POETRY

SUMMER HAS COME

A nickel's worth of wren pours out a million dollar's worth of melody between stints of lugging unwieldy sticks to her house in the maple outside the kitchen window. Many of the sticks are stolen from the nest of mourning doves in a nearby tree, who don't appear to notice it. No matter; she fought for that house and it's hers by right of conquest. The tree swallows wanted it, and the ubiquitous sparrows; but Jenny prevailed, so now she has it, for a song and a fight. A pair of robins in the next tree but one looked on with detached and philosophical interest, and the orioles paid no heed. The ruby-throated hummingbirds — those unbelievably beautiful feathered jewels — flit in the currant bushes and the wax-wings visit the spruces.

Summer has come to Manitoba.

By Bogi Bjarnason, reprinted from the Winnipeg Tribune.



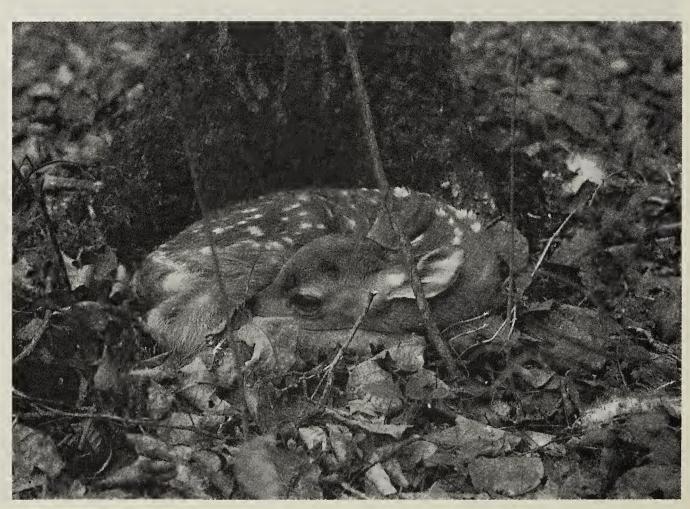
Clustered Broomrape (Orobanche faciculata), Bird's Hill Provincial Park, Manitoba

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Polyphemus moths (mating), Bird's Hill Provincial Park, Manitoba

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White-tailed Deer fawn, Bird's Hill Provincial Park, Manitoba

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