

Epidermis: A thin, horny layer on the outside of the shells of most mollusca. The thicker, inner layers are calcareous.

Gastropoda: A class of the Phylum Mollusca comprising those which have a spiral or conical shell, Ex.: Whelks, winkles, snails, limpets, but including also the slugs. The name is derived from two Greek words meaning *stomach* and *foot*.

Genus: (plural *genera*) — A group of species possessing a number of characters in common. The scientific name consists essentially of the generic name and the specific name, followed by the name of the author who described the species.

Hinge: In the pelecypods this is the side of the valves where they are joined together. It consists of the teeth which hold the valves in position and the ligament which binds them on the outside.

Inflated: Pelecypod shells in which the diameter is almost as great or greater than the height, giving them a swollen appearance.

Laterals: These are the longer, lamellar teeth found in both *Unionidae* and *Sphaeriidae*. In the former there is only one set (behind the beaks) in the latter two sets, one at each side of the valve.

Measurements:

Gastropoda: The length of a snail is measured from the tip of the spire to the lower edge of the aperture. The width is the greatest width at right angles to the height. Other measurements are sometimes used but are not detailed here since they are not used in the text.

Pelecypoda: There are three main measurements: The length is measured parallel to the hinge line but from one end of the shell to the other. The height is taken at right angles to the length. The thickness is the greatest thickness of the two valves, when closed, as in life.

Mollusca: A Phylum of the Invertebrates (animals without backbone) comprising the clams, oysters, snails, slugs, cuttle-fish, squids, sea-slugs and tooth-shells.

Operculum: A horny (rarely calcareous) plate which blocks the aperture of certain snails when the animal withdraws into its shell. It may be concentric, when it grows evenly on all sides, subspiral, when it grows slightly more on one side than on the other, or spiral when growth is almost entirely on one side.

Parietal Wall: In snail shells, the inner wall, i.e. the one nearer the inside of the shell.

Pelecypoda: A class of the Phylum Mollusca comprising all those which have a shell composed of two valves. Ex.: Oysters, Scallops, Clams. The name is derived from two Greek words meaning *hatchet* and *foot*.

Phylum: A major division of the animal kingdom. Ex.: Chordata (including the Vertebrates), Arthropoda (Insects, Spiders, Crustaceans), Mollusca.

Posterior slope: In our *Unionidae*, the beaks being anterior, the posterior slope is that part of the shell directly behind and below the hinge in the wider half of the shell.

Pseudocardinals: These are the teeth which lie nearest the beak in the *Unionidae*. They are usually triangular and stumpy while the laterals are thin and lamellar.

Rays: Colour lines running from the beaks to the margin in various *Unionidae*.

Scaphopoda: A class of the Phylum Mollusca comprising the tooth-shells. The name is derived from two Greek words meaning boat and foot. Exclusively marine.

Sinistral: see Dextral.

Species: A group of individuals possessing a number of characters in common. Scientific writers are not agreed on the exact definition of the word but the above will serve as a rough description. (see also *Genus*).

Teeth: In the Pelecypoda the hinge is thickened in certain spots and these thickenings are called teeth. They are not the same in the two valves but are complementary, fitting together closely in such a manner as to allow the valves to open. They give solidity to the valves and regulate the direction in which they open. They are of two kinds: cardinals or pseudocardinals and laterals.

Umbilicus: In snails, the opening directly opposite the tip of the spire. Its width depends on the tightness of the coils and thus it may be almost as wide as the shell itself or reduced to a mere chink.

Whorl: In snail shells, one complete turn of the shell. The whorl at the tip (first whorl) is sometimes called the *nuclear whorl* and the last and largest whorl is known as the *body whorl*.

NOTES ON RARE CANADIAN PLANTS*

By HAROLD A. SENN

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IN THE COURSE of checking some collections from southeastern Alberta four species were found which do not seem to have been previously reported from Canada. No sheets of these species were

found either in the herbarium of the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology of the Department of Agriculture or in the Canadian collections of the National Herbarium of Canada. The species are not included in Macoun's *Catalogue of Canadian Plants* nor in Fraser and Russell, *List of the Flowering Plants, Ferns and Fern Allies of Saskatchewan*. As there is no check

list of plants of Alberta available it seems worth while to record the occurrence of these species in Canada.

All four species occur in the western United States so that these stations are merely northern range extensions. The region is an interesting one and further collections from it are essential for studies of the phytogeography of the Canadian prairies.

LEGUMINOSAE

Orophaca sericea (Nutt.) Britt. (*Astragalus sericoleucus* A. Gray)

ALBERTA: Manyberries, dry gravelly hill, *Campbell* 43, May 20, 1937. United States range: Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado.

COMPOSITAE

Chrysothamnus plattensis Greene.

ALBERTA: St. Kilda, stony hillsides in prairie, *Campbell* 55, Oct. 10, 1937.

United States range: Montana, North Dakota,

South Dakota, Colorado.

Erigeron canus A. Gray

ALBERTA: Manyberries, dry coulee bank, *Campbell* 64, June 8, 1937.

United States range: South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, New Mexico.

Tetrandeum acaulis (Pursh) Greene (*Gaillardia acaulis* Pursh. *Actinella acaulis* Nutt.)

ALBERTA: Manyberries, Lost River Valley, gap of bank, dry stony river bank, *Campbell* 40, June 3, 1937.

United States range: North Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Texas, New Mexico.

Specimens of each are deposited in the herbaria of the Division of Botany and Plant Pathology and the National Herbarium at Ottawa and of all except the third species in the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University.

BIRDS NOW SELDOM SEEN

By H. E. DOUGLAS



ACH SPRING and Fall I take great delight in watching our feathered friends, in their movements to and from their summer breeding grounds. From boyhood I have always been a keen admirer, and observer, of birds. Needless to say it irks me when I see the diminishing numbers of wild fowl each succeeding spring, as well as the absence of some varieties once common sights to us of the Alberta Plains.

For instance, the Sandhill Crane (*Grus mexicana*) and the Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*). The latter bird now practically extinct, the former very rarely settles to feed in regions in which it was once wont to nest. If it were not for the clamour they make while passing high overhead, I would not know that they still existed.

Another bird I rarely see or even hear of is the lordly Swan, the Trumpeter (*Cygnus buccinator*). Last spring, however, I did hear and see a flight of 5 individuals, the first I had seen for nearly twenty years. The magnificent Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*) is a bird very rarely seen or recorded anywhere in the west. They are apparently only occasional visitors. On the 10th of May last I saw a flight of thirty, and

after going through old records I find that it is only the second time that I have observed them — the other occasion being on the 28th of April, 1913. The Upland Plover is another bird I have seen very little of; last April and May I saw several flights going north, but I have not a single record of them in autumn migration. The Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) two decades ago was a common sight in both spring and autumn now it is one of our occasional visitors; the last record I have of them is October, 1929, previous to that they were regular members of the migrating legions.

Curlews too have practically vanished from the prairies. *Numenius americanus* was a regular summer visitor a quarter of a century ago, now I believe there are only two districts in Alberta where they regularly nest. One, along the foot of the Porcupine Hills in southwestern Alberta, and two, that tract of country known as the Blood Indian Reservation, and from there south to the International Boundary.

Bitterns (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) are not nearly as plentiful as they were prior to 1916, nor in fact are any of the more common varieties of ducks and geese. For instance: the Blue Bill, the



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