

COLIAS CHRISTINA HABITAT DESTROYED AT THE PAS, MANITOBA

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I wish to put on record that the only substantial local colony of the native orange sulphur, *Colias christina* has been destroyed this summer by bulldozing, together with stands of its native food plant *Hedysarum alpinum* var. *americanum*.

This colony was 2.5 miles East of The Pas by Grace Lake. It occurred along clay ditches bordering on sphagnum bogs. The food plant occurred over almost pure clay. It stood 2-3 feet high, with racemes of pink flowers in June. These plants were perennial.

From 1951 onward I collected this

fine sulphur here almost each year. Duplicate specimens were sent out to various collectors throughout the world. Over 100 specimens were taken in the twenty-seven year period. The adults could always be taken on July 1st. New larvae occurred singly, one to a plant, and had a characteristic rosy band running parallel to the feet. The young branches and stems of the food plant are also rose-wine coloured. This is a good instance of protective colouration. Another area, 25 miles North on Highway 10 from The Pas, has colonies of the food plant. These also occur in clay near to Jack Pine trees and bogs not too far away. I do not have any records of *C. christina* from this particular area. The presence of the food plant may not necessarily assure the presence of the sulphur. Possibly a certain sized colony of the food plant is needed to attract the establishment of the butterfly.



A prairie sky

J. B. Gollop