



BUTTERFLIES OF SASKATCHEWAN

by Ronald R. Hooper

Sask. Museum of Natural History,
Regina, Sask.

16 pp., July, 1973. \$3.00.

This is an authoritative account of the 135 species of butterflies known to occur in Saskatchewan. Half a page of text, with succinct notes on appearance, range, dates and habits, is devoted to each species. On the facing page are black-and-white photographs by Ron Long of the top view of a male and female and one underside view of each species. There are also 24 superb coloured photographs by Robert J. Long, Fred W. Lahrman and Donald Hooper.

Introductory chapters offer readable and interesting accounts titled What are Butterflies? Butterfly Habits, Life History, Where to look for Butterflies, Collecting Butterflies, Mounting Butterflies, Identification and Saskatchewan Life Zones. There are also four pages of sketches by Fred W. Lahrman and J. Pickering, a map, 20 pages of branching identification keys, 10 pages of hypothetical and expected species, 3 pages each of reference list and check-list, and a good index.

Hooper has done his historical work well. Three species, Red Disked Alpine, Dorcas Copper and Brown Elfin, and a subspecies of Spring Azure were first described from specimens collected in Saskatchewan by the Franklin expeditions in the 1820's. All four have Cumberland House as their type locality. Hooper, however, was unaware that the scientific name of the Brown Elfin, *Allophrys augustinus*, (first named by Kirby, *Thecla augustus*) was perhaps unique in being named for an Eskimo.

The talented and helpful Eskimo, Augustus, who accompanied both the first and second Franklin expeditions, died in February, 1834 near the end of an extraordinary winter walk of 1,200 miles from York Factory to Great Slave Lake, where he wished to help his old friend George Back on a third expedition to the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

Mary and I first visited the Hooper twins, Ronald and Donald, at the family farm northeast of Somme, Saskatchewan, in June, 1953. They had in three years arranged a creditable museum of mounted birds (150 species) in a granary, written a list of birds for the district and had a collection of pressed plants. They had begun a collection of butterflies and moths, but were in trouble because they had run down the batteries of their father's tractor the previous night while "sugaring" for moths in the tractor's headlights! We were amazed at their rapid progress towards becoming all-round naturalists in this era of specialization.

After some years away from the Somme area, Donald is again operating the family farm. Rev. Ronald R. Hooper is in charge of a mission to the Indians in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Ronald has spent his holidays and spare time when employed to collect and sort insects for the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. He has mastered the many complexities of butterfly identification, made extensive collecting trips throughout the province and become Saskatchewan's authority in this field.

Butterflies of Saskatchewan is a valuable contribution to knowledge, will be a helpful reference for all naturalists and belongs in every school library. It emphasizes how few have taken any interest in our butterflies and points out what further studies are needed. Ronald R. Hooper and the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History are to be congratulated for an all-round excellent production. — C. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask.

Editor's Note: For those who would like to see more Saskatchewan species in colour, the adults of 77 proven and 15 hypothetical species appear in the little paperback, *Butterflies and Moths*, a Golden Nature Guide by Mitchell and Zim. Klots' *A Field Guide to the Butterflies* in the Peterson series has 71 proven and 13 hypothetical species in colour. Neither book is complete for Saskatchewan.

SOME EXCERPTS FROM "THE BUTTERFLIES OF SASKATCHEWAN"

SIMUS ROADSIDE SKIPPER — Apparently the only Canadian record is a male in fresh condition captured by the author near Rosefield, Saskatchewan, on June 27, 1968.

ROADSIDE SKIPPER — The Roadside Skipper is usually found along pathways through poplar woods. The male perches on the path, and protects his territory with great vigor, in spite of his small size. He drives away other butterflies and even buzzes at the butterfly collector! The female lays her eggs on Kentucky blue grass and other grasses.

LEAST SKIPPER — You sometimes have to do more wading for this butterfly than for most of our other species. East of Tantalion they flew up from vegetation in a spring-fed stream. At Moose Mountain Park, they were disturbed from the rushes along the water's edge of Kenosee Lake. At Oak Lake, Manitoba, one was feeding at an arrowhead blossom out in the water.

CHRISTINA SULPHUR — The Christina Sulphur was first collected by Mrs. Christina Ross near the Smith Rapids in northern Alberta, in 1862, and was named after her . . . It is found in gravelly and stony places such as on rolling prairie, hill-tops, along rocky lake shores, or among jackpine. Walter Krivda, of The Pas, Manitoba, has raised it on *hedysarum*.

PAINTED LADY — The Painted Lady or Cosmopolite is found in most of the world. North in Canada to Ontario (Fort Severn), Manitoba (Churchill), and Northern Territories (Fort Resolution). Common in Saskatchewan north to Hasbala Lake. (May 21 - July 10) (August 29 - October 18). Sometimes more plentiful when our local population is apparently increased by a migration from the south. In the spring of 1952, Painted Ladies were seen moving northwestward, one after the other, for several days. 1973 was another migration year.

