

On 24 June, another great blue heron, possibly the same individual, was seen exactly where I had observed it the day before: some 3 m WNW of the edge of the old beaver lodge. Poised, it was ready to strike precisely where the muskrats had been seen emerging from the lodge earlier in the spring. With my arrival, the heron soon flew off. Within seconds of its departure, a sub-adult muskrat emerged from the dense sedge (*Carex* sp.) and swam directly toward the beaver lodge and dived at the spot that had been the heron's point of interest. Subsequent brief stops at the area throughout the summer produced no more sightings of the heron or muskrats. Could this heron have found these aquatic rodents, siblings or otherwise, to make "filling" meals - and wiped out an entire complement of young?

UNUSUAL LILY

On my farm I have native prairie upon which I have a conservation easement. During the growing season it is certainly a pleasure to walk the area at various times to view the plants and animals. Very late in June 2009, I found a Saskatchewan floral emblem area. Within this area was one bloom that stood out: It was most perfect with its seven flower petals. I know they are to have only six. I got my disposable camera and took various photos that Saturday. On Monday, family came for a visit, and I took them out to view the various flowers. I went to show them my seven-petalled lily. Alas,

1. Terres JK (1980) The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY.
2. Sykes J (1996) Great Blue Heron eating a Richardson's Ground Squirrel. *Blue Jay* 54: 165-171.
3. Godfrey WE (1986) The birds of Canada. Revised edition. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, ON.
4. Banfield AWF (1974) The mammals of Canada. University of Toronto Press (for the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa), ON.
5. Walley WJ (1985) Young muskrats transported underwater by nursing mother. *Blue Jay* 43:253-254.

- William J. Walley, 222 Bossons Ave.,
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something (perhaps a deer) had eaten that flower. No others - just my seven-petalled flower. It was truly beautiful to see and photograph. What are the odds of a SEVEN-petalled lily?

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EDITORS' NOTE: Unfortunately, the photo submitted with this letter was not of print quality. However, for another unusual lily, see the photo by Sarah Vinge on the inside back cover of this issue.



There is a way that nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story.

- Linda Hogan