

## INFORMATION PLEASE

We want to hear of localities where the Red Lily still grows in comparative abundance - also of places where it has become increasingly scarce within recent years.

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How far north has the Brown Thrasher been noted? We have been told that it has become quite common in the High Hill district south of Kelvington. A few years ago, a well-known birdman was surprised to learn that the Brown Thrasher was a familiar bird around Yorkton as he had been under the impression that the Qu'Appelle Valley, more or less, marked the northern limit of this outstanding songster.

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We should like any information regarding the present status of the true Prairie Chicken - the Pinnated or Square-tailed Grouse. In eight years we have only had two records for Yorkton. This is the bird whose "booming" was once so often heard across the prairies in spring when the cock birds performed their ritualistic dance on traditional dancing grounds. It should be noted that the Sharp-tailed Grouse, commonly (and mistakenly) called the "prairie chicken", also performs a similar dance, but only gives utterance of a sort of clucking, which cannot be heard for any great distance. As contrasted with the Sharp-tail, the Pinnated Grouse is a darker bird with barring on the breast, where the Sharp-tail has V-shaped markings. In a letter received recently, W. Niven, Sheho, writes "It would be interesting to hear if the Pinnated Grouse are still common anywhere in Eastern Saskatchewan; I always considered them to be a more handsome game bird than the Sharp-tail."

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Apparently the first appearance of bats is something which escapes most observers. The only reply to our request for "first seen" dates came from J.D. Ritchie, Wallwort, who, in a fourteen year period from 1931 to 1944, has three early records for bats - 1931, May 14; 1932, May 10; 1934, May 7. Several members stated that bats seemed scarce last year. Please send in any notes concerning these little brown mammals.

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Reports of Burrowing Owls found "north of the main C.P.R. line" were received from Grenfell, Gerald, Bredenbury, Saltcoats, Yorkton, Melville, Kindersley, Nipawin, Saskatoon and North Battleford. There seems a general impression that Burrowing Owls have spread northwards in very recent years, so it is most interesting to hear from the Martinovsky Brothers, Gerald, that "...when we homesteaded in the early nineties five miles S.W. of where the town of Gerald is today, Burrowing Owls were common on the prairie at that time."

W.H. Howes, Kindersley, comments "Burrowing Owls are quite common around home where the land is still original prairie. I have never seen them where fields are cultivated." - It is hardly necessary to mention that Burrowing Owls are most beneficial birds and should never be exterminated. They are surprisingly tame and lend themselves to excellent and amusing photographs particularly when the young ones first gather outside their burrow.

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With regard to localities where Bluebirds are found nesting - John Hubbard, Jr., Grenfell, writes that he has known them as a nesting species in the Grenfell district for many years "but, with the bush getting smaller and thinner all the time, there are not now as many suitable trees for them to nest in." And Judge A.E. Bence, Battleford, tells us "Mountain Bluebirds used to be common at Meota and Maymont in the 1920's but have rarely been seen in the past decade. English Sparrows, which are in great numbers, have I believe driven them away."