

an increase in song and wading birds. Swainson hawks are increasing. Gophers are scarce, chipmunks only 2 seen, Frogs increasing, toads very scarce, muskrats increasing.

OKLA, Ross Roach

Reports a weasel working from the barn to the wood pile carrying feathers and nest material to establish a home in the wood pile. Now it is quite tame and comes within 3 feet to observe me.

WOOD RIVER

East and south of Lake Johnston, 13 painted turtles were found in a shallow pool in the wood river on October 29th. Several were taken as nets and others transferred to deeper pools in the river.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

While travelling from Raymore to Dafoe on July 15th Mr. Alex Gee of Regina saw a weasel spring about 20 inches to the back of the bird already in flight. The weasel evidently did not secure the desired hold and at roughly 10 ft. in height the weasel fell off.

ALBINO CROW --

In July Mr. Clarence Schaefer of Kitchener, Ontario, shot an Albino crow. The bird is being prepared by Miss E. Barker, Regina, Taxidermist.

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PRAIRIE CHICKEN " DANCING GROUNDS"

We are particularly interested in hearing of remaining grouse dancing grounds. These grounds are effected mainly through agricultural demands. Such sites are unusual and interesting enough to conserve for observation and study purposes. Information required is the land owner's name, location and dancing population.

BOOKS

"Guide to Game Birds", illustrated by Edmund J. Sawyer. This 4" x6" 42-page pocket guide sells for 50¢ and is distributed to Kee-Men, of Ducks Unlimited Canada.

"Saskatchewan Digest", 5½" x 8¼", 40-page booklet and carries information of occurrences in Saskatchewan, its general development and progress. This booklet sells for \$1.00 per year and is available from the Roll Call Publications Limited, Dominion Bank Building, Regina, Sask.

SASKATCHEWAN HISTORIC SITES

Through the "Blue Jay" we invite correspondence from members in every part of the province about Saskatchewan Historic Sites. While not a phase of Natural History, this subject is of real interest to everyone who loves the great outdoors. Early historic events are fading memories and

unless recorded now will be lost forever. Some of you may know where a trading post once stood, a settlement, or perhaps a place where an Indian tribe established their winter camp each year. These subjects with many others of their kind go to make up early Saskatchewan History.

We would also like to hear your ideas for permanently marking Saskatchewan Historic Sites. Some Provinces and many States in the U.S.A. have gone a long way in erecting Cairns and Highway Markers at spots of historic interest. Only a meagre start has been made along this line in Saskatchewan.

It has been done in other provinces; they found to know your country better meant to love it more. The marking of Sites which contributed to Provincial History leads to more study and a better understanding of the events which placed us where we are today. Such marking makes our Province more interesting to ourselves, as well as to visitors, and need not be confined to Historic Sites alone. Pre-History might be observed, such as Indian Battles. Geological oddities might be marked too, like the sinking hill south of Swift Current or Rock formations of Roche Percee. "Blue Jay" readers are invited to comment on the above suggestions.

An Archaeologist

SEVENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

For the seventh consecutive year, we shall again be taking our annual Christmas Bird Count, and hope that all who have taken part in the past will again be out in force, as well as our new members. These winter counts have resulted in some very interesting data concerning our winter bird life.

The count is made on any one day between December 20 and January 3, but preferably between Christmas and New Years inclusive. Every species of bird seen should be recorded as well as the total number of each species. Notes should also be made as to weather, wind, temperature, depth of snow, number of miles travelled and the time the observer(s) spent afield. Food conditions, such as the abundance or scarcity of hanging dried fruit, maple seeds, weed seeds, etc., should be recorded.

The previous six counts have resulted in 58 species (or sub-species recognizable in the field) being recorded in Saskatchewan during the Christmas season.

IS THE BLUE JAY TO CONTINUE?!!

A group of us, living in Regina, who have missed the "Blue Jay" since March 1948 feel that we would like to do something to keep this bulletin alive. Our inquiry into the cause of its failure has led us to conclude that the trouble is not financial for the Museum has been donating all printing costs in an effort to encourage the "Blue Jay". Nor do we think the trouble lies in the hard-working Yorkton executive and editor. The trouble lies in ourselves. The members are directly responsible, there is nothing to publish. When on October 31, the Yorkton Natural History Society executive sent in all the material they had received since March, we found only half a dozen letters. This means that less than 3% of the membership contributed during a seven month period. During this period the "Blue Jay" has missed two issues. We