

way and lost their lives, but about 4.30 p.m. they flushed a mother bear and two cubs which were killed just off the road east of Jack Nickols'.

The big bear was killed by N. Cooney, who broke its back, and D. Crawford finished it. One small bear fell to Alwin Gay, who had also killed one of the wolves. The third bear fell to D. Crawford.

---Saskatoon Star-Phoenix

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FISH, AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

CATFISH AND OTHERS

According to Mr. Francis, fish appear to be more plentiful than usual this season in the Torch River. His son, Stanley, age 13, has caught pike, pickerel and suckers on trolling hooks. It was unusual to get suckers on a hook. However, he was unable to land a catfish, which was also eyeing his bait.

SALAMANDER

An unusual specimen was found on August 14, at York Lake, by Miss Betty Marshal of Yorkton. Mr. Clifford Shaw sent it to the Manitoba museum for identification. Following is the reply from L.T.S. Norris-Elye, the director:

"Your specimen arrived in good condition (apart from the missing stern). It is the larval stage of the Devil's Lake Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum diabolii*). When I first saw it I thought it was *Necturus*, possibly the first authentic specimen for the Province.

You may be rather surprised at the size of this larval form, as I was some years ago; it is quite common for these salamanders to metamorphose completely at two-thirds this size and for the larval forms to almost equal in size those of the largest adults.

If you have any friends in the country South and South-east of Saskatoon, it would be worth while to get them to look out for *Ambystoma jeffersonianum*, as Dr. Rawson of the Zoology Department of the University wrote Mrs. Priestly years ago that he knew of several such records. This is very surprising, as in Manitoba its range seems to be confined to the extreme South-east part of the Province.

TOAD

We wonder how many of our readers are acquainted with the Western Spadefoot Toad. Mr. Fred Bard, Director of the provincial museum, found a specimen this summer at Big Muddy Lake and brought it to the museum.

It is a small toad, about two inches in length. The eyes are large and prominent and the pupil of the eye forms a vertical rather than a horizontal slit. Another distinguishing characteristic is a black spur on the hind foot. The toad is brown in color with four light-coloured stripes from head to thighs. Small warts on the upper surfaces are dark brown.

The Spadefoot Toad is one of the least commonly seen of our tailless amphibians, since it spends a great deal of its time underground, emerging only at night. When disturbed on loose soil the toad crouches down, then with a shuffling motion of the hind legs, with the aid of its spurs, quickly digs itself out of sight.

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SNAKES

One of the largest Bull Snakes to be caught in Saskatchewan was brought to the Provincial Museum this spring by G.A. Carnie of Regina.

Mr. Carnie caught this snake at Estevan. It is 72 inches long and weighed 3 pounds, 7 ounces. It is now beautifully mounted and soon will be on display at the museum.

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On July 14th last, Albert Swanston, of the museum staff, caught a snake about twelve miles west of Gibbs, which answers a question of much interest. It was a Garter Snake, 37 and a half inches in length. The remarkable thing about it, however, was that when it was being prepared for mounting, 44 young were removed from its body. It does not lay eggs.

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PLANT SECTION

A Sunflower Freak

From Grenfell comes one of the most peculiar flower heads that we have ever seen. It is a double-decker wild sunflower. The upper flowerhead is borne on a distinct stem which protrudes through the very centre of the lower and larger head. The specimen was found by Mrs. John Hubbard's daughter, Elizabeth. It was growing near a dugout on the farm.



Columbines and Roses

While Mr. Francis was at Fishing Lake he noted many wild native columbines growing just a few yards from the shore. There also, on the banks, were wild roses in profusion, varying in color from deep red to pale pink. Fireweed, also was in full bloom there, July 4th.

Four years ago Mr. Francis found a pure yellow Western Lily. He and his family have watched it with interest ever since. This summer it bloomed again for the second time.