

BOTANY

REGINA

The weekend of June 11-14 the museum went north on a photographic trip for the Department of Natural Resources. With them went Dr. G. F. Ledingham, Regina College Biologist and President of the Regina Natural History Society. During the trip he collected and pressed about one hundred plants. The main stops were at Beaver Creek, about twenty miles south of Saskatoon, and along the creek north of Shell lake, which is about forty miles west of Prince Albert. The Department of Natural Resources and the Fish Board again provided transportation for Dr. Ledingham from June 25 to July 1st and 220 plants were collected. The main stops on this trip, which was mostly made by air, were Prince Albert, Lac La Ronge, Wollaston Post, Tate Island in Reindeer Lake and Amisk Lake (15 miles east of Flin Flon). Many interesting plants were seen. Outstanding amongst these were the Calla Lily, the Pale Laurel and the Bog Rosemary. The collections have not been studied in detail as yet. They do not include many trees or shrubs but are quite representative for other families, especially for the Sedge Family.

The aim of these collections in 1948 was to fill out the collections already in the museum herbarium. The first given to the Museum by Wm. Shevkenek, contains about 200 sheets. These plants were collected mostly between Indian Head, Regina and the Big Muddy. The main collection of 600 plants was donated by the Swift Current Experimental Station. The Museum hopes to obtain a complete set of Saskatchewan plants for the use of serious minded students interested in Botany. Persons in favorable locations can collect plants of interest to help fill out this Saskatchewan collection. Those who know how to handle herbarium sheets may examine the collection at any time.

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TORCH RIVER C. Stuart Francis

Three years ago he dug up a pure yellow Tiger Lily and planted it in his garden. It is a healthy plant now and came out into full bloom this summer.

He is interested, also, in a white variety of Fireweed, two plants of which were noted this summer about a mile and a half apart. One patch was in the open and the other in dense forest.

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GRENFELL, Mrs. Bilsbury

The Prairie Lilies were poor this year. Whether mice damaged them or frost I do not know. My yellow ones came up and had two blooms. Yellow Lady's Slippers are making a comeback and were fairly plentiful this spring. Crowfoot violets are dying out. New plants have made their appearance too. Goat's beard and Bladderwort are two new comers. Another flower, a yellow one with sticky blossoms came up in the yard. The name is unknown to me. (Probably Gumweed--Ed.)

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YORKTON

Mr. Cliff Shaw was fortunate in finding a specimen of Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora) just coming into bloom July 1. Dr. R. C. Russell, University of Sask., informs us that this plant has previously only been

reported from Emma Lake, Waskesiu, and the Big River area. The plant is a saprophyte, distinguished by its white or pink stem and pipe-like head. It has white scales along the stem in place of leaves. The root is densely matted.

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BULYEA

Calvin Abrahamson, a Grade XII student now attending Normal School at Moose Jaw, has a clump of double crocuses growing in his garden. Some of the interesting blossoms were exhibited on the head table at the annual banquet of the Regina Natural History Society. It is hoped that Calvin will be able to propagate this plant successfully.

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WILDLIFE

PUNNICHY, Mrs. Madeline B. Runyan

Coyotes are reported to be on the increase. Good Friday morning a deer took refuge in the barnyard, while the coyote stood by. It was later driven off with a .22 rifle.

Golden eagle, mature, seen September 1st: Bald Eagle, immature, wintered within a radius of five miles.

A cairn is suggested to mark the site of the first Hudson Bay post in the Touchwood Hills. Until a few years ago the stone chimney stood. This spot is 5 miles from the Runyan farm.

TORCH RIVER, C. Stuart Francis

Red Squirrel--On July 10th a neighbor observed a Red Squirrel carrying a young robin; coming to a bare part of the spruce it dropped the robin which fell 25 ft. to the ground. The squirrel quickly retrieved the bird and proceeded to eat it. It ate the flesh clear down to the breast bone. The scolding of 10 or a dozen old robins didn't have any effect on the squirrel.

Catbirds--Nested in the yard for the first time, they have not nested in the area before. We now have 5 Canada Geese we raised, 2 young this summer.

Timber Wolves--Numerous here, they range from grey to black, 5 have been shot in the neighborhood. Here in township 54 the weather has been very dry, crops fair, alfalfa seed crop very good, garden crop fair to good.

GRENFELL, Mrs. Bilsbury

The heavy run off filled the sloughs, resulting in a better show of ducks and coots. Four pairs of Ruddy ducks became very tame--5 pairs of Eared Grebes nested in sloughs on the farm. 5 Hungarian partridge wintering, 2 survived, now there are 9. Several flocks prairie chicken (Sharp-tails). About 2 females with young seen. We came upon a female prairie chicken sitting on her nest, and it allowed Miss Dearlove to put her hand beneath it and count the eggs. Ruffed grouse are decreasing. With more water we have