

“NEWFOUNDLAND ON”

THROUGHOUT the winter, Dick Bird, Canada's foremost nature photographer from Regina, has been lecturing in various cities of the States on the natural life and beauty of our newest province, Newfoundland.

An Audubon Wildlife Program presented by the Detroit Audubon Society, was sent to us by H. L. Paine of Moose Jaw. In it there is an outline of Mr. Bird's lecture there on January 17, which gives one a good idea of the scope of his illustrated talk, called "Newfoundland On."

"Introduction to Canada's newest province, the land of John Cabot, the island of the caribou, its flora and fauna. Rugged coastlines of eastern Canada, sea bird islands, Kittiwakes, Murres, Puffins, caribou, moose, bear and smaller mammals. Exciting pictures of salmon fishing, whaling and trout fishing, Canadian industries, handicrafts, and its natural resources, the great forest, immense marshlands with typical wildlife, its network of lakes and rivers and the rugged coast of Labrador with its interesting bird life."

Because of his assistance to and continued support of our efforts over a period of years, and in view of his outstanding contributions in the field of nature photography, Dick Bird was made an honorary life member of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society two years ago.

Nature Notes from Spruce Dale Farm

C. Stuart Francis, Torch River

SPRING came with a rush this year, with abnormal high temperatures and resultant very early plant growth. We expected this might be followed by later severe frosts and cold weather which might have done severe damage to new young growth and fruit and flower bloom. However, the expected cold snap has not materialized, in this area at least, and native plants are all away to a good start with Buffalo-berry bloom on April 30; Mertensia, or wild Bluebell, on May 15. Honeysuckle had grown up to 9 inches of new growth, with flower buds on May 15, and Manitoba Maples were loaded with a new seed crop on the same day. Native White Spruce had grown as much as 3 to 4 inches by May 24; Saskatoons and Pincherry had already a well-formed fruit set by May 24 also, and on Victoria Day the spring northward migration of nearly all the birds had been completed, except for a very few species, such as the Hummingbird and Nighthawk, which have not been seen here as yet.

The trees around our buildings now look beautiful in their new growth and the well established species, either growing naturally or planted are as follows: White Spruce, Black Spruce, Jackpine, Scotch Pine, Lodgepole Pine, Balsam Fir, Tamarack,

Manitoba Maple, Green Ash, Bur Oak, Aspen Poplar, Balsam Poplar, Laurel Willow, Red Elder, Ginnalian Maple, Siberian Crabapple and Native Plum.

This spring we have planted the following species of trees, some in considerable numbers, and others, only single specimens; Red Pine, Norway Spruce, European Larch, Siberian Larch, White Cedar, Manchurian Elm, Manchurian Pear, White Ash, American Elm, Basswood, Butternut and Mountain Ash.

Some of the Red Pine we planted has needles over six inches long, and we are hoping they will be able to stand out severe north-western climate. They surely must look beautiful when they have reached a size of ten or fifteen feet.

All along the creeks the Beaver have repaired their dams, after the damage caused them by the rapid spring run-off, and are busy building new dams everywhere. And so, more small lakes and ponds are created, where more wild ducks and other waterfowl can find more nesting sites in which to raise their broods. I can stand on a beaver dam on my own land and count as many as five different species at one time, which are spending the summer at this particular farm. They are: Green-winged

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