

When the funnel-shaped hole was about three inches deep, and approximately the same in diameter, the wasp uncovered a smooth green caterpillar, still apparently alive.

Turning the larva over on its side the wasp grasped it by the head and pressed her abdomen against its thorax. We could not observe whether the wasp was administering a sting to paralyse the larva or was depositing an egg. This action was repeated several times.

Although the caterpillar was many times her own weight and over an inch in length, the wasp dragged it out of the hole. Then she got astride it! The wasp reminded us of a small plane with an oversized bomb load, the caterpillar being almost three times her own length.

By some unseen method the larva was underslung to the body of the wasp - probably being held in her strong mandibles. Running on all legs the wasp struck out rapidly across the sand blow. Whenever she met an obstruction in her path she would drop the caterpillar and scout the possibilities of an easier route. At every ten or fifteen feet she would stop for a rest remaining astride the larva.

After watching the wasp carry her heavy load for forty or fifty feet we lost sight of her when she ran into a clump of grass.

Cliff Shaw.

FUR NOT FEATHERS

Bats We received some interesting records of bats this year. Earliest "first seen" date was supplied by J. Hubbard Jr., Grenfell, who saw a bat flying around May 3 and 10 (our previous early record was May 7). On June 26 an injured Hoary Bat was picked up in a Yorkton garden. This bat was forwarded to Dr. Anderson of the National Museum, Ottawa, for positive identification. A second Hoary Bat was found lying stunned on the sidewalk a week or so later. This animal recovered consciousness and was subsequently liberated.

The Hoary Bat is a woodland species and the largest bat found in Canada. Dr. Anderson stated in his reply "It is always considered to be rather rare, but that may be because it flies high and usually hangs up in a thick clump of leaves in a tree and apparently does not go into houses and caves as many of the smaller bats do. A bat might get a broken wing in a number of ways. As you suggested, a cat might have caught this particular bat and then not relished the musky odour!"

In the middle of July two bats were seen for several days hanging high up in a boulevard maple in Yorkton. One was finally captured and found to be a Silver-haired Bat. It was placed by Mrs. Priestly on a small twig in a sealer so that the neighborhood children could have a chance to see it. Then at dusk it was transferred to the branch of a maple tree. After a little while it darted up into the air, circled round the yard as if getting its bearing, and then vanished. Two other Silver-haired Bats were picked up in downtown Yorkton, August 22, after a sudden heavy shower around 8 A.M.

A record of an apparent Fall migration of bats was reported by Gus Yaki, Sandwith, who wrote that "bats were flying around everyone's home here last evening (August 23). No bats have been seen or heard of in this district for about six years."

As we have mentioned before in the "Blue Jay", all western bats seen migratory and as far as we know no hibernating bat has ever been found on the prairies. Elsewhere the majority of bats spend the winter in caves where the temperature keeps just above freezing, so it is doubtful if any barn or building in the West would fulfil these requirements.

Badgers Dick Bird has obtained some good movie "shots" of badgers at work near Buena Vista beach and was surprised one day to receive a social call from one of these animals. "Three of us were standing on the veranda" he writes, "when a badger wandered round the cottage and even started up the veranda steps. He looked right at us, decided it was too much trouble to climb the five steps, so removed his front paws from the bottom step and ambled round the front yard and away."

Jumping Mice Mrs. Bilsbury, Grenfell, states "These pretty creatures seem to come and go in cycles. In abundance for a couple of years and then none to be seen. For instance, in 1943 and 1944, there were lots of them. While berrying I saw them flash through the grasses and several have been drowned in the well by creeping under the cover."

Moose Two bull moose were seen, September 3, going round the south end of Leech Lake, Yorkton, by J. H. Wilson. They were also noted from farms north and west and were evidently following an old trail of these animals leading from the Riding Mountain up to the Beaver Hills and Nut Mountain area.

SASKATCHEWAN BIRD BANDERS

By C. Stuart Houston

5. Charles F. Holmes, DOLLARD Charles F. Holmes, well-known naturalist of Dollard, Sask. has possessed a banding permit since 1932, and since that time has banded 32 birds of 7 species.

Mr. Holmes has not had much time for bird banding, as he devotes most of his spare time to his scientific bird collection, in which he has 500 specimens representing nearly every species to be found in the Cypress Hills region. Incidentally, Mr. Holmes states that he would be pleased to show this collection to anyone visiting the Dollard district.

Although he has banded comparatively few birds, Mr. Holmes has banded three rather unusual species: Red-breasted Nuthatch (1); Virginia Rail (1); and Prairie Falcon (2).

He has also had some good recovery records from Swainson's Hawks.