

## Botanical Articles Interesting

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There are one or two articles in last year's "Blue Jay" that I would like to comment on. In one you mentioned the finding of a yellow choke-cherry and invited comments as to its prevalence.

A clump of yellow choke-cherry was found on a farm on the Wilson River in the Dauphin district in 1935. I was given a plant of it by Mr. W. Boughen, of Valley River. It is a fine tree here now and bears clear, light yellow fruit, sweeter and not so choky as the usual dark species. The robins are very fond of them and so are the squirrels. As we have a lot of fruit we seldom use it, but it is an oddity and a handsome ornamental shrub, whether in fruit or flower.

Your botanical articles have interested me greatly and I marvel at the number of legumes listed for Saskatchewan. We have some here, but I cannot think of more than the Purple Vetch, a white Lathyrus, Lupines (mostly blue, though one sees an odd white or pink), a small Trefoil, and a yellow "Bajitimia" that grows in our meadows in thick matted clumps. The roots are black and matted, about like bale wire in size. Where it takes over, nothing else grows. It is about two feet high with fine leaves and yellow blossoms. The seeds are speckled like tiny beans and are hard to germinate.

We lived on Queen Charlotte Islands for several years and there I found a native Yellow Alfalfa growing wild. It thrives on the upper gravelly places, old beaches and hard meadows. Under those conditions it is a small prostrate plant. They flower at every joint and spread out over the ground. The nearest relative seems to be the Siberian "prostata," but I believe that in that the seed pods are hairy; in this they are almost smooth and shiny. When a plant gets in a fertilized garden it grows over two feet high but since its stems are fine and weak the cattle eat it greedily. There it is called Yellow Clover, but the coiled seed pod indicates that it is a true alfalfa.

Our mosses sadly need revision. I wish someone would illustrate them in an enlarged manner, giving par-

ticulars of leaf, plant and fruit. We have many kinds here.

### Purple Moss Phlox

**M**OST Saskatchewan folk are familiar with the Moss Phlox, that harbinger of spring, with its moss-like cushion of stems and leaves and profusion of white flowers. It dots the dry hillsides in snow-like patches, even earlier than the Crocus and Tufted Milk Vetch and long before the Robin makes its first appearance. This spring the phlox was at its best during the last two weeks of April.

On April 27, Mrs. Harry Flock, of Regina, came across a patch of phlox, growing in the Qu'Appelle Valley, with distinct purple blossoms. It was the first that she had seen. Have other readers seen the purple variety? Mr. O. A. Stevens, in his "Wild Flowers of North Dakota," writes: "North Dakota leaves behind the tall pink and blue flowered phloxes of the eastern prairies and woods and enters the territory of the tufted mountain species of the west." It seems quite unlikely that those found were the eastern species, but rather a variety or sub-species of our own Phlox hoodii.

### BIRD MIGRANTS

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We certainly do not get anything like the number of birds here that we did on the prairies; whether because we are on an island, it is hard to know. Other prairie folks have said the same thing.

Our early spring flowers have been over for some time and now the Dogwood is coming along fast. Soon the white bracts will make a wonderful show in amongst the dark green of the evergreen trees and the pale green of the deciduous ones which are now donning their new spring gowns. The cherry blossom is past its best but other blossoms are taking its place. The Magnolia is at its best and so the procession goes on. It is April 26th, the peas and beans are up in many gardens though there is still snow on the mountains.