

## FUR NOT FEATHERS

On July 18th, Mr. P. C. Smith, the engineer at the Yorkton waterworks department, phoned to say he had caught a strange looking bat. It was identified as a female Hoary bat Lasirus cinersus (Beauvois). Mr. Smith said there were three of the bats "hanging in a cluster" from the branch of a tree about twelve feet above the ground. At first he mistook them for an orioles nest. The Hoary bat is the largest of our Saskatchewan bats, and this particular one measured fifteen inches in wing spread. We have two previous Yorkton records. A.L. Rand, in his "Bats of Saskatchewan," remarks "always a rare bat". From the 1944 check list of mammals of Saskatchewan by W.A. Fuller, we find that the Hoary has been reported from Shaunavon (Rand 1943), Touchwood Hills (Hollis 1902) and Emma Lake and Carlton House (Banfield 1941). Mr. Norris Elye, director of the Winnipeg Museum, tells us that he is of the opinion that the Hoary bat seems to be much the most common bat in the Winnipeg district, and we have come to the conclusion that it is not as rare in Saskatchewan as has previously been believed.

Dr. Swallow, Yorkton, tells us the following story: Gus Anderson of Bredenbury was out in the Assiniboine Valley, near Birtle, with his dog and they discovered a groundhog burrow, containing nine young ones. The old groundhog attacked the dog, a young collie, and hung on so viciously that Gus had to go to the rescue of his dog and kill the groundhog. He took three of the young ones back to town with him and discovered a cat that had lost some of her kittens, so he gave the cat a chance to adopt the young groundhogs, which she accepted, and now she has a family of three kittens and three groundhogs, all accepting the situation very happily.

## INSECTS

H.M. Rayner of Ituna, sent us a moth which he had found resting on a twig during the day. It was identified as one of the hummingbird, or hawk moths, that are often seen just before dark hovering over blossoms. These moths have an extremely long proboscis for securing the nectar from deep throated flowers, and as they dart from one plant to another are sometimes mistaken for hummingbirds. They are also called Sphinx moths, because the caterpillar when at rest erects its head and assumes a position similar to the Egyptian Sphinx.

A slender dark coloured beetle measuring about an inch in length, with antenna almost as long, was sent in by Mrs. C. Hetherington of Old Wives, Sask. The beetle belonged to the family of Long-Horned beetles and was identified as Crioccephalus agtrestis Kby. These beetles belong to a large family as there are over 600 species now described for North America. Many of them are of medium or large size and are strong fliers and swift runners. The larvae are borers, living in the wood of trees and shrubs.

Spruce trees in Yorkton were sprayed by the city workmen this spring for pine needle scale infestation. The infested trees presented a grayish appearance due to the presence of innumerable small white scales. In Western Canada the pine needle overwinters as an egg, under the scale formed the previous year by a secretion from the insect's body. According to the entomologists, pine needle scale is increasing in the three prairie provinces. This summer the Indian Head entomological laboratory has been experimenting with several new spray methods of controlling such pests.

.....

Membership fees for the Yorkton Natural History Society for 1946-47 (50¢) are now due.