PURSH'S BUTTERCUP
(R. Purshii)

Here is a buttercup commonly found growing in the water with its rounded and deeply cleft leaves floating on the surface. Smaller leaves, of much the same shape as those shown in the drawing remain under the water. The bright yellow flowers are larger than those species previously described. They are borne on slender stems several inches above the water and present a pretty picture in a still mud-bottomed pond of a slow flowing stream, early in July. Note in particular the shape of the leaves which are drawn the natural size.

TALL BUTTERCUP
(R. acris)

We have left the description of this species until the last, even although it is the most beautiful of all, with flowers up to an inch across. It occurs from coast to coast through Canada, especially in moist lands, pastures and meadows. It is not a native plant but was originally introduced from Europe.

Unfortunately it is seldom found on the open prairie, but is quite common in the semi-wooded and wooded areas of Saskatchewan's black soil zone and farther north. It is the most familiar buttercup of Eastern Canada - is recognized by all and especially loved by the children.

It is an erect hairy plant two to three feet high. The basal leaves are long stalked and are from three to seven parted. The flowers are a bright waxy yellow with roundish petals, two or three times the length of the pointed sepals. The fruit clusters are round, one-quarter to one-third of an inch broad.

There is one odd thing about buttercups - the honey is secreted in a tiny depression at the base of each golden petal and is there protected by a little scale.

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INSECTS

Trappers in the Yorkton District reported to Mr. Cliff Shaw towards the end of March that a large water-beetle was driving muskrats out of their houses. Donald McKen of Orcadia, who brought some specimens in for identification said that there were as many as a "bucket full" in most of the muskrat houses. Foxes found them edible and were tearing the houses open to eat the beetles.

Lloyd O. Peterson, officer in charge of the Dominion Entomological laboratory at Indian Head, said that the species appears to be Dytiscus marginalis Linn. Mr. Peterson said that he has had no reports of these insects having been reported in such large numbers before. He recalled that years ago, when he lived on a farm, it was the custom to water stock in winter at a lake and these beetles were very common in water holes opened in the ice.

The beetles are oval in shape, brownish-black in color, shiny and approaching the size of a person's thumb.

In the spring the species leaves the water to mate and are often attracted to street lights.

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GRENFELL -- Mrs. John Hubbard, Jr.

"I saw an exhibition of flying by some medium-sized butterflies this spring. I was unable to examine one closely but they appeared to be orange with black bars and white edging on the wings. It was about May 1st and the sight was really startling. The first butterfly seen flew swiftly up and down and around the front of the house for ten or fifteen minutes. When a second one appeared it was chased away violently; the clash of their bodies could be heard twenty or thirty feet away. Eventually four or five butterflies joined in the gyrations. Just when and how the party broke up I do not know because I had to leave and it was getting dark.

Would these be Monarch Butterflies?"

We do not know. Perhaps Mr. Shaw will be able to answer that question.

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Ideal Animal Life

Biologists at the University of Saskatchewan have come up with the ideal animal life on one square mile of bushy prairie:

That calls for 1 coyote, 2 horned owls, 2 red-tailed hawks, 5 skunks, 10 jack rabbits, 15 crows, 50 hungarian partridge, 500 smaller birds, 3000 gophers, 10,000 mice and 5,000,000,000 insects.

No mention is made of Homo sapiens.

--Contributed.

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ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

BUFFALO POUNDS

YORKTON -- Cliff Shaw

"In response to the query regarding the sites of buffalo pounds, H.N. McNaughton of Yorkton, has referred us to a ravine South-East of Ardath which may be worthy of investigation.

Mr. McNaughton's homestead was on the NW 1/4 20-30-8-W3. His interest in stone artifacts was first aroused when on the first ploughing of the land at the highest point of elevation in this area the plough uncovered charcoal and many flint chips and some finished tools.

During that summer and throughout the following years Mr. McNaughton gathered quite a collection from the site, which covered an area of approximately two square rods.

The site was about 24 rods from the south line of the quarter and 60 rods from the East line and is perhaps the highest point of land within the township.

Part of Mr. McNaughton's collection was given in care of Dr. Wilson, for the Regina museum. Dr. Wilson was a former Principal of the Normal School and later Professor of English at the Saskatchewan University.

On one occasion when Mr. A.H. Ball, a former Deputy-Minister of Education, was at Outlook he was taken to this site. Standing on this site where the artifacts were found, the two men could look north-east to a ravine four and a half miles away, and noted from the contour of the land that it was an ideal spot for the location of a buffalo pound. As the large herds of the