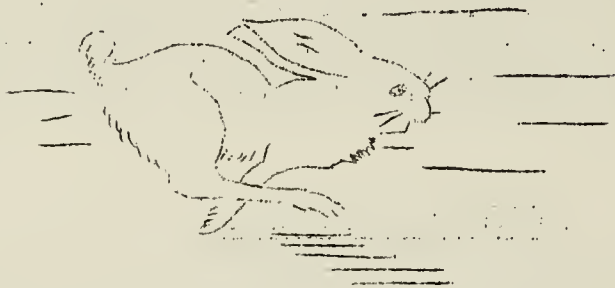


RABBITS ENJOY BEING PHOTOGRAPHED

Here is another of Doug's stories:

It is amazing just how close a person can get to a wild bird or animal by approaching very slowly, yet being out in plain sight. On October 26 I was passing along the road on a tractor when out of the weeds jumped a large Jack Rabbit. Instead of bounding away he suddenly crouched in the open field. Had my camera along so thought I would try for a picture. I approached the rabbit very slowly by shuffling my feet forward an inch or two at a time. Finally I got to within eight feet of him and took a shot. Then I started forward slowly again. At five feet I took another and expected him to go sailing away any second. However, my last picture was taken at only three and a half feet. He didn't move even then until I tried for a shot at a different angle, then he was gone like a streak of light.

A HIBERNATING BAT

On the 31st of March last, Mr. Yaki reports that a bat was caught as it was flying around in the Roman Catholic Church at North Battleford. He believes that it had hibernated somewhere in this building. As we have very few records of bats hibernating in Saskatchewan it would be interesting to learn if others have authentic records.



Similar bats were seen by Mr. Yaki on June 14, and again on September 3. He is of the opinion that the latter bat was migrating.

ARE WEASELS WHITE IN APRIL?

"On April 10 of this year," writes Mr. Yaki, "while out hiking, Ken Hamilton (who is also keenly interested in wild life) and I came across a pure white weasel. Most of the snow was gone at that time so it was readily spotted a quarter of a mile away. As the color of weasels' fur generally corresponds with that of its environment, I wonder if this one could have been an albino."

(It is our opinion that this was not an albino. The change is quite gradual and probably the early melting of the snow had "beat it to the punch." Ed.)

"A week before this on April 3, we came upon a porcupine, occupying

a broken tree, situated on an island in the Saskatchewan River. The tree, a large balsam poplar, was broken about fifteen feet from its base and the top, still joined, stretched to the ground. Along the upper surface there were many small peanut-shaped droppings, most likely those of the porcupine. Would this indicate the "porky" was using the tree as its home?

(Opinions wanted. Ed.)

"What is a good camera for photographing birds and other forms of wild life? Perhaps Mr. Gilroy, Mr. Bard or Mr. Shaw can tell us."

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REPTILES

Leonard Dreger, a young man keenly interested in nature and photography, and now an employee of the Provincial Museum, while home for his holidays at Lang this fall, had an experience with Garter Snakes that he will remember for a long while.

It was a very nice quiet day on the 23rd of September. Someone called "Snakes," but when Len arrived on the scene he found that there were oodles of them, not just near the house but under it. He quickly pulled on a pair of gloves and began catching and dropping them, one by one, into a deep pail. At first he was quite careful about the whole thing and selected each one individually but there were so many that he changed his tactics and was soon grabbing them, two in each hand. He explains that they were all sizes ranging from young ones, about eight inches in length to full grown adults.

The ground where they were denning-up was very sandy and a spot among the leaves on the south side of the house seemed to be most suitable for them but the Dreger family thought differently. Len took the wriggling colony, about thirty in all, unharmed, to a sandy hill about six miles from their home and set them free, hoping that they would find the housing situation there to their liking.

TURTLES

On November 6, 1,000 visitors passed through the Provincial Museum, and on November 13, 800 visitors were present. The extra attraction was a display of living turtles received from various parts of the province. A Snapping Turtle, weighing 28 pounds, was sent from Glen Ewen by Mr. E. R. Rodenbush on September 26.

Two Painted Turtles were received; one from Mr. Walter Trieber, of Regina and the other from Florence Brailean, also of Regina. The most interesting specimen is a Lesuer's Turtle, the only one of its kind recorded from Saskatchewan. It was found at Odessa, Saskatchewan, and was donated by Mrs. Roy Thompson, of Regina. All turtles are doing well.

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"Discover the gold nuggets you've been stubbing your toe against without even bothering to pick them up - the trees within a block of you; the birds that will flock to a feeding table and bath; the habits of the flowers in your garden; a weedy vacant lot on the corner."