

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

THE SEAWEED OF P. E. ISLAND

I imagine that our Canadian seaweeds have received little attention even from professional botanists.

The seaweeds proper are members of the vegetable kingdom called algae. I am not going to say that the term, which you will find in any good text-book of botany, is a bit of a misnomer.

Of the green seaweeds the commonest is the sea-lettuce, Ulva lactuca. This is a "social" plant and grows in patches, principally in temperate waters, but has been introduced to the Arctic.

The brown seaweeds are, apparently, the most abundant, and so far as the "bladder kelp" are everywhere, growing on rocks, breakwaters, wharves and piers with a shaggy growth which appears to be quite common.

Another brown seaweed of wide occurrence is the true Kelp, often called a "hair" or "scud" kelp. This is scientifically the Laminaria in its various species; and the plant when old is almost "woody."

The third group, the red seaweeds range from a deep rose-red to a bright violet-black. The Rhodospirillum pallidum, the Scotch and the Dillesh of the Irish, is a handsome little plant of a reddish-purple hue, often cast in a yellowish-brown color.

The Chondrus crispus, a red seaweed found here, as well as on the coasts of Scotland and Carrageen or Irish Moss. (Botanically it is a long way from being a moss.)

THE BIRDS OF P. E. ISLAND

In 1936 there appeared a little pamphlet, entitled as above, which gave some account of our island birds, as noted by local observers.

These observers were indicated by their initials: L. J. meaning Ludlow Jenkins of Marshfield; M. M. J., Maude M. Jones of Pownal; J. F. W., J. F. W. of St. John's; S. S., S. S. of St. John's; and T. W. S., for Thos. W. Stewart, of Carling Avenue, Ottawa.

No. 27—Black Guillemot nesting at Rustico, near Bowling's Beach, July 11, 1937.—T. W. S. No. 60—Bonaparte Gull. Saw these gulls at Cavendish and in Charlottetown Harbor, July and Aug., 1937.—T. W. S.

No. 136—European Widgeon. Chance visitor. On Sept. 26, 1936, Mr. Henry McLeod, of Hopefield, Lot 69, shot a banded duck at McLeod's Mill Pond, near Hopefield, P. E. I. The bird was named "Myra-Nat."

No. 167—Ruddy Duck. Pair seen at Basin Head, May 23, and June 6, 1937.—J. F. S. Female, wounded, brought in, Nov. 10, 1937. The under surface of the wings was of a silvery sheen.—B. H.

No. 226—American Woodcock. Abundant, summer of 1937.—J. F. S. No. 231—American Woodcock. Abundant at Stanhope on sand flat between the Inn and the dunes, July 18, 1936.—T. W. S.

No. 256—Solitary Sandpiper. Deleter at Stanhope. This bird is a "migrant." No. 283—The European Turnstone found only in Labrador and Alaska. Our bird is 28311, the Ruddy Turnstone. Saw a dozen Ruddy Turnstones on August 27, 1936.—T. W. S.

No. 368—Barred Owl. One shot in mistake for Horned Owl (No. 375) in 1937.—B. H. No. 412—a Northern Flicker. "Great numbers in Souris district, 1937.—J. F. S.

No. 423—Chimney Swift. One seen July 2, 1937.—T. W. S. No. 444—Kingbird. Increasingly abundant 1936.—J. F. S., and B. H. No. 465—Acadian or Green-crested Flycatcher. S. R. Nested, Pownal, 1936.—M. M. J. Nesting here, season of 1936.—L. J.

No. 493—European Starling. Dead, sent in by Alex Sparrow, Brackley Beach, Aug. 1937.—B. H. No. 494—Bobolink. Reported as seen and heard at Pownal, 1937.—M. M. J.

No. 511-Bronzed Grackle. (erroneously "Black") seen at Stanhope. No. 542—a Savannah Sparrow. One (killed by cat) examined Oct. 28, 1936.—B. H. Easily mistaken for Common Sparrow, but has a yellowish-brown on under-surface of wing, at bend.

CONSERVATION

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS ON THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS, MARSHFIELD.

(Continued) QUAIL SCARCITY IN '25-'26 Bounties were paid on a total of 695,633 heads, supposedly those of the three hawks and the one owl mentioned and the crow, at an expenditure of \$348,325.

In Europe, shows that fluctuations occur from year to year in the amount of game. They have been known in the past and they will continue in the future in spite of anything that men can do.

It is predicted that the discovery announced in this article will alter the course of the development, through a flood of new light on the three vexed questions of wildlife conservation: (1) Does ordinary predator control do the game any good?

Copies of this article can be had for the asking from either the Game Commission, Richmond, or the Department of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg.

