

## Boys' and Girls' Section

### Tragedy Averted

GLEN HASS, Age 16, Grade XII  
Hanley, Sask.



Since I live in a location of many bluffs and marshy wastes, I have a wonderful place to view the many mysteries of nature.

In the early spring mornings, even before the snow is completely gone, the first song birds can be heard and in the evenings the long wedges of the ducks and geese can be seen winging their way to the north. Occasionally a distant yip of a coyote can be heard in the still darkness, and peace reigns on this serene land.

In the summer the green shady nooks are alive with songs of birds and the hum of bees. Only the cool breezes move the silent trees as the sun warms the beckoning earth. In a nest in the hedge four eager open mouths are seen, and on the pond behind the garden a mother duck watches silently over her brood of ducklings, as soft waves dance by her sides. Overhead the broad wings of a hawk circle and gradually float from sight. In this peaceful world the struggle of life goes on endlessly.

One day last fall on one of my journeys I chanced upon a hawk that, at first, seemed sick, but on closer observation I found it had a broken wing and was almost starved to death. I quickly took it home and put splints on its wing. For the first day

it seemed very lifeless and the wing was extremely swollen. On the second day, however, things had changed. The swelling on its wings had gone down so much that the splints had fallen off and were useless. As I went to pick up the hawk it fought me viciously, but I managed to re-splint its wing. I fed it raw meat daily and after a month of treatment it was fully recovered and able to fly around.

In the month I cared for it, it became a little friendly toward me but to no one else. We still see him flying around the near-by sloughs.

This is one story in nature that ended on a happy note, but it could so easily have been a tragedy.

### Saskatchewan Observation

by Floyd A. Thompson  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Cinnamon Teal:** About mid-May, 1948, Dave Spencer (pilot-biologist) and I saw one male Cinnamon Teal near the north end of Lake of the Rivers. During late May 1949, John J. Lynch and I saw one along the Souris River northwest of Estevan. I banded a male Cinnamon Teal on Old Wives Lake about July 14, 1950.

**Long-billed Curlew:** I saw several Long-billed Curlew in May, 1948, but didn't notice any more until 1954. This year, however, I have seen them all across southern Saskatchewan. The northernmost observation was at Portreeve, where two were seen on July 23rd. The easternmost observation was a bird seen about four miles east of Stoughton on July 27th. Birds were observed in representative sections of Saskatchewan south of a line between these two points. Perhaps no one day presented more than two observations and some days none

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## 1954 SASK. CONSERVATION AWARDS



Left FRED LAHRMAN, Artist Taxidermist  
Saskatchewan  
Museum of Natural  
History from Mortlach, has been with  
the Museum since  
1947.



DOUG GILROY

During the evening session of the annual meeting of the Society, at Yorkton, Fred Lahrman, Regina and Doug Gilroy, of R. R. 2, Regina, were presented with the 1954 Saskatchewan Conservation Awards, "For meritorious work in the interests of conservation of wildlife in Saskatchewan." Mr. Lahrman received his award because of his outstanding ability as a wildlife artist, and for his remarkable photograph of Whooping Cranes in flight, which has met with American-wide acclaim. Doug Gilroy is honoured because of his exceptional ability as a nature photographer, columnist and lecturer.

## SASK. OBSERVATIONS

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were seen, but the general occurrence this year was obvious.

**Canada Goose:** In 1948 and 1949, there appeared to be some signs of Canada Goose nesting on Cypress Lake, but low flights did not bear out the reports. In 1953, I banded approximately 160 moulting adult Canada Geese on Cypress Lake and saw several broods during the banding drive. Another 40 were banded on Hungerford Lake about 15 miles northwest of this, of which 12 were juvenile birds. These twelve were about one-third of those on the lake. On July 4, 1954, our crew banded 241 Canada Geese on Cypress Lake, of which 5 were birds of the year, and 10 more broods were seen to escape the banding drive.

**Black Duck:** In mid-July, 1949, John J. Lynch and I banded about ten Black Ducks at Eyebrow Lake. A repeat of nearly like numbers was made in 1950 by my party and a few less in 1951. In 1952, our party banded four or five at White Heron Lake, about two miles east of Kerrobert.

All of these have been molting adult males. On July 17, 1954, John J. Lynch and I saw 6 Black Ducks on Pelican Lake north of Mortlach. I suspect the Saskatchewan population of these birds may well exceed 1000 birds and that close and intensive search will show some nesting.

**Wood Duck:** On about August 5, 1953, my party banded an adult male Wood Duck on Horizon Lake (Channel Lake) near Horizon, Sask.

**Old Squaw:** Five Old Squaw ducks were observed from the air in late May, 1948, on an unnamed lake about ten miles east of Pleasantdale (south of Melfort).

**White-winged Scoter:** The gregarious attitude of young White-winged Scoters was brought to our attention, when J. B. Gollop and I saw an estimated 75 downy young following one single female! This was near Humboldt in mid-July, 1952.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Juvenile spotted Sandpipers were seen at three places at Birch Island Lake, near Rhein, on July 28, 1954. Only one of these could fly. (This is a new breeding record for the Yorkton district.)