



Red-disked Alpine**

Lake. It may reach Flin Flon or just all short of this area as the Pre-Cambrian Shield outcrops here with a corresponding change in soils and grass species. A local grass or sedge is the likely food plant of the caterpillar of this fine butterfly.



Ringlet**

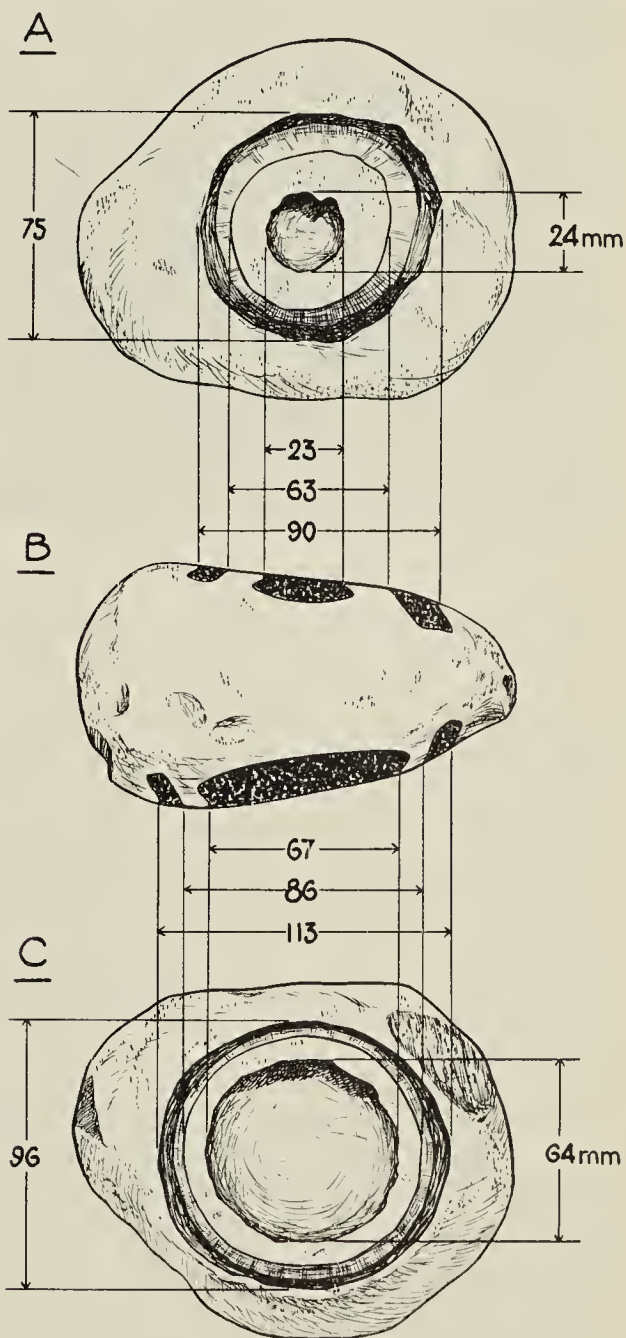
From the early and restricted collections in Manitoba, one would suspect that Macoun's Arctic is a scarce Manitoban butterfly. It may be more frequent than is at present suspected. Its short flight period may contribute to this conclusion; its occurrence in alternate years only in each area would tend to reduce data on the species as well as specimens in collections. More research is needed.

* Illustrations from *Butterflies of Saskatchewan*, by Ronald R. Hooper. Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources, Regina, Sask. 1973.

