

INFORMATION PLEASE

Does anyone know if it is a common practice of the Sharp-tailed Grouse to dig up the bulbs of the Red Lily? In connection with the movement to protect the Red Lily, Mr. Carmichael has received a most interesting letter from J.D. Ritchie, Wallwort, describing this apparently hitherto unrecorded habit on the part of the Sharp-tail.

Last July Mr. Ritchie came across some particularly fine Red Lilies, one of which had four blossoms on the one stem, so he placed three stakes by the plants, intending to come back and lift the bulbs later in the season. In the fall he went back and, - "Imagine my disappointment," he writes, "on landing at the spot to find two of the bulbs scratched out of the ground. The third dry stock was still standing, so I dug the bulb up carefully, with plenty of soil attached, to transplant to my perennial bed. However, it was plain to see what had happened to the others. All around was evidence of the recent presence of the Sharp-tailed Grouse ("prairie chicken"); their droppings and some stray feathers were lying all about. I investigated further and found other bulbs scratched up here and there. Is it possible that these birds have a liking for the Red Lily bulbs?"

We hope to get some comments on this observation. As Mr. Carmichael remarked, "Would it not be the irony of fate, if one of our provincial emblems should destroy the other?"

.....

In the last issue of the "Blue Jay" we mentioned that Dr. A.L. Rand, Associate Zoologist, National Museum of Canada, had been engaged in making a survey of the Pronghorn Antelope population in Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. The following letter has been received recently from Dr. Rand -

Dear Mrs. Priestly:

This past summer I covered parts of southern Saskatchewan making a check of antelope numbers. There were a number of areas I was unable to visit and in which Nelson in 1924 reported that there were antelope. These areas are:

1. Both sides of the Saskatchewan River, west of Owensville, north of Abbey.
2. The country northeast of White Bear Lake.
3. On the South Saskatchewan River a few miles west of Saskatchewan Landing.
4. Between White Bear and Luck Lakes some distance north of the South Saskatchewan.
5. Near Long Valley northeast of Lake Chaplin.
6. South of Wood Mountains.

Any help that you, or any correspondents to the Blue Jay, can give me on this subject would be very much appreciated and would make my antelope report much more worth while.....

Sincerely yours,
(signed) A.L. Rand

Note: Information may be sent to the "Blue Jay" or direct to Dr. Rand, at the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa,