

Report of Summer Meeting at Cypress Hills, June 15-16 '57

By MARGARET BELCHER, Corresponding Secretary

The third summer meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, held at the Cypress Hills on June 15 and 16, had a larger attendance than either of the two previous meetings. Over 100 registered from 34 points in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, South Dakota and California.

Field trips were the main feature of the programme of the two days' meet. They included:

(1) Saturday morning excursion on foot, led by S. A. Mann, to familiarize the group with the Park, with comment on the flora of the Park by A. C. Budd, B. De Vries, and G. F. Ledingham.

(2) Saturday afternoon excursion by car to the Lookout and Bald Butte. This replaced the scheduled trip to the West Block cancelled because of rain and bad roads. One party, travelling by jeep with the Conservation Officer, did get to the West Block on Sunday to see the Trumpeter Swans, and we have Frank Roy's account of the expedition.

(3) Sunday morning birding trip by car to Cypress Lake.

An evening programme was held Saturday at Camp Shagabec. Members were welcomed by the President, Frank Brazier, and by the Editor, G. F. Ledingham. Dr. Ledingham introduced Herman F. Chapman, former editor of the *South Dakota Bird Notes* who had come with his wife from Sioux Falls, S. D., to attend our meeting. Bruce McCorquodale of the Museum gave an illustrated talk on the fossil mammals of the Cypress Hills, Ralph Stueck of Abernethy showed coloured film, and recordings of bird calls were played. After the programme, lunch was served in the camp hall.

Special thanks are due the local members who worked with the programme convener, Dr. R. W. Nero, to make the meet a success. Mr. and Mrs. Mann of Skull Creek, with their neighbours and friends, played host to the visitors, assisted with arrangements for the programme, and planned the social evening and lunch at Camp Shagabec. George MacMillan of Maple Creek assisted Mr. Mann in organizing the excursions.

Leadership for the birding excursion to Cypress Lake was provided by Dr. H. Jenner of Fort San and F. G. Bard and R. W. Nero of the Museum to whom the society also wishes to express its appreciation.

Finally, we want to thank the United Church at Maple Creek for the use of Camp Shagabec, and Mr. C. S. Kerr at the Park for his untiring efforts in providing pleasant accommodation for our large group.

Operation Trumpeter

By FRANK ROY, Saskatoon

Our trip by Land-Rover to the West Block on Sunday, June 16, was indeed a thrilling one—the roads were next door to impossible; we had to be pulled out once by tractor—but what a pleasure to find the Trumpeters!

Bottley's Lake is an insignificant prairie lake with grassy shores and a marsh at the south end. It lies just at the eastern edge of the west block of the Cypress Hills which rise abruptly at this point to an elevation of well over 4,000 feet. We stopped at a rancher's place to determine which lake the Trumpeters were frequenting at the moment, since we

were aware of the fact that they remove to Adam's Lake every summer when the cygnets are old enough to stand the walk. They told us that they were still at Bottley, and that they had five young.

When they reached the lake, the two old birds were in full view, and trailing them were seven young—checked carefully with our 20x telescope. They were across the lake from us, and we never did get very close to them. One other adult had remained on the lake this year, and it followed us as we drove to the north end of the lake. So the total count was 10, three adults and seven