

BOTANY

By L. T. Carmichael

Reports from various parts of the province, show that the Red Lily is much more prevalent than usual. Perhaps if favorable seasons continue we will have them back again in profusion. Mr. Cliff Shaw writes that in the Yorkton area there are a dozen this year for every one that bloomed last summer. Hundreds of them bloomed in a meadow not over ten miles from Regina. The same is true in other meadows at various parts, where they have not been seen in large numbers for some time.

Perhaps the weather has been hard on mice, and has in particular disturbed the hoarding habits of Microtus Miner. A most interesting article dealing with the destructive effects of these mice on lily bulbs and crocus corms appears in the May and June edition of The Canadian Field Naturalist. It was written by Mr. Stuart Criddle of Aweme, Treosbank, Manitoba, and like other articles of his, shows how carefully and scientifically his investigations are conducted.

From a lily patch he traced the main runway of the mice, until some sixty yards away he found their nest chamber, and near by, and connected with it, the store room. Here he found the following: "1176 Lily bulbs, 678 wild onion bulbs, 583 pieces of the rhizomes of wild sunflower, 417 bulbs and pieces of the taproot of pasque-flower, a few bits each of juniperus horizontalis (red cedar) avens, sagebrush and prairie clover."

Investigations such as this are of the greatest value and Mr. Criddle is to be highly commended. It clearly shows how the red lily, wild onion and prairie anemone may be greatly reduced in numbers in a short space of time. The facts indicate another justification for the preservation of our predator hawks and owls,

In the last edition of the "Blue Jay" we gave a list of flower specimens which, we believed, are not now recorded in the Saskatchewan University List. Unfortunately, in error, a number of plants from a Waterton Lake collection of 1940 were included. This was quickly and diplomatically brought to our attention by Mr. Archie Budd, of the Swift Current Experimental Station, and by Mr. A. J. Breitung, who is now with the Division of Botany at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. The plants in question are: Heuchera cilindrica, Heuchera Glabra, Yellow Hedysarum, Cranebill Geranium, Water Willow Herb, Caraway (C. Gairdueri), Prince's Pine, Red Wintergreen, Scorpion Weed, Beard-tongue (P. Fruticosus) Yellow Rattle, Wormwood (A. Mac. Callae) and Self-heal.

The work done by Mr. Budd and Mr. Breitung in checking the complete list has been greatly appreciated.