

FUR NOT FEATHERS

Increases of rabbits, field mice, coyotes and badgers were reported by S.P. Jordan of Remount school, Parkbeg, Sask. Mr. Jordan tells us that due to the large number of deserted dwellings in his district there appears to be many more skunks than usual.

W.A. Brownlee, field officer for the Department of Natural Resources said that he saw more bush rabbits in the York Lake district south of Yorkton, this fall, than in any other part of the province.

Several more dates to the list of bat migrations this fall have been added. Miss Evelyn J. Binnie of Tullis reports finding a little black bat with grey tipped fur (likely the Silver Haired bat) Oct 2. The bat was found among a pile of old railroad ties which the men were sawing. Mr. William Niven of Sheho reported seeing a Silver Haired bat Sept 9, and Anton Woycheshen of High Hill wrote to say he had seen a Red bat Sept 12, and one, which he was unable to identify Sept 21. Mr. Woycheshen asks if this is a late date and if Red bats are plentiful. We passed the question on to Mr. H.H. Pitman of Wauchope, who replied that he had seen Red bats well on in September and did not think the 21st an unusually late date. He further said, "Although Red bats are not plentiful on the prairie they are familiar sights in many parts of the southern portion of this province-particularly where the wild fruit bushes grow. I am not prepared to say that there is any connection, direct or indirect, between Red bats and wild plums but where these and some of the other fruit bushes occur the bats are often found".

C. Stuart Francis, of Torch River, sent along some interesting notes about bears. He writes, "Bears have been very much in the news here this fall and they seem to be unusually numerous, quite a few having been shot. Due to the shortage of wild berries such as blueberries, cranberries etc, bears have been playing havoc with the settlers' oat fields, stripping and trampling the standing grain and carrying away into the forest the cut oat sheaves. Bear steak or spare ribs are really excellent eating and we enjoyed several meals of it this fall".

COOPERATION UNLIMITED

This interesting little 50 page booklet was released last summer as a Conservation Manual for Ducks Unlimited Kee-men, the group of over 2000 men and women across the prairies who, themselves interested in conservation, keep Ducks Unlimited informed on waterfowl conditions in their locality. These Kee-men serve without remuneration other than the satisfaction they derive from assisting nature, and it is to help them in their work that this booklet was published. The first half of the book gives a good account of the history of the organization and the work it has accomplished and hopes to accomplish in the future - the keynote being cooperation. Ducks Unlimited give the full credit for the success of their work to the cooperation they have received from the various governments, organizations and individuals in Canada, without whose assistance little would have been accomplished.

The last half of the booklet consists of a manual for identifying all the commoner species of ducks, one page being devoted to each species, with 4 colored plates and 39 excellent half-tones by the well-known artist, Angus Shortt (the brother of Terence Shortt, who became famous through his illustrations for Kortwright's "Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America".)

Members may obtain this booklet free of charge from Ducks Unlimited, 201 Bank of Commerce Chambers, Winnipeg, Man. In return, they may be asked to fill out two or three questionnaires a year if there is not already a Kee-man in their district.

INFORMATION PLEASE

Has anyone noticed the Purple Martins showing a preference for the north side compartments of bird houses? Mr. P. Smith, Yorkton, tells us that all four compartments on the north side of the Martin house at the city pumping station were occupied this past summer, while those on the south side remained vacant.