BIRDS OF ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA

By D. A. Hancock and Jim Woodford,
General Publishing Co.,
Don Mills, Ontario.
68 pp. 1973. \$5.95

This is primarily a picture book. It has excellent photographs, from one to seven per page on 63 of its 68 pages. One hundred and thirty-three species are illustrated, most with one or both adults at the nest.

The text is brief, too brief as suggested by the amount devoted to each of the four parts of the book. (1) "About Birds" discusses classification, behaviour and ecology in less than four pages. (2) Birds are divided into 11 arbitrary groups which are described in a page and half with no text for three groups; swallows are the only perching birds discussed. (3) Field guides, binocular photography and sound recording receive two pages of text. (4) Thirty pages are used to locate and describe a few of the birds found at 20 localities in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

A total of four pages is devoted to (1) "Clubs to Join", including Regional and defunct Prince Albert Natural History Societies (but not Saskatchewan and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (but not its counterparts in Alberta and Saskatchewan); (2) "Reference" including Peterson's eastern bird guide but not his western one which is the proper one for this region; (3) A list of check-lists for various regions of Canada; (4) Number of species and individuals for eight Christmas Bird Counts for 1972 (not 1972-73 as stated); (5) A check-list of the Prairie Provinces which omits 29 species found on the 4-year-old Saskatchewan check-list and 22 species in the 6-year-old edition of *The Birds of Alberta*. Missing species include Ruffed Grouse, Golden and Black-bellied Plover and Harris' Sparrow. A species not listed is Cave Swallow, a species not reported in *The Birds of Canada*.

6) An index to species in the photographs but not in the text. And even with this limited scope the index has a number of errors. It lists four species not illustrated (Red-winged Blackbird, Surf Scoter, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker) and omits three that are (Barred Owl, Mute and Trumpeter Swans). Some species are listed where their names are not likely to be found (Killdeer under Plover but not under K, Blue-winged Teal only under Ducks, Merlin only under Falcon, etc. There are also errors in page numbers for eight other species.

Sparse as the text is, it contains many errors of fact, for example: North American cuckoos do not lay eggs in other birds' nests (p. 15); Gyr Falcon do not live only on ptarmigan (p. 14); Merlins, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks are not "strictly" bird-catching hawks (p. 26); Wascana Bird Sanctuary, Regina, does not support "many millions of birds" and Sage grouse are not found "a few yards" from Wascana. The authors have seen to use a unique spelling for several species, e.g., Gos Hawk and Gyr Falcon. They also list a Great Gray Hawk (presumably Owl) for northern Alberta.

The boundaries for Boreal Forest and Canadian Shield differ significantly from those in the Atlas of Canada¹ and some so-called life zones are not life zones in any standard text.

The photographs appear to be properly identified except for one which appears twice — once as a

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (p. 9) and again as a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (p. 55). The bird is probably a Red-headed Woodpecker. One wonders why there are two or more photos of 25 species and none of Whooping Crane, Gray Partridge, Mountain Bluebird and other prominent birds of the region.

In summary, this is a good picture book, as far as it goes, but the text is too brief to be of much help and it is too often unreliable. Beyond that there is little to commend the book. The title as it appears in large letters on the cover, implies that all the birds of the Prairie Provinces are covered. In fact less than 1/3 of our 450 species are illustrated and still fewer are discussed. For a dollar less one can learn much more about the identification and ecology of birds in Western Canada (and beyond) from either of the best recognized field guides^{4 5}. — *Wayne E. Renaud*, 1 McDermid Crescent, Saskatoon, Sask.

¹*Atlas of Canada*. 1957. Dept. Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa, Ont.

²*Field check-list of Saskatchewan birds*. 1969. Dept. Natural Resources, Regina, Sask.

³GODFREY, W. E. 1966. *The birds of Canada*. Nat. Mus. Canada Bull. 203. 428 pp.

⁴ROBBINS, C. S., B. BRUUN and H. S. ZIM. 1966. *Birds of North America. Guide to field identification*. Golden Press, New York. 340 pp.

⁵PETERSON, R. T. 1969. *A field guide to western birds*. 2nd ed. Houghton-Mifflin, Boston. 360 pp.

⁶SALT, W. R. and A. L. WILK. 1966. *The birds of Alberta*. Dept. of Industry and Development, Edmonton, Alberta. 511 pp. 2nd ed.

BOOKS FOR YOUNG NATURALISTS

by MURIEL CLANCY*

The following is a brief list of books particularly suited to students in grade school but also of interest to older boys and girls.

