

while it was sent to Edmonton in a semi-prepared condition, careful comparisons with the descriptions given in Taverner's Birds of Canada and Peterson's Field Guide, were made on the spot).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)

On May 26, 4 were seen at Ft. Resolution. Two were still in winter plumage, one in intermediate and one in full breeding plumage. The last, a male, was collected, the testes were 12 x 3 mm. in size.

Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*)

Resting on Ice: Bent's Life Histories of N. American Shore Birds and the Handbook of British Birds (2nd. Ed., 1943) do not mention perching on ice in this species. It is therefore noteworthy² that on June 2, 1949, several northern phalaropes were perched on the edge of the lake ice at the mouth of the Little Buffalo river. One of them was shot on the ice. As the observer was unaware at the time of anything unusual about the observation no further observations were made. He has also seen a Greater Yellow-Legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*) resting on the ice edge of an Alberta lakelet in October. Resting on ice is quite probably frequent with many northern waders in spring. Since it is common in ducks and gulls it may be assumed that the skin of birds' feet, whether feathered or not, is an adequate heat insulator and that resting on ice does not present any particular physiological problem.

Short-billed Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*)

On June 1, 1949, a party of 8 were seen descending the Little Buffalo.

American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*)

This species, formerly unknown in the area, is in recent years, according to residents,

seen regularly in the fall about Ft. Resolution. It appears to be slowly spreading northward in this region; at the time of Preble's report (1908), Ft. Murray was its northern limit, Soper (1942) records it as a new arrival in the southern extremity of Wood Buffalo Park, while it now appears to have reached the south shore of Great Slave Lake at least as a regular straggler.]

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² It would seem more remarkable if phalaropes did not rest on ice at least occasionally. Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway (The Water Birds of North America, Vol. 1, p. 334) speak of this species alighting on drift ice. A photograph (Condor, 1925, p. 233) shows a Red Phalarope standing on apparently either snow or ice. Dr. D. B. O. Savile tells me that several times in spring, 1950, at Chesterfield Inlet he saw Northern Phalaropes resting on ice. — Ornithology Ed.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A New Snake Record for Nova Scotia, *Thamnophis sauritus sauritus*, Linnaeus:— During the summer of 1950, a herpetological survey of Nova Scotia was conducted by the Nova Scotia Museum of Science in cooperation with Dr. D. J. McCallion of the Biology Department of Acadia University. In the course of this work, four specimens of the Eastern Ribbon Snake, *Thamnophis sauritus sauritus*, were collected in the Lake Kejim-

kujik area. One of these was a male and the other three were gravid females.

On the morning of July 12, while we were looking for frogs at a bog pond near Kempt, Queens County, a black and yellow striped snake was seen disappearing into an old beaver house. We returned in the afternoon and caught a female (26¼") and a male (23½") Eastern Ribbon Snake. At our approach the female moved towards the beaver

house, and the male entered the water. He swam with about three inches of his neck above the water. Later the same day, at Caledonia, while exploring the shore near a saw-dust pile, we found another female that measured $25\frac{3}{4}$ ". The third female was taken from the beaver house at Kempt on July 20.

When seen in the field, the Eastern Ribbon Snake is at once recognized by the three wide yellow stripes, one mid-dorsal, and one on each side. The absence of spots, its slimness, and the contrasts of the white upper labials against the dark head also help to distinguish it from the Common Garter Snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*.

According to Schmidt and Davis (1941), and Pope (1946) the range of the Eastern Ribbon Snake extends northward to southern Maine. Cox (1898) did not report its occurrence in New Brunswick. In Nova Scotia it was found only in the southern part of the province. This condition of an isolated population suggests that the Eastern Ribbon Snake occurs in southern Nova Scotia as a relic species from the last mild period, some 3,000-5,000-years ago.

References: Schmidt, K. P. and D. D. Davis, 1941. Field Book of Snakes. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Pope, C. H., 1946. Snakes Alive and How They Live. Viking Press, New York.—SHERMAN BLEAKNEY, Department of Biology, Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S.

The Cougar in Manitoba. — No definite record of the cougar in Manitoba appears to have been established. In one of his publications, E. T. Seton refers to a few reports of cougar having been killed, but there appears to be no final proof to date.

During the last thirty years, I have had about six sight records within the Province. Near the northerly foot of Turtle Mountain, a farmer apparently saw two cougars leap a fence in the open some fifteen years ago. One was reported, a few years later, as seen by several people near Carman and a drawing of the pug-mark was given to the Museum; it has all the appearances of belonging to a cougar. Pug-marks were apparently seen in wet mud in the spring about five years ago by the Gebauer brothers about nine miles northwest of Morris. Other reports were less definite.

Last autumn a trapper in the Sprague district reported seeing a huge cat cross a town-ship line; it was reported elsewhere in the

same general district. Recently (March, 1951) a trapper informed a Conservation Officer that a strange animal had broken a lock snare he set for a wolf, leaving signs of blood and a violent struggle. He followed the tracks but soon lost them in the snow. The Officer is now trying to find the remains and send us the skull. The trapper thought it must have been the cougar which entered his snare.

A specimen in the Regina Museum was killed near Yorkton a few years ago.—L. T. S. NORRIS-ELYE, Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg, Man.

The Bay Lynx in Manitoba. — Up to the present time, there does not appear to have been any record (even a sight record) of the Bay Lynx (*Lynx rufus*) in Manitoba. Specimens have been reported as having been taken at Minaki and near Dryden in Ontario and also in Minnesota and North Dakota.

For six years I have sought the co-operation of the Provincial Game and Forestry Departments to look out for specimens in south-eastern Manitoba; I also alerted trappers in the same district.

The Director of Game and Fisheries, G. W. Malaher, through his conservation Officers, J. E. Harrison and D. J. McIntosh, received reports of a few Bay Lynx and instructed Steve Venus, a trapper, to try to secure a specimen. On March 16, 1951, Venus trapped a sub-adult female near a creek leading out of Mud Lake (Section 35-2-15 E.P.M.) and delivered it to J. E. Harrison. Instructions have been given to deliver any other specimens that may be trapped in future. It was brought to the Museum on March 29, when it weighed 9 lbs, 10 ozs. The measurements were T. l. $27\frac{1}{4}$; T.v. $4\frac{3}{4}$; H.f. 6 (all in inches).

On skinning it, porcupine quills were found in the left fore and hind feet and one had penetrated the soft palate and had reached the rear of the left eye-socket; all punctures had caused severe suppurations.

I asked the Conservation Officer to inquire from local residents when these animals were first noted; they stated that they first arrived eight years ago. There is a muskeg where the animal was taken and it harbours several varying hares; it is said that there are a few more Bay Lynx in this muskeg.

Local trappers have caught a few Bay Lynx in traps set for weasels, but they did not realize the significance of these catches and did not report them. — L. T. S. NORRIS-ELYE, Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg, Man.



Bleakney, J. Sherman. 1951. "A new snake record for Nova Scotia." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 65(3), 118–119. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341335>.

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