

and the water in the lake is fresh and in some parts quite deep. In length, the lake extends 48 miles from Valeport to the north end. At the same time, the north end of the lake is about 50 miles from the Quill Lakes. For the preservation of waterfowl, it is urgent that a water conservation programme be instituted between the two lakes to repair the damage done by the flood of 1955, and to stabilize the water level. There are sources of fresh water throughout this country that could be used to supply water where needed, even to the salt flats. The increased rainfall of this summer has improved immensely the waterfowl situation, and we have seen many species lately that we have not seen for years.

We live eleven miles east of Pelican Island, and we have always been interested in the birds of Last Mountain Lake. Gulls from the lake follow the implements in the fields, and some evenings we have noticed great

flocks flying back to the lake at sun down. Rural people are outdoor people, and those of us who live very close to the marsh and cross it many times have often looked for Whooping Cranes among the Sandhills that rest there in migration, and have made it a point to be able to identify the rare Whooper. We had the thrill of seeing one in 1962.

There is a biological reason for birds to come north to breed and raise their young. We can encourage this natural pattern by preserving a natural habitat both for breeding grounds and for resting areas in migration. This is the service that the Last Mountain Lake Game Preserve can offer. At the same time it is possible for the public to come into this area to enjoy these birds, for there are paved highways running north and south on both sides of the Game Preserve, and good gravel roads connecting these Highways #2 and #6 with the lake.

Plant Notes



Photo by the late Dr. W. C. McCalla.

Indian Breadroot on the prairie near Calgary.

Indian Breadroot



Photo by the late Dr. W. C. McCalla.

Psoralea esculenta Pursh

Indian Breadroot is a common plant in dry prairies and calcareous and sandy hills in the three Canadian prairie provinces. The flowers are blue-purple and the plant is seldom more than one foot in height. The leaves are digitate.