

years at a time, there is not enough rain to thoroughly soak the ground. During these dry periods there is not a frog to be seen except near living water.

At the time above mentioned there had been a prolonged rainy spell and the ground was thoroughly soaked. The frogs appeared in such great numbers, all over the prairie, that one could not drive without running over them. A few days later the rains ceased, and, as the ground began to dry, the frogs disappeared, not to be seen again, at least not in such great numbers, until another wet spell.

At another time, in the eastern part of Wyoming, I had dug one hundred or more post holes about a foot deep, the ground being too dry and hard to dig deeper, when a prolonged rainy spell thoroughly soaked the ground and frogs and toads appeared in great numbers. After the rain ceased, I dug the holes deeper and in the bottom of every hole from two to four frogs and toads had burrowed down as far as the ground had been softened by the rains.

I have often wondered how long frogs can lie dormant or hibernate and if they really remain in this condition between wet seasons, which, in the region referred to, are sometimes several years apart.

Because so many frogs appear during rainy weather and disappear again as the ground gets

dry, may be one reason why some people think that frogs rain down.

C. M. STERNBERG.

THE NIGHT HERON AT LONDON, ONT.—

On the morning of August 10, 1918, while paddling round the pond, we flushed from the edge, a bird which we took at first glance to be a common bittern, some of which were found almost every morning. Ten minutes later, when the light was that much better, we flushed it again and saw that it was a Night Heron, Black-crowned, of course. To make certain, the bird lit in a tree in plain view and remained for inspection for some minutes. The next morning we had a view that was even better, and saw that the iris was a brilliant orange-red. While flying over the pond, if a Blackbird or Kingbