-up kit on behalf of the members of the Society. Three of the directors of the Society are also leaving. Miss Gladys Fraser has returned to the University of Saskatchewan to accept a position in the Biology Department and work on her Master's degree, W. A. Brownlee has accepted a promotion with the Provincial Dept. of Natural Resources, and is now stationed at Regina, and Vernon Barnes will attend Regina College during the coming winter. In addition, J.R. Martin, Superintendent of Schools here, and one of our most active members, has been transferred to Saskatoon. Harvey Beck is returning to Saskatchewan University where he will continue his studies in biology. Stuart Houston enters first year medicine at Manitoba Medical College. Stuart's address is 768 Victor Street, Winnipeg.

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### Summer visitors to Yorkton

Dick Bird, A.R.P.S., F.Z.A., well-known nature photographer of Regina spent three days in Yorkton the latter part of June. Mr. Bird had intended to photograph birds nesting in this district, but during his entire visit it either rained or the sun was completely hidden by clouds. Immediately after he left of course the sun came out and we had ideal photographic weather.

Lawrence Norton, of the entomological laboratory at Indian Head paid us a visit in July and while here collected specimens of spruce needles infested with pine needle scale. Mr. Norton was making a trip through the province inspecting insect infested areas and calling on those who have been assisting the laboratory by sending in specimens. Anyone who would care to assist with these surveys should write to Mr. Lloyd Peterson, officer in charge of the Indian Head station. Small cartons are supplied by the station for sending in specimens.

Farley Mowat, of Richmond Hill, Ontario, and formerly of Saskatoon, this spring received his discharge from the Canadian Army after 6 years' service, having attained the rank of Captain, and he immediately bought a "Jeep" and headed back to his old Saskatchewan "stamping grounds". He spent the summer collecting birds for various Eastern Museums, at Dundurn, Montreal Lake and Lac la Ronge. On his way back East, he stopped off at Yorkton for three days. Mr. Mowat has several papers of local Saskatchewan bird lists, from field work done before the war, which will appear shortly in the ornithological journals.

Dr. Aszmannand, Mr. C. Souder, both of East St. Louis, Illinois, were visitors to Yorkton during July, on their tour of Ducks Unlimited projects in Western Canada.

Michael Lysenko, D.U. biologist, and his assistant, Bruce Green, spent three days here early in June making an ecological survey of the Ducks Unlimited Lake Illinois project.

B. W. Cartwright, Chief Naturalist, stopped briefly at Yorkton, Sept. 2, on a tour of western projects.

T. C. Main, General Manager of Ducks Unlimited, made a tour of western Canada by air, Sept. 5 - 11, chartering a Yorkton Air Services plane. Mr. Main spent a day in Yorkton at the beginning as well as at the end of his flight, and took a number of air photos of the lakes in this district.

GENERAL NOTES (CONTINUED)

Any member with some spare time this winter, could contribute a great deal to ornithology in this province, if he would compile a complete list of all the species of birds ever noted in his district, with a short note describing the relative abundance of each species. Average migration dates and breeding records could be added whenever possible. The Yorkton Natural History Society would be pleased to receive such lists from competent observers, and might possibly publish some of them in mimeographed form, as a Contribution of the Society, in the same manner as Street's "Birds of Nipawin".

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Ducks Unlimited have been very active in the Yorkton district this summer. An engineering party has been here since spring surveying a diversion ditch to bring water from Cussed Creek through the Rousay Lakes to Locch Lake, Crescent Lake and the Maddaford marshes. We understand that this project, which will restore thousands of acres of excellent marsh, will be undertaken jointly by the Saskatchewan Government and Ducks Unlimited next spring.

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Cliff Shaw and Stuart Houston have co-operated to produce this present issue. In the future Mr. Shaw will act as Editor, but members who are authorities in their particular fields will be asked to give their assistance. Thus Maurice G. Street of Nipawin has undertaken to write the Bird Notes for coming issues. We will have other associate editors, or at least advisors, in other fields. Send all Blue Jay material to Cliff Shaw, Suite 3, Rotstein Apts., Yorkton. He will check it over and forward it to these experts where necessary.

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According to a newspaper report, the wild life collection of the late Frank P. Lund, Prince Albert taxidermist, is to be housed in that city for the next five years. A building is being provided by the Saskatchewan government. The collection which represents the life work of Mr. Lund has been in storage since his death in 1941. It contains over 1000 mounted animals and birds of Canada, many of them being collected in the Prince Albert district. All who have seen the exhibit will agree that it will serve as a fine educational feature for tourists and Saskatchewan people.

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Miss Irene Moore, a member of the Regina Natural History Society, and former social editor of the Regina Leader-Post, who recently retired after more than 30 years of service, had this to say when asked about her future plans. "I took up with the company of naturalists and now I could be persuaded that to be mowed up in a library is for stormy days and dark nights. I realize that for those in their eventide years, woodpeckers, meadowlarks, bluebirds and goldfinches, wild roses, wild anemones and indian paint brushes are the things to seek in broad daylight".

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The annual membership fee is due October first. Send your remittance of .50¢ to the acting secretary Miss Pauline Summers at 54 - Sixth Ave., Yorkton.

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The Saskatchewan Fish and Game League reports that 37,898 predators were killed in the league's 1945 contest. The league's 1946 winter campaign accounted for 1566 horned owls, 158 goshawks, 3,278 magpies and 767 crows. These figures were presented by A.J.S. Wilson, at the annual meeting of the league held at Nipawin Sask., in June.