ALIKI. *Fossils tell of long ago*. 1972. In pretty illustrations and lucid text AlikI explains just what fossils are, how they were formed and what they tell us of ages past. Grade 3. J 560 A411

ATWOOD, Ann. *The kingdom of the forest*. 1972. A photographic essay on the self-renewing cycle of life in a forest. Grades 4, 5. J 574.5264 A887

- BARKALOW, Frederick. *The world of the gray squirrel*. 1973. How and why this animal is still prospering although it is widely hunted is made clear in this vivid, well-documented text.
Grade 5 up. J 599.32 B254
- BERMAN, Lucy. *Nature thought of it first*. 1971. Tells how man has copied nature's tools, traps, defenses, weapons and inventions and applied them to his own use.
Grade 5. J 591.5 B516
- BRENNER, Barbara. *Is it bigger than a sparrow?* 1972. A bird-watcher's handbook for beginners containing descriptions of 16 frequently sighted birds.
Grades 3, 4. J 598.2 B838
- CONKLIN, Gladys. *Insects build their homes*. 1972. A simple, easy-to-understand book about insects. Helps children to understand how varied and fascinating the insect world is.
Grade 3. J 595.7 C682
- DARLING, Louis. *Greenhead*. 1954. Tells the story of a Mallard Duck from his birth in Canada to his migration in the fall. It also contains a wealth of information about waterfowl in general.
Grade 5 up. J 598.4 D221
- DAWSON, Blair. *Studying mammals*. 1972. The purpose of this book is to help students acquire the skills of scientific enquiry and further their appreciation of the animal world.
Grade 5 up. J 599.097 D272
- EDSALL, Marian. *Battle on the rosebush*. 1972. Factual information about amazing insect life that is as near as your backyard is described in clear and entertaining style. Includes over 40 illustrations.
Grade 5 up. J 595.7 E24
- GREGORY, Otto. *Mushrooms and toadstools*. 1972. A simple picture-book guide to the common fungi. Describes their role in the plant world and some of the legends and traditions surrounding them.
Grades 5, 6. J 589.222 G823
- HARRIS, Larry. *Twilight of the animal kingdom; the endangered species*. 1972. This book allows the reader to view and read about 22 endangered species which he or she will never observe in either natural habitat or a zoo.
Grade 5. J 599 H314
- HAWES, Judy. *My daddy longlegs*. 1972. Describes the tall spiderlike creatures and also instructs the young naturalist in how to find and observe them close up.
Grade 3. J 595.4 H391
- MAY, Charles. *A book of insects*. 1971. Author tells the life history of 28 of the commonest and most interesting insects.
Grade 5 up. J 595.7 M4
- MAY, Julian. *Cascade cougar*. 1972. Written in a story form, this tells a great deal about the life and survival tactics of the cougar.
Grades 3, 4. J 599.744 M46
- NAYMAN, Jacqueline. *Atlas of wildlife*. 1972. Promotes an understanding of animal distribution. Text describes in a clear, non-technical way the characteristic animals of various regions relating this to the climate and vegetational zones.
Grade 5 up. J 591.9 N3
- RHODES, Frank. *Geology*. 1972. Introduces the earth: its relation to the rest of the universe, the rocks and minerals of which it is made up, the forces that shape it and the 5 billion years of history that have given it its present form.
Grade 5 up. J 550 R4
- ROSS, Wilda. *Who lives in this log?* 1971. A simple approach explains the meaning of ecology in the most practical way.
Grades 3, 4. J 574.264 R8
- RUSSELL, Helen. *Winter: a field trip guide*. 1972. Instructs children in interesting things to look for on a field trip in winter.
Grade 4 up. J 500.9 R9
- SCHAEFFER, Elizabeth. *Dandelion, pokeweed and goosefoot*. 1972. Simply written this book serves to remind us that many plants growing wild today were the basis of survival for the early pioneers.
Grade 5 up. J 581.6 S2
- SIMON, Seymour. *Science projects in ecology*. 1972. Twenty projects that can be done with inexpensive material either at home or in the classroom.
Grade 5 up. J 574.5 S5
- SMITH, David. *Wildlife in danger*. 1971. Coloured pictures accompanied by a short text describe each animal, its location and the situation regarding extinction.
Grade 4 up. J 591.5 S6
- STEINER, Barbara. *Biography of a polar bear*. 1972. An exciting picture of the mammal that is king of the Arctic.
Grade 5 up. J 599.74 S8
- VAN WORMER, Joe. *The world of a moose*. 1972. Tells the life cycle of moose through the season's cycles.
Grade 5 up. J 599.7357 V285
- ZAPPLER, Lisbeth. *The natural history of the tail*. 1972. A humorous, yet scientifically accurate tour of the tails to be found in the animal kingdom.
Grade 5 up. J 596.018 Z

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