

Annual Report, 1921 Report of the Alberta Natural History Society'

H. A. Craig, Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Sir: — The executive of the Alberta Natural History Society is pleased to be able to report a large increase in the number of enquiries respecting natural history subjects during 1921. It has been the most notable feature of the year's work, and is gratifying evidence of the keener interest which is being taken by the people of the province in their natural environment. This is particularly true of the rural districts, a large proportion of our correspondence having been with country points. Country school teachers, members of U. F. A. locals and others similarly situated are realizing the pleasure and profit to be derived from a knowledge of the life histories of our native fauna and flora.

The aim of this society is the encouragement of the spirit of observation and enquiry, and any assistance or information it can give is gladly offered to individuals or organizations who are interested.

Our National Natural History Magazine, "The Canadian Field Naturalist," offers to all students of nature a means of keeping in touch with modern scientific investigation along Natural History lines. Among the contributors to its pages are some of the highest authorities in the Dominion. The magazine is published at Ottawa at \$1.50 per year. Subscriptions may be forwarded to Mr. C. B. Hutchings, Entomological Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa. We heartily invite all lovers of nature. Some interesting notes on the Hudsonian Chickadee appeared in a recent number from the pen of Mrs. W. A. Cassels. The distribution of this species is very imperfectly understood.

Some notes of interest regarding insect pests have been forwarded by Mrs. G. F. Root, one of our members residing at Wetaskiwin.

- (1) The balsam trees of the district were greatly infested by the Polar Midrib Gall. Specimens were sent to the Entomological Branch at Ottawa, and it was learned that the insect was not likely to work any injurious effect upon the trees.
- (2) Many spruce trees were defoliated by the Saw Fly larva, but most of the trees affected put out new foliage later.
- (3) The Currant Aphis was widely distributed, and also plant lice on wild fruits, such as the Choke Cherry.
- (4) The willows were affected with a bright orange fungus, *Melampsora Vigelorvii*, which defoliated the young trees.

On the annual Field Day, a large number of botanical specimens were collected, amongst which were ten specimens which had not come under observation before. These were subsequently classified by Mrs. Hy. George, and added to our valuable list of plants of the Red Deer district.

Botanical Specimens Added to List During Summer of 1921

Giant Hyssop (*Hyssopus anethiodorus*).
Grape Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*).
Moon Wort (*Botrychium lunaria*).
Small Coral Root (*Corallorhiza innata*).
Yellow Coral Root (*Corallorhiza ochroleuca*).
Large Coral Root (*Corallorhiza maculata*).
Chickweed (*Stellaria media*).
Narrow-leaved Collomia (*Collomia linearis*).
Snake Root Sainsle (*Sanicula marilandica*).
White Avens (*Geum alba*).

The members of this society who are honorary bird wardens, under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, have been pleased to note, especially amongst the young folk — a more intelligent and kindly interest in our "Feathered Friends."

The co-operation of sportsmen and the assistance of teachers and parents in the protection of game birds and wild fowl, during the breeding season, is needed, if we are to receive the full benefit of this valuable legislation.

At the second fair, held by the Red Deer School Fairs Association, the society again offered prizes for exhibits in the following classes: Collection of Insects, and Collection of Plants. Some good exhibits were shown, and were judged by Mrs. Hy. George.

The society's usual grant for prizes in children's classes was given to the Red Deer Horticultural Society.

Two of the members were again invited, by the University of Alberta, to assist in the University Extension work — Mr. F. C. Whitehouse and Mrs. W. A. Cassels. Unfortunately, neither was able to accept the invitation.

By the invitation of the Women's Institute at Wetaskiwin, Mrs. Cassels gave a paper on her "Observations of Our Familiar Birds." This paper was very much appreciated.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report for Year Ending Nov. 30th, 1921

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Society was held in the Public Library at Red Deer, on November 26th, 1920, at 8 p.m.

The afternoon session, to which the public were invited, was held in the Lyric Theatre, Red Deer.

At the afternoon session, a number of interesting films of Natural History subjects were shown, followed by a lecture on Modern Research in Botany, and its relation to a Natural History Society, by Professor F. J. Lewis, of the University of Alberta. The evening meeting was presided over by Mrs. W. A. Cassels. The following annual reports were read and adopted :

Executive report; secretary-treasurer's report; first annual report of the Medicine Hat Branch; an entomological report received from Mr. E. H. Strickland, of the Entomological Laboratory, Lethbridge.

Following the reading of these reports, several members gave some interesting notes on birds and animals observed during the season.

Officers for the year 1921 were elected as follows:

Hon. President, The Hon. Duncan Marshall;

Hon. Vice-President, Mr. J. J. Gaetz,
M.P.P.;

Hon. Vice-President, Mr. H. A. Craig;

Hon. Vice-President, Mr. F. C. Whitehouse;

President, Mr. C. H. Snell;

Vice-President,

Mrs. W. A. Cassels;

2nd Vice-President, Dr. Henry George;

Directors —

Mesdames George, and G. F. Root; Messrs. S. Pameley, F. S. Carr, D. Mackie, W. A. Cassels, H. R. Oram, K. Bowman and W. F. Harris.

Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. S. Pameley.

During the year 1921 nine meetings were held, and one Field Day.

The special papers discussed during the year were: Observations of Bird Life at Sylvan and Gaetz Lakes, by Mrs. W. A. Cassels; A Canoeing Trip North and East of Edmonton, by Mr. F. Farley; Geological Paper, by Mr. R. G. Dawd; The Cave Men of Devon, by Mr. C. H. Snell; Our Familiar Birds, by Mrs. Cassels.

A very successful Field Day was held on July 13th, the northern shores of Sylvan Lake having been selected for the occasion. Fourteen new members have joined the Society during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. Pameley,
Secretary-Treasurer.