

LOCAL NOTES

Dick Bird, A.R.P.S., F.Z.S., Regina, was a busy man during the two days he spent in Yorkton in February. Not only did he give his talk, "Camera Trails Along Nature Trails" on Feb. 22 to a capacity audience in St. Andrew's United Church, but he spoke to the Rotarians at their regular Monday luncheon, showed his films at all three public schools and the Yorkton Collegiate, and also went out and showed his lovely pictures to the R.C.A.F. boys and girls at the Recreation Hall at No. 11, S.F.T.S. on Sunday evening.

This time of year reminds us of activities a few seasons ago, of some of our boys now in the Armed Forces - of "Doug" Foreman, now experiencing his fourth spring in England, who could always be relied upon to see the first horned lark, and of Jack Culver and Frank Priestly, returning muddy and wet of foot from an April hike to York Lake with reports of swans or pelicans. We send them all our best wishes, also to Mr. Baines' two sons from Crescent Lake, Dave with the R.C.A.F. on the Pacific coast and Phil in India.

Starlings seem to have taken up residence on the farm of Dave Stearn at Willowbrook. Last winter a pair of these newcomers were noticed, but this season ten or twelve have stayed about the barns and straw yard all winter.

Several correspondents have wanted to know if the pet Purple Finch, described by L.T. McKim in the last number of the "Blue Jay", was keeping its colour in captivity. According to Mr. McKim, his little friend, in spite of careful feeding, shows signs of becoming yellow. Already there is one spot on his breast and a few yellow feathers in his wings. Otherwise he has sung all winter and appears very healthy. (Perhaps he needs some more of his favorite chickweed to preserve his coloring.)

On April 6 J.R. Foreman noticed a Golden Eagle flying in a northerly direction at a good height. A plane approached from the east and the eagle made a sudden dive to a lower level apparently badly frightened. On the whole, birds seem little disturbed by the training planes. We understand that recently a crow crashed right through the windshield of a plane from No. 11, S.F.T.S. and landed a shattered mass on the floor of the cockpit.

We have had three Yorkton reports of people who were lucky enough to see a flock of lovely Mountain Bluebirds passing through in migration early in April.

F. Baines was out on his snow-shoes in the Saltcoats district making observations on the deer after the heavy storm in mid-March and reports that they have evidently come through the winter well, there having been little crust to the snow in the bush this season.

Water is already starting to flow into York Lake and there is every indication that thanks to the work of Ducks Unlimited it will regain its former level this summer.