

A specimen was found early in June in a summerfallow field about half a mile from York Lake by Mr. W. Hodgson, who farms in that district. The turtle was taken to the farm home and kept in a rain barrel. During the first week in September it laid five eggs. Mr. Hodgson donated the specimen to the Provincial museum and when shipped it appeared to be as lively as the day it was found.

A second specimen was found October 13 at Round Lake by Mr. Jack Willis of Yorkton.

BOTANY SECTION
by Lloyd T. Carmichael.

WILD ROSES

"I fed on scarlet hips and stony haws" --- Cowper

The wild rose is one of our most beautiful and fascinating flowers, recognized by old and young alike. To the nature student, however, the term "Wild Rose" is not sufficient. Curiosity urges him to determine, if he can, what kind of a wild rose he is admiring.

We have six species of wild roses in Saskatchewan, and of these, I have found four to be common in the vicinity of Regina and the Qu'Appelle Valley. These roses may quite easily be recognized during the winter months, so I am writing this in the hope that some enthusiasts may turn aside during their bird census hikes to determine more positively those flowers which give them such a thrill in June and July.

The Prairie Rose (*R. alcea*) is the easiest to identify. Growing on the open prairie, it is seldom more than twelve inches high and many plants have a height of only three or four inches. The red or orange coloured hip is large, often a half an inch in diameter. It is almost spherical and is covered with fine bristles. The entire stem is covered with fine sharp bristles. I have counted sixty on half an inch of the stem.

The Prickly Rose (*R. acicularis*) is well named for its branches are protected by hundreds of thorns, ranging in length from 1/16 to 5/16 of an inch. These are very irritating and it is almost impossible to hold the stem between thumb and fingers without several painful reminders of its protective adaptation. Unlike most of our roses the hips are not spherical, but are pear-shaped; most of them with a distinct neck. They are large -- half an inch broad and 5/8 of an inch long. Ordinarily they grow in clusters of from two to four. The plant, which is common in and around bluffs, averages about three feet in height.

Wood's Rose (*R. Woodsii*) is our most beautiful roadside decoration in the fall of the year. The bright spherical-shaped fruit is in clusters of from six to twelve. Among trees, it may grow to a height of six feet or more. Its stem is smooth between the thorns, which are arranged opposite each other, the pairs being from three quarters to an inch apart. These bone-coloured thorns are about 3/8 of an inch long and show up very clearly against the dark brown or reddish stem.

Macoun's Rose (*R. Macounii*) is perhaps our most beautiful species when in flower. Like Wood's rose it grows to a height of six feet, or more, in the wood bluffs along the Qu'Appelle and other valleys. The stem is light brown in color, and like that of the Prickly Rose, is covered with sharp lance-like thorns of varying length, up to $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch. There are about twenty on each half inch of stem and about five of these are long dangerous weapons, circular in cross sections. The hip is spherical, without a neck and about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick.

The Pubescent Rose (*R. suffulta*) has been reported from McKague and Swift Current, and the Smooth Rose (*R. blanda*) from Indian Head and Saskatoon. Unfortunately, I have neither of these species in my collection and so am unable to give any first-hand observations as to appearance.

GENERAL NOTES

Mrs. E. C. Boon, of Tullis, Sask., reports that red lillies were quite prevalent last summer, "usually we just find the odd one; never more than three or four in one spot. It was a pleasant surprise to find them so numerous. In 1938 and 1939 there were none in the pasture which, last July, was dotted with them".

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J. Turnquist of Wallwort, writes to say the Red Lilly is still quite plentiful in that district "largely due to much waste land.

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This reminder may not be seasonal, but please keep it on file. The Provincial Museum wishes readers to report on snakes. Mr. Bard writes as follows: "We are anxious too, to have specimens of all snakes, exceptional sized garter snakes, hog nosed snakes, green snakes and rattle snakes. Records of occurrence, distribution and abundance are equally important, all such reports should be sent to the Provincial Museum, Normal School, Regina."

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Mrs. John Hubbard, Jr., of Grenfell writes to say that a beaver, usually a rarity in the Grenfell district, has moved into a fairly small slough beside Number 47 highway and is evidently using the culvert in the grade for a home. Two bears were reported in the Grenfell district during early October. Mrs. Hubbard reports that frogs were plentiful in the garden at harvest time and in the strawberry patch all summer.

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Here is an interesting report from one of our members, Mr. John Wilson of Hazel Dell, Sask. "My boys dug a well out here on the farm and 82 feet down came upon a large piece of limestone rock. With great difficulty this was hoisted to the surface, weighing perhaps six or eight hundred pounds.

We have recently chipped a corner off this rock and obtained a number of very wonderful fossilized shells of various sorts and sizes and I suppose there must be many more of them. The rock bears all the evidence of glacial action, being rounded and smooth.