

Only through the continued active co-operation of all members will it be possible to continue publication of the "Blue Jay". We fully realize that it can never be the same without the guiding genius of the late Mrs. Priestly, but we can always do our best. We want our bulletin to continue to serve as a friendly meeting place for all Saskatchewan nature lovers - a place where we can all swap our experiences. Yet we also wish to continue adding to the knowledge of Saskatchewan wild life. If our members will all send in their nature observations it will add to the wealth of information gradually accumulating in the files of our Natural History Society. The "Blue Jay" has gained a very favorable reputation among naturalists the continent over. Although written in Mrs. Priestly's inimitable, newsy, friendly manner, it contained a volume of facts of scientific importance. To realize this, one need only look through a set of the 15 issues which have been published to date. If each member will send in their observations for each issue, we can continue to maintain a high standard.

We have received several very good bird migration date lists from our members. These are carefully filed away, and only the more unusual records are used in the "Blue Jay". However, if members will continue sending in these dates, they will eventually serve to tell us much about the migration of birds across this province. Perhaps next spring, if we received migration dates from 15 or 20 representative districts of Saskatchewan, we could print a list of these separately as a Contribution of the Y.N.H.S. For the present, we would like to receive lists of "last seen dates" for this fall. These require more careful observation but are equally, if not more, valuable. When keeping such dates, either spring or fall, please try to differentiate between the date of the first straggler and the main movement of the species. Possibly the best way to do this is to list dates under four columns as follows: date that species first noted; number of individuals seen; date that species noted for the second time; number of individuals noted. Thus we might raise our eyebrows if the first Robin was seen at Saskatoon on March 22 and none were seen at Regina until March 28. However, the following would explain it; - Saskatoon - March 22 - 1, April 1 - 10; Regina - March 28 - 4, March 29 - 15.

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PLANT NOTES

Ladies' Slippers. Reports of the increasing number of yellow ladies' slippers found blooming in the Yorkton district this year have been very encouraging. This is one of the rarest and most beautiful plants in Saskatchewan, and on no account should any blossoms be picked, as the plant is in grave danger of extermination. W.A. Brownlee, Yorkton, reported that ladies' slippers appeared to be plentiful south of Lestock. S. Woychoshen informs us that they are scarce at High Hill, and that less than fifty percent of the plants produced blooms this year.

Lilies. Jack Wilson, Ducks Unlimited fieldman, who was stationed in the Yorkton district last summer, was working in the The Pas areas this year. While stopping off in Yorkton for a few minutes between trains in June, he brought us the good news that the red lilies were very plentiful this season in The Pas district.

Sow Thistle. While visiting the forestry station at Madge Lake during July, we were shown several small patches of spruce trees in their third year of transplanting, which had turned yellow. The forester said sow thistles had previously grown in these patches, and that they had left a chemical in the soil which had affected the trees.