

## Letters

### RAM'S-HEAD LADY'S-SLIPPER AT HUDSON BAY, SASK.

With reference to the *blue jay* of September, 1973 — Ram's-head Lady's-slipper rediscovered in Saskatchewan on page 180:

As you are aware, the summer meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society was hosted by Hudson Bay on June 15 and 16, 1973. The meet itself was a success and the Hudson Bay folk are to be commended for a job well done.

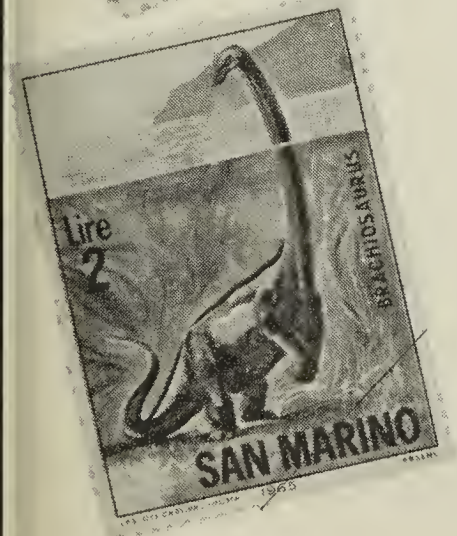
However, since I am very interested in native wild plants of Saskatchewan and have searched for many members of the Orchid family within Saskatchewan, the meet was a high-light, if only for the fact that we located, identified and photographed the Ram's-head Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium arietinum*). The exact location is quite close to Hudson Bay town site in a stand of Jack Pine on a bed made of sand, pine needles and Labrador Tea to form a mulch.

Two such beds are in existence in that location — possibly 35 plants in one and 50 plants in the other.

Some effort is being made to protect these plants. The Department of Natural Resources personnel at Hudson Bay are aware of their location and we believe that with their usually fine co-operation and the interest shown by the Hudson Bay SNHS members their existence will continue.

*C. calceolus* var. *parviflorum* and *C. calceolus* var. *pubescens* are now generally lumped together as one — var. *pubescens*. — Vern.

Further, while talking with an acquaintance who is better informed than I, he related to me, how, on a visit



to Uranium City some years ago he admired a bouquet of Showy Lady's-slippers in a friend's home. Upon enquiring as to their origin he was informed that they were found in an area adjacent to Uranium City. It would, therefore, appear that we do have yet another of the Lady's-slippers in Saskatchewan although it has not been reported.\* From some information I have, I believe that they also may be present in the northeastern part of Saskatchewan.\*

— *Fenton R. Vance*, 208 - 1610 College Ave., Regina, Sask. S4P 1B7.

\**Editor's Note:* This could be the Stemless Lady's-slipper (*C. acaule*) which has been reported from Lake Athabasca. If it is yellow, however, it may be another unreported location for the Yellow Lady's-slipper (*C. calceolus*) which does reach into Alaska.

### A DISAPPOINTING VISIT TO "BLUE HERON VALLEY"

On June 16, 1972, after leaving the car at a little distance from the hill directly above "Blue Heron Valley", as it is locally called, (southwest of Fife Lake) I proceeded very slowly to within sight of the Blue Heron nests in the valley below me. I was disappointed to see only 5 nests inhabited as 26 were reported in the December, 1970, *Blue Jay* (page 159).

The fledglings appeared to be half-grown and stretched their heads and bodies out of the nests. One adult stood guard, straight and tall like a sentinel on a hill across the valley from me. Some adult birds were flying away from the valley in the direction of Fife Lake and others were flying in the opposite direction towards Poplar Creek. Both these bodies of water are approximately 3 or 4 air miles from the heronry. — *Effie Matson*, Rockglen, Sask.

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*In addition to renewing your own membership this month, please try to interest a friend in joining.*

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS THE YEAR ROUND

by MURIEL DICKSON\*

The following is a partial list of 3 magazines on natural history and conservation. Most of them are written for the general public. They are listed in alphabetical order. A Christmas subscription will produce from 4 to 30 gifts through the year.

ALBERTA NATURALIST. *Federation of Alberta Naturalists*, 2630 - 22nd St., Lethbridge, Alta., 4 issues per year, \$2.00. Well documented articles on Alberta's natural history and current efforts in conservation and environmental education. Regular features include reviews of recent publications and discussions about endangered species. Newsletter format.

AMERICAN BIRDS. *National Audubon Society*, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. 6/yr., \$6.25. Devoted to the birds of North America, this scientific journal includes feature articles and photographs. Special annual issue on the Christmas Bird Count. Coverage of bird observations each season includes our Northern Great Plains region and will be useful for birdwatchers in the prairie provinces.

AUDUBON. *National Audubon Society* 1130 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10028. 6/yr., \$12.00. A general magazine originally devoted to the preservation of bird life and now putting equal emphasis on wildlife, plant life and natural resources. Articles are written by authorities in nature literature and are very readable. The excellent colour photography and numerous black and white prints add to the impact of the articles.

BLUE JAY. *Saskatchewan Natural History Society*, Box 1321, Regina, Sask. S4P 3B8. 4/yr., \$3.00. A journal of natural history and conservation for Saskatchewan and adjacent regions. Well illustrated in black and white, this magazine is largely written by people who live or have worked in the Prairie Provinces and the Territories.

THE CALGARY FIELD NATURALIST. *The Calgary Field Naturalists' Society*, P.O. Box 981, Calgary, Alta. T2P 2K4. 11/yr., \$5.00. This magazine is an informative

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\*Saskatoon Public Library,  
23rd St. and 4th Ave.,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.