

Welcome to Moose Mountain

S.N.H.S. Summer Meeting, Moose Mountain Provincial Park, June 12-14, 1959



Saskatchewan Government Photo.

New gateway leading into Kenosee at Moose Mountain Provincial Park.

EDITOR'S NOTE: When Moose Mountain was chosen as the location of the 1959 summer meeting, we wrote to Peter McLellan at Arcola asking him to tell us what the area offered of interest to naturalists. In his reply, Mr. McLellan described the park and its typical wildlife, and sent us a useful list of birds that might be seen in the area in June. By happy coincidence, we received at the same time an item from W. A. Brownlee who grew up in the Moose Mountain and still calls it "home." We are using both these items to introduce the area to members who do not already know it.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Thinking of visiting Moose Mountain? If you have not already done so, you have missed one of the beauty spots of Saskatchewan. Situated in the southeast corner of the province, the country is rolling to hilly, with an elevation of from 2400 to 2700 feet above sea level, and it is quite well forested. One hundred and fifty square miles of this area form the Moose Mountain Provincial Park.

Slightly more than one-third of the park consists of lakes and marshes. The largest lake is "Kenosee," or as the old-timers call it, "Big Fish Lake."

To the southeast of the park is

located the White Bear Indian Reservation, some nine miles north of the town of Carlyle and just west of the original Cannington Manor settlement. Here we may see the Indian in his native haunts, as well as a modern oil well. We may also visit the largest lake in the entire area, "White Bear," the lake usually referred to as Carlyle Lake. There are excellent summer resorts at both Carlyle and Kenosee Lakes that may be reached from Highway #9.

The chief species of tree in the Forested Moose Mountain area is the aspen poplar. The Balm of Gilead or black poplar, Manitoba maple, ash, and many varieties of willows are al-

so present but there are no coniferous trees except those that have been planted. Among these latter, white and blue spruce and Scotch and jack pine have done well. There is an abundance of shrubs: including, with the willows already mentioned, hazelnut, saskatoon, pin cherry, chokecherry, low-bush and high-bush cranberry, rose, and raspberry. In some areas, wild hops grow profusely.—**W. A. Brownlee, Rose Valley, Sask.**

WILDLIFE OF THE AREA

The whole area is a game refuge and is densely populated as such. Moose and elk are plentiful (the Minister of Natural Resources, A. G. Kuziak, has just reported that a survey of half of the area of the Moose Mountain Provincial Park revealed an actual count of 122 elk), and white-tailed deer have overflowed into the adjoining mixed-farming area. The food question in winter is now serious.

There is only one locality frequented by flying squirrels, but reds and grays are numerous. Mink, muskrat, foxes, skunks and badgers are to be seen, but the coyote—once so common—has been almost wiped out by the poisoning campaign.

All birds which ordinarily nest in Southern Saskatchewan are to be found here in June. Colonies of great blue herons and cormorants are reasonably accessible by water. The waders have been reduced by the high water and many bare gravelly islands formerly covered by nesting gulls are now submerged. In fact, the main body of the park has not been as good a place for birds for the last few years because the water in all the lakes and sloughs has been right up to the trees. The entire absence of shore eliminates all the shore birds as well as those waterfowl usually found sitting on shores, such as the pond ducks. These birds have all moved out to the mixed-farming areas which are very accessible, and where the dry fall last year has provided the farm sloughs with lots of shore. Because the cat-tail sloughs in the park are submerged, the bittern, marsh wrens, blackbirds, etc., have moved out to farmland. The diving ducks and grebes and all birds nesting in trees are, of course, still in the park.—**Peter McLellan, Arcola, Sask.**

ROUTE

The park is on No. 9 Highway and is best reached by turning south from No. 1 at Whitewood or by turning north from No. 13 at Carlyle. A sectional map of the Moose Mountain area may be obtained for 25 cents from the Surveys Branch, Department of Natural Resources, Regina.

ACCOMMODATION

If you have not yet arranged accommodation at the Park, write or phone immediately to the Park Manager, Moose Mountain Provincial Park, Carlyle.

REGISTRATION

Registration fee for adults will be \$1.00, with no charge for children accompanied by parents. Meeting headquarters will be the Chalet at the park.

PROGRAMME

Friday, June 12 (All times M.D.T.)

p.m.

7:00-11:00—Registration.
Informal gathering.

Saturday, June 13

a.m.

6:00- 7:30—Birding (meet leaders at headquarters)
7:30- 8:30—Breakfast at Chalet
Late arrival registration
8:30- 9:00—Introduction to the programme (at headquarters)
9:00-12:00—Field trips*
p.m.
12:00- 1:00—Lunch in field or picnic on grounds
1:00- 4:30—Field trip*
5:00- 6:00—Dinner at the Chalet
6:00- 8:00—Free time
8:00- 9:30—Illustrated talk (Judge P. H. Gordon)
9:30-10:00—Star gazing (John Hodges)
10:00-10:15—Coffee

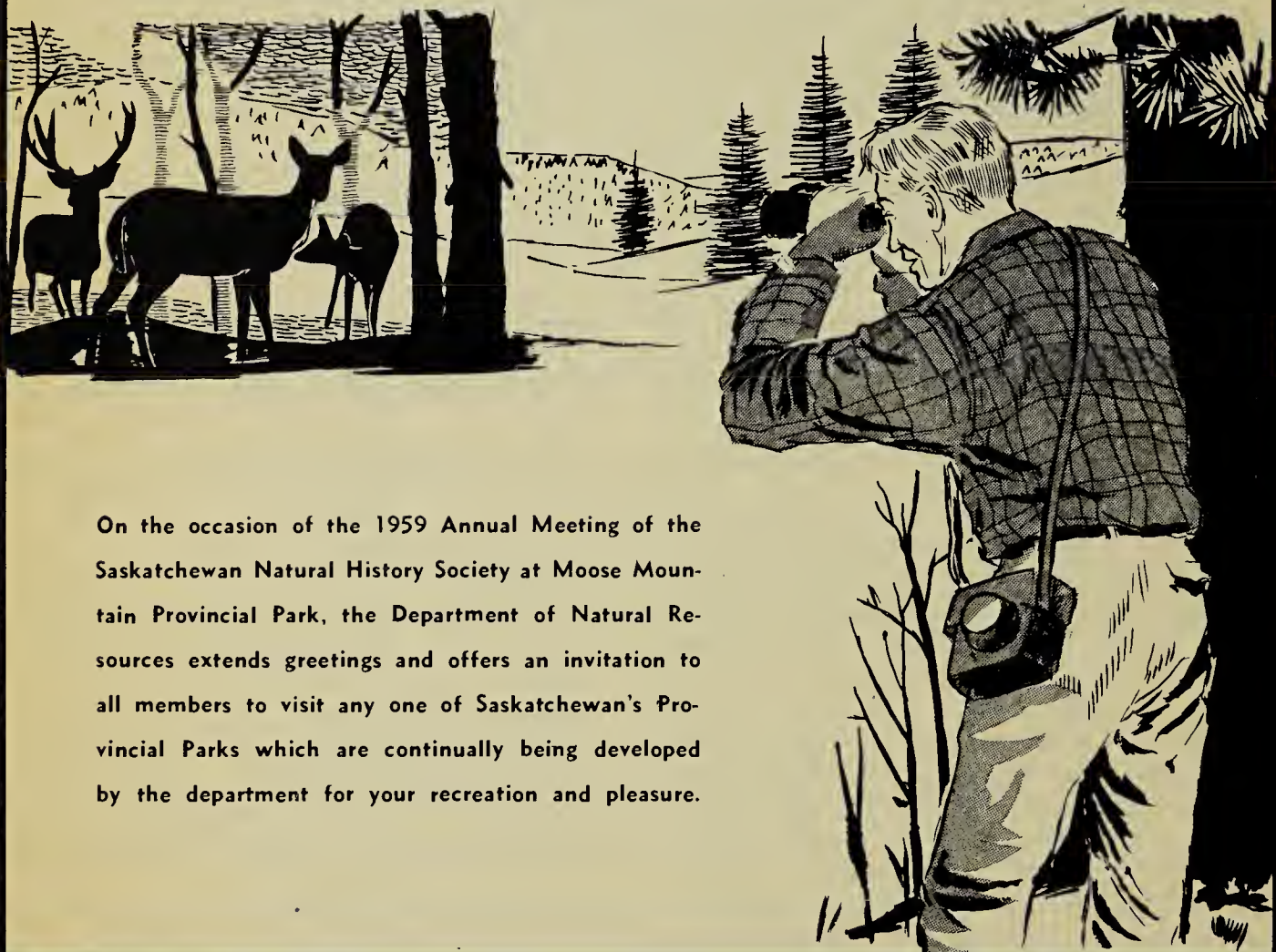
Sunday, June 14

a.m.

6:00- 8:00—Birding or free time
8:00- 9:00—Breakfast
9:00-12:00—Field trip*
p.m.
12:00- 1:00—Dinner
1:00- 2:00—Summary of activities and question period

*Details of field trips to be arranged.

WELCOME... to SASKATCHEWAN'S PROVINCIAL PARKS



On the occasion of the 1959 Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society at Moose Mountain Provincial Park, the Department of Natural Resources extends greetings and offers an invitation to all members to visit any one of Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks which are continually being developed by the department for your recreation and pleasure.

Province of Saskatchewan

Minister

HON. A. G. KUZIAK

Deputy Minister

J. W. CHURCHMAN