

apparent reason.—R. J. RUTTER, 48 Burgess Ave.

CONCERNING THE BURDOCK SEED GELECHIID.—Observation recently in the Western provinces of the complete freedom of burdocks from infestation by the Burdock Seed Gelechiid (*Metzneria lapella*), led to examination of the burrs of this weed at each of the several stop-overs on the journey eastward. At Rainy River, Ont., and at Port Arthur no infestation was found, but at North Bay the burrs were as full of the larvae as they are ordinarily found to be at Ottawa and other eastern points.

At Ottawa careful inspection of hundreds of burrs, has shown that an average of more than 90 per cent. of the seed heads are infested with one to several larvae. As many as four may be found in a single head, resulting in such cases, in the destruction of most of the 15 to 25 or more seeds in a head. Quite obviously the normal seeding of the burdock is seriously affected, and since propagation of this weed is by seed alone, there may be in this a partial explanation at least, of its relatively unimportant place among Ontario weeds at the present time. Probably few farmers would now include burdock in a list of their worst weeds, yet in 1893, Prof. J. Hóyes Panton found it ranking fifth in a list compiled from 1015 replies to a circular enquiry as to the ten worst weeds locally in Ontario.

The Burdock Seed Gelechiid is an Old World insect first discovered in Canada at Levis, Que., in 1898, by the Rev. T. W. Fyles. It was reported at Ottawa in 1902, and at Toronto in 1904. The subsequent 25 years might have been expected to see a greater spread, than available records, and the observations here reported would indicate.

For additional information on this insect the reader is referred to an interesting short article by Mr. Arthur Gibson, in the Ottawa Naturalist, October, 1914.—HERBERT GROH.

NEST-ROBBING (?) BEARS.—During the summer of 1929 I came across a heronry on the shore of a small lake about twenty-five miles west and a little north of Sudbury, Ontario. One set of four nests perched one above the other on a very tall ram-pike particularly caught my eye. Some prospectors told me that a bear had cleaned out these nests some weeks previously. The next time I passed I looked at the tree. From the scratches on the trunk there was no doubt that a bear had climbed it and the two lower nests were rather dilapidated while the upper ones were apparently untouched.—A.G. HAULTAIN, *Geological Survey of Canada*.

An account of the unusual movement or mi-

gration of Canada Jays that has been taking place since last summer and is still going on is being prepared by Harrison F. Lewis, National Parks of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, who will appreciate any information, however scanty, relating to this subject.

EXTENSION OF RANGE OF *Esox americanus* (GMELIN).—As a member of the Brodie Club, Toronto, I should like to record the taking of a specimen of a new pike for Canada. On June 18th, 1929, Mr. S. J. Bochner, chemist, and myself, working for the Ontario Department of Game and Fisheries Research Laboratory, Port Dover, seined two small pike in shallow weedy water at Pottahawk Point, Long Point Bay, Lake Erie. One of these differed from *E. lucius* the common pike of the locality and has since been identified by Mr. J. R. Dymond, Department of Biology, University of Toronto, as *Esox americanus* Gmelin = (*E. vermiculatus*). The specimen measured 9.2 cms. total length. No others were taken in forty-five further seine hauls in the Bay.

The literature does not appear to contain any Canadian record of this species, the range of which Weed gives as "from somewhere in Maine or New Brunswick southward into Florida, westward into Texas, up the Mississippi Valley into Southern Wisconsin and down the Great Lakes into Western New York."—A. E. ALLIN.

STATUS OF CANADA GEESE ON THE VASEAUX LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY, BRITISH COLUMBIA.—It is very gratifying to be able to report the great increase of Canada Geese within the Vaseaux Lake Bird Sanctuary. This increase has been very rapid since the reservation of the Sanctuary in 1923, at which time I believe there were very few Geese breeding here.

In the spring of 1928 I estimated fifty-five pairs of Canada Geese nesting within the Sanctuary and a careful count of the nests was made by me. While the spring of 1928, with its high water and long continued flood conditions was an unfortunate one for the majority of waterfowl, in this district, other waterfowl, had finished incubating before the flooding of the valley bottom became serious. I could only find two flooded nests of the species.

While Canada Geese were present in the Sanctuary in small numbers throughout most of the winter, the majority of the breeding birds did not arrive until towards the end of February, when they began to appear in pairs on the ice. They were most numerous in the vicinity of the island at the Southern end of the Lake. Here





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