

LOCAL NOTES.

An open meeting of the Yorkton Natural History Society was held in the Council Chambers on May 17 when W.J. McDonald gave a talk on Stone Age Implements which he had found in this district. Mr. McDonald first discussed certain theories regarding prehistoric man and described some of his "finds". He then invited his audience to come and examine by hand the numerous specimens which he had brought with him from his extensive collection and we spent over an hour speculating on the uses of various ancient tools. Of particular interest were three "borers", one of which showed a twist very similar to that of a modern "bit". Mr. McDonald also had a stone hammer sent to him from South Africa which could not be distinguished from one picked up in Saskatchewan. A keen discussion took place regarding the method of flaking flints by dropping cold water on heated flint stones, one member claiming that Indians in western Canada had practiced this until quite recently to make arrow heads.

The latest films of Ducks Unlimited were shown at the annual dinner of the Yorkton Branch of the Fish & Game League by Lloyd Bunting of Regina. Outstanding were the pictures of some of our most common ducks in their winter quarters in Florida as well as some "close ups" of crows and ground squirrels, both devouring ducks' eggs when the female bird was off the nest. Mr. Bunting also showed these films at the Yorkton public schools and the Collegiate.

J. Dewey Soper, Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the Prairie Provinces, and famed as the discoverer of the nesting ground of the Blue Goose in Baffin Land, made a brief stop in Yorkton on June 2 on his way to Prince Albert National Park. In conversation with Mrs. Priestly Mr. Soper had some extremely nice things to say about the "Blue Jay" and the work it was doing to arouse greater interest in our wild life.

The cold weather this spring has been hard on the birds. On June 7 a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird flew against the window of Clements Grocery, evidently attracted by the bright colors of the fruits inside. When picked up it was in a stunned condition and was handed over to Stuart Houston. After about an hour and a half it showed signs of recovering. It was then taken out of doors where it started to vibrate its wings and then suddenly darted up to rest for a minute on the telephone wire before it shot away to freedom.

No birds have shown a greater increase in numbers in Yorkton than have the Purple Martins. Every year sees more people put up houses for them. The latest hostess is Miss Lloyd. She set up a house one Thursday night and by the following Saturday morning a crowd of excited martins were around eagerly discussing the merits of this new residence. Small flocks of martins continued to come around until the permanent tenants moved in.

The Air Force has given us another crow story. While a certain pilot officer was cycling south on No. 9 Highway recently, he was attacked by a crow which inflicted a nasty scalp wound over two inches long. We asked this officer if he was sure it was a crow which attacked him and not a hawk, but on this point he is absolutely without a doubt.

York Lake has now regained its former level and there is an effort being made to have the area made a provincial park.