

North American Co-operative Bird Migrating Study - 1957

We hope most of our members will take part in this year's bird migration study—in co-operation with bird watchers across the continent. In addition to the first seen dates, make note of any heavy migration waves for the species involved. When possible, give number of individuals seen on the first seen date and number of individuals seen with the peak migration wave for that species. The species chosen are fairly common and easy to identify, so that everyone can take part. These records will be summarized for the *Blue Jay* and then forwarded to *Audubon Field Notes* and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Don't delay. Send spring migration dates to **Dr. Stuart Houston, Box 278, Yorkton, Sask.**, for the following species: Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Marsh Hawk, Killdeer,

Wilson's Snipe, Mourning Dove, Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Crow, Catbird, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Ovenbird, Redstart, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow.

We would like dates also, for any of the following species, less commonly seen in Saskatchewan but being included in the co-operative migration study in the east: Chimney Swift, Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting.

Museum Expedition Underground

By RICHARD W. FYFE, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History

A museum expedition to Estevan on March 15th of this year has revealed some fascinating underground natural history in the coal mines in the Long Creek area. Originally, the expedition was undertaken to make a brief archaeological reconnaissance of the area and to examine the mines for hibernating bats.

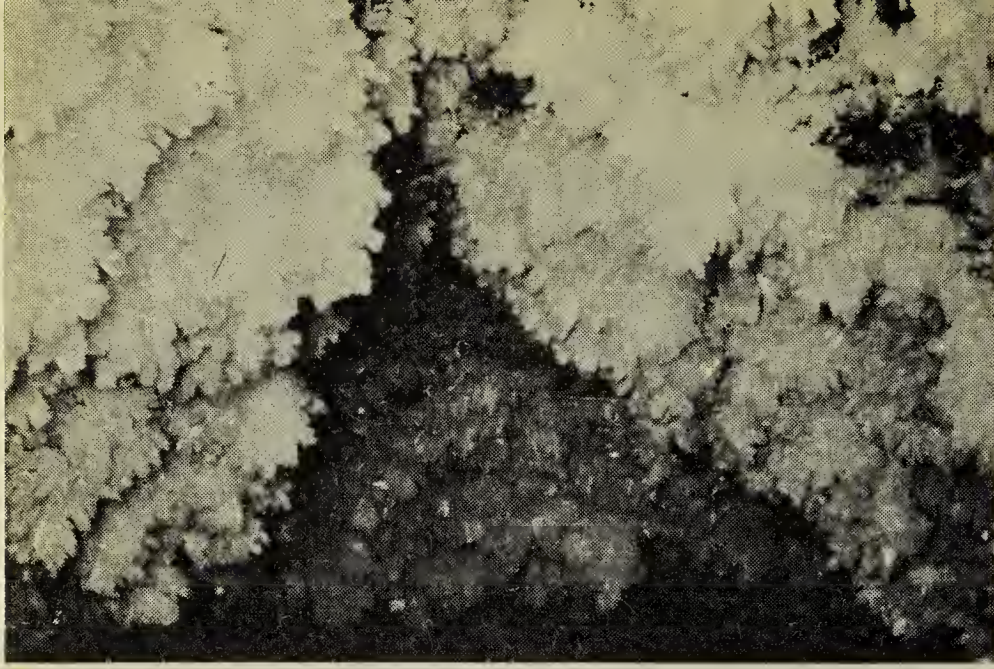
We found on arrival that many of the mines had been closed down for several years and that most of these had since caved in, making an extensive search impossible. However, we were informed that one mine had been in operation as late as the previous fall, and we decided to explore it first. The mine entrance was merely a large hole about 7 feet high and 12 feet wide in the hillside leading to a horizontal shaft hundreds of feet long.

Just within the entrance we beheld some of the most beautiful crystal formations we had ever viewed.

The roof and the walls of the mine entrance were lined for about 100 feet with spectacular ice crystals, some of which were up to 18 or 20 inches in length. Deeper in the shafts the crystals were much shorter and they disappeared eventually as air warmed the interior.

The second discovery was what appeared to be amber-colored crystalline stalagmites on the mine floor. These stalagmites of ice were identical in shape with their stone counterparts in some of the southern caverns. Generally these stalagmites were banded with color and apparently shaped by alternate periods of freezing and thawing during the winter.

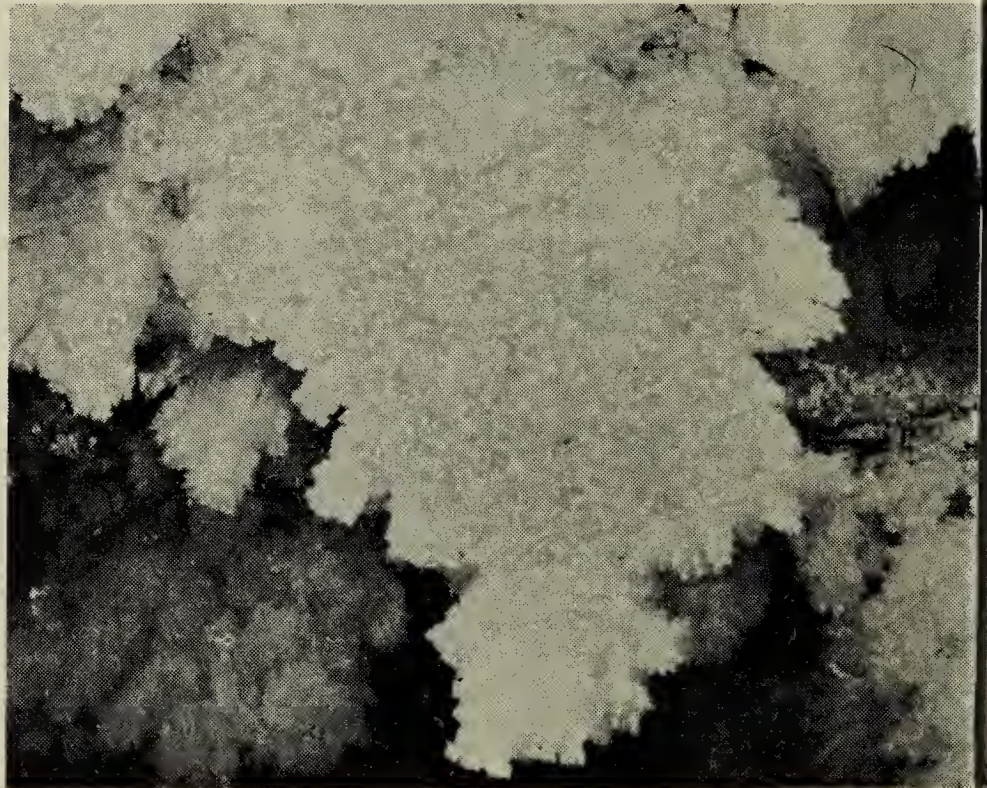
We examined all the shafts in the mine but on a cursory examination did not find any bats. However, on a return visit and with the aid of the mine owner we were able to locate our first recorded cave hibernating bats in drill holes. Big Brown and Little Brown Bats were found.



EXPEDITED

Mine entrance lined
about 100 feet with
crystals

A mammoth ice crystal,
in actual size about 18
inches from top to bottom



Amber-colored ice
agmites on the
floor, ranging
from 6 to 24 in
height

BACKGROUND

Hungry Big Brown Bat
wakened from its winter



Dr. Nero and Bruce McCorquodale of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History examining fossil found in the shale at one of the mine cave-ins

Group of clam and
shellfish embedded in
shale. Estimated to
be 1000 years old