CONCRETION FOUND AT TISDALE, SASKATCHEWAN

by STAN D. RIOME*

The experience of a disc striking a stone while working newly broken land was not unusual for Mr. Howard G. Wenham on his farm 7 miles north and 3 miles west of Tisdale in 1955. One particularly spine shattering lurch made him think some unkind thoughts, so much so, that when he hit the same rock on the next round, he climbed off and picked it up. To his astonishment he



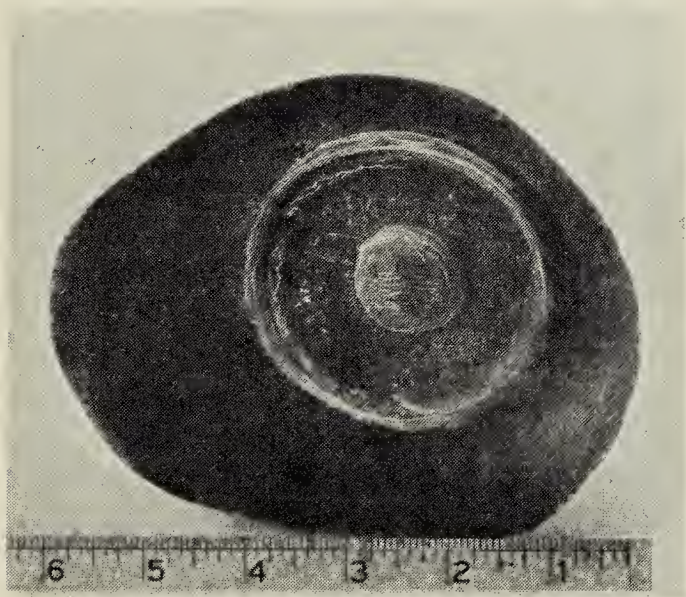
H. G. Wenham's concretion.

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found it to contain deep rings on its top and bottom surfaces.

For years the stone remained a puzzle to all who saw it, until May 1970, when Mr. J. V. Hodges of Regina looked at it and immediately announced — “That’s an excellent specimen of a concretion”.

Mr. G. C. Watson of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History at Regina, after examining the rock in October, 1971, wrote: “The specimen is an ironstone concretion. The centre is a large clay ball and the bonding effect is produced by iron bearing material being attracted to the nucleus.”



Photographs and detailed sketches of the rock were submitted to Mr. B. A. McCorquodale, Head Curator of Human History at the Provincial Museum at Edmonton, Alberta. He stated: “I am quite certain that the item is a concretion. Varying degrees of hardness of the material has accounted for the concentric grooves. Erosion has sectioned the concretion twice, accounting for the appearance of the pattern on both sides.”

The finding of the specimen in the Tisdale area, while uncommon, was to be expected since its deposit on Mr. Whenham’s farm was through the courtesy of a retreating glacier over 60 million years ago.

Mr. McCorquodale has authored a well written and profusely illustrated booklet entitled *Concretions and some other sedimentary structures* which is available through the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History in Regina.

30 Years Ago

Thirty years ago, with the July-August-September issue, the first volume of the *Blue Jay* was complete and the Editor, Mrs. Priestly, took stock of the situation: “When we brought out the first number last October, it was on a veritable ‘shoestring’, both as regards funds and news. In fact there were moments when, having taken ‘quarters’ from people, we wondered if we would be able to make good our promise of forthcoming issues! However all that is past history. The response we have had to our bulletin is more than encouraging and all work connected with its production has been more than repaid by the number of delightful and interesting contacts we have made with people in all corners of the province. And we sincerely hope that the *Blue Jay* will continue to convey news of happenings in the outdoor world to an ever-widening circle.”

Though the membership fee of 25 cents barely covered the cost of paper and stencils, it was decided not to increase it since the *Blue Jay* was the Yorkton club’s main method of encouraging interest in native wild life.

After only a year of publication the *Blue Jay* was becoming known and appreciated outside Yorkton and even outside Saskatchewan. When J. Dew Soper, then Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the Prairie Provinces, stopped in Yorkton on June 2, 1941, Mrs. Priestly reported that “he had some extremely nice things to say about the *Blue Jay* and the work it was doing to arouse greater interest in our wild life.” Dr. A. L. Rand of the National Museum of Canada also saw the *Blue Jay’s* potential as a means of acquiring information about the little known smaller animals of the prairie and sent the Museum’s list of birds recorded for Saskatchewan for publication in the hope of obtaining further specimens.

Among the contributors to this number of the *Blue Jay* was Judge L.