

LOCAL NOTES

When the Yorkton Enterprise printed a story on August 27 of a bear being seen on Darlington Street most of us were decidedly sceptical. A few days later some boys reported seeing a dark form scuttling into the bushes in the same area. Meanwhile definite news of bears visiting the berry patches at Devil's Lake was supplied by J. Gunn. It seems fires up north this summer forced the bears far south of their usual range, so possibly the Darlington Street Bear was not a myth after all.

An albino blackbird was noted by Mrs. J. R. Foreman on Aug. 8 near Wroxton, among a flock of normally colored Brewer's Blackbirds. Later in the season Mrs. J. Pierce of Rokeby, when driving to Yorkton, also saw a perfectly white bird among a flock of about thirty or forty blackbirds. Probably this was the same bird Mrs. Foreman saw.

Not until after the birds had gone did we hear that a pair of Mountain Bluebirds had nested in an iron pipe protecting the guy wire of an electric light pole on Third Ave., South this summer and what is more, had successfully raised two broods. The young birds, according to Charlie Gordon, used to gather on the wires overhead and he got a lot of pleasure watching their playful flutterings. This is our first nesting record of this species for Yorkton. We see both the Mountain Bluebird and Eastern Bluebird in migration, sometimes in considerable numbers, but for some reason they don't seem to like our district as a summer home and apparently very few nest around here.

From F. Baines of Crescent Lake comes an interesting story of an encounter between a godwit and a crow. A Saltcoats farmer while hauling grain was watching a pair of Godwits. A crow came idling by and without a moment's hesitation "Mr" Godwit rose up and sailed in from behind to attack and the crow collapsed in mid-air. Apparently the latter threw back its head at the moment of contact and received a blow which broke its neck as the bird was quite dead when the farmer walked over a few hundred yards to pick it up. The Godwit in the meantime "flew over to his mate and seemed quite satisfied to call it just another day of ordinary interest."

This Fall we have not only noticed an unusually large number of Harris Sparrows passing through but on several occasions they have been heard singing a low, warbling song. In every case the singers were birds of the first year or one year old birds.

THE YORK LAKE PROJECT - H. S. Swallow.

News that Ducks Unlimited is now undertaking work that will probably restore the level of York Lake is more than welcome to the residents of Yorkton. This lake, four miles south of Yorkton and now a forlorn and weedy waste was at one time an attractive summer resort providing good swimming, boating and fishing.

At that time York Lake was mainly kept full by the spring overflow from the nearby Rousay Lakes and these lakes were in turn fed by two creeks, one Reusch's Creek coming in from the south-west and a larger creek, the Willowbrook Creek from the north-west. With the building of the highway to Willowbrook and beyond the main flow of water from the latter creek, which in this vicinity flows out in meadows and not in a well defined creek, was diverted north to Cussed Creek. Ducks Unlimited now proposes to deepen an old drainage ditch so that the water from Willowbrook Creek will have a well controlled flow to the Rousay Lakes. It will also be necessary to dig another ditch with control gates between Upper and Lower Rousay Lakes. There is already a ditch between the latter lake and York Lake.

The Yorkton Fish and Game League was largely responsible for interesting Ducks Unlimited in this project as the Rousay marshes provide a splendid breeding area for waterfowl. Thus the work now under construction will serve two purposes. The sportsmen will have their birds and fish and the city of Yorkton its beauty spot restored.

INDIAN RELICS

J. H. Yerex of Clair writes as follows, "The past few years I have been gathering Indian artifacts in this district and have accumulated quite a nice collection of specimens, perhaps there would be room in the bulletin later on for comments and notes on this hobby. It seems to me the two are closely connected as I have made several fine bird observations while tramping over the countryside hunting for Indian relics.

Probably localities could be listed where Indian relics are to be found, such as old camp sites, burial grounds, etc. There is plenty of native material in Saskatchewan for any collector and listing the localities would be a great help to those who collect the above things."

JUNIOR AUDUBON CLUBS

During the last school year there were twenty Junior Audubon Clubs in Saskatchewan, probably the number will increase now that Canadian Nature Magazine is sponsoring the membership. There is a most active club at Bertwell (some twenty-five miles south of Hudson's Bay Junction) and recently Dick Walker, Secretary of the Bertwell School Civic League sent us a list of spring migration and flowering dates and several original compositions "as an indication of our keen interest in nature." These compositions were not only very well written but also gave one an excellent idea of the wildlife in that area. We really enjoyed reading them.