

THE PEACE OF NATURE'S PLACE

MRS. HAROLD BRAY,
McLean, Sask.

There is a beauty spot, south of Indian Head, comprising several beautiful lakes and steep hills. These lakes, known as Deep Lake, Cherry Lake and Lake Marguerite, although not so well known, nor so accessible as the Qu'Appelle Valley lakes, nevertheless have a charm of their own.

There you will find nature unspoiled by the works of man. If you would care to explore this beautiful spot, then I advise you to take a trip next summer—although I warn you not to expect too much of the road and be prepared to walk a stretch into the lovely wooded hills, overlooking the fringed lakes.

The road winds through a yard belonging to people of French extraction, who will obligingly tell you how to reach those beckoning hills. Leaving the car, you will climb an old wood trail which, by the way, is deeply rutted by torrents of water during spring thaws, making it impossible to use the car. However, there's so much beauty to be seen here you will be disposed to linger long enough to enjoy the beautiful Highbush Cranberry and Hazelnut bushes, and the lone Birch tree which grows at the edge of a small stream, trickling down from the steep hillside. There is a handy little path leading to the top of the hill overlooking Deep Lake. What a grand view from this spot! Need I say more?

Regretfully you will retrace your footsteps but the peace of Nature's place lingers with you as you return home. You will pass by an area of marshy land, declared a Wildlife Sanctuary by a far-seeing group of farmers in this district.

SURF SCOTER AT YORKTON

While visiting Yorkton on October 26th, Ronald and Donald Hooper saw a Surf Scoter on York Lake—the first record for the Yorkton district. A good view was obtained at 40 yards distance through 16x binoculars; they could see the white cheek patch and there definitely was no white on the wings.

BIT OF A MIXTURE

MRS. JOHN HUBBARD
Grenfell, Sask.

No snow, no clouds, and the temperature around 60°. Not bad for November 15th. Except for the fact that there wasn't a leaf in sight it could have been September or October. The big Rough-legs floating high over the Qu'Appelle Valley looked like summer too. There were four of the big fellows in the space of a few miles. Evidently they found the hay flats at the end of Crooked Lake good hunting for they frequently came down close to the ground, hovering on almost motionless wings, their heads low, looking so intently for supper they didn't see us at first.

I think this unusual summerlike weather has the birds puzzled. On our way to Regina on October 22nd we saw several sizable flocks of Snow Buntings. This was the morning following a storm that brought us 2½ inches of rain. Between Regina and Saskatoon the same day we saw not a single Snow Bunting—there they had not had our storm.

Coming back from Regina to Grenfell on the 25th we saw large flocks of ducks and several large flocks the next week. That same week (the first week in November) there were numbers of blackbirds to be seen, and we also saw a flock of around 50 Bohemian Waxwings (winter visitors).

The chickadees have resumed their winter friendliness and make frequent trips to the yard. Redpolls have already visited us. But coming back from the Qu'Appelle Valley on November 15th a small migrant sparrow crossed our path.

Yes, the birds are all mixed up. Summer and winter birds; they are both here.

AN ASTONISHING COMEBACK

MRS. HAROLD BRAY

Never has there been so many Prairie Lilies as we have seen at McLean this past summer. They have made an astonishing comeback, I'm pleased to say. There was also an abundance of other wild flowers such as the penstemons, which literally covered the slopes of hills in our pasture.