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming

Pur Trade Review, which is published in New York, is read by practically every fur merchant of note in America and a great many in Europe, so when it speaks it is as one with the voice of authority.

"Retail distributors of fur apparel have in silver fox fur one of the best articles available this year for promotion. The supply is greater than ever. Prices are not only considered more than reasonable, fashion continues to keep silver fox in the style spotlight.

"Evidence of the big business which will be transacted in silver fox during the remainder of this year can, perhaps, be best realized when we point out that 70,000 silver fox skins have been sold in the New York market since the beginning of December, with more to come and the demand still active and prices a little stronger.

"In London the auction companies catalogued and sold a large number of silver fox skins offered at the special series of sales held in January. Nothing like this has ever happened before in the silver fox market.

"We in the past, have described silver fox as 'the amazing fur' because of the apparently limitless demand for this beautiful pelt.

"During the week of March 20th the General Wild Life Federation of the United States will launch its campaign for the conservation of the fur animals.

"A new day has dawned for wildlife conservation. Game management does not include indiscriminate slaughter of the innocent with the gully, only the die-hards still advocate bounties on hawks and owls.

"We do not know whether our local agriculturists produce alfalfa or not, but it is procurable in ground and powdered form through wholesale dealers here.

"There is quite a discussion going on as to the kind of mink the fur farmer should produce. For instance the head of the fur department, of the United States, in Chicago, states that last season they made up several coats of ranch mink and women would not buy them because they were so dark and lacked the necessary contrast.

"You want to make money out at your ranch, don't you? You want to see a good increase in your stock this spring and a healthy lot of pups. Well, start now before they are born. Start with the mothers. See that the mothers are clean, warm and comfortable, with plenty of pure water and fresh air.

FARMERS' WEEK PROGRAM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd

10:00 a.m. P. E. I. Central Farmers' Institute 1:30 p.m. P. E. I. Central Farmers' Institute 7:30 p.m. P. E. I. Horse Breeders' Association

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd

9:30 a.m. P. E. I. Sheep Breeders' Association 1:30 p.m. P. E. I. Egg & Poultry Association 7:30 p.m. P. E. I. Egg & Poultry Association

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24th

9:30 a.m. P. E. I. Swine Growers' Association 1:30 p.m. P. E. I. Dairymen's Association 7:30 p.m. P. E. I. Dairymen's Association

The meetings will be held in the AGRICULTURAL ROOM, PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE BASEMENT (Entrance from Grafton Street)

A full representation from all groups is invited to these meetings. Special speakers have been arranged to address a number of the meetings.

New York Auction Company relying to this press column and character and give it as their opinion that a condition other than the mere color of mink pelts should be considered in determining the best types to produce.

From their observation they say that the ranchers seem to be very anxious to produce extra dark color and have lost sight of the important character phase designated by the stripe which should be distinct on each pelt, and that the extra dark pelts produced today in the majority of instances are lacking in this important characteristic.

Readings various sides of the above controversy it seems to the writer that his enthusiasm for going into mink ranching is wanting. It looks easy from a distance to raise mink—all you have to do is buy good breeding stock and take care of them—maybe. But then just as soon as you have got to the point where you are putting yourself on the back and becoming satisfied with your efforts, the stylis start to go haywire or the ladies who purchase your product object.

Contrary to the popular belief that a general exodus of Canadian bird life takes place in the fall, many birds remain in this country even in mid-winter, as is shown by the annual surveys held in Christmas week by observers in various parts of the Dominion and reported for publication in "The Canadian Field-Naturalist."

Especially interesting birds noted near this city were a winter wren and brown thrasher. Both Toronto and Hamilton have the advantage of a comparatively southern position and of having large areas of open water near them so that their winter bird population includes large numbers of both water birds and land birds.

An unusually large wintering population of northern finches, in addition to the usual chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers was reported in Eastern Canada. An unusual invasion of cultivated areas in central Alberta by Canada jays and a large number of water-fowl and shore birds in the British region of southwestern British Columbia were the outstanding features in the reports from Western Canada.

These surveys were taken at a time when the birds were stationary. The southward movement was over and the northward flight was not yet under way. Some of the birds noted in Toronto and Hamilton, such as the snipe, robins, meadowlarks, green-winged teal, and Canada geese, were wintered here, and those seen in Canada during Christmas week may be regarded as stragglers left behind. A winter population of ducks, hawks, gulls, owls, woodpeckers, cardinals and song sparrows, on the contrary, may be regarded as normal along the shores of the more southern Great Lakes.

PROMISES Those who are slow in their promises are frequently most trustworthy in performance.—V. A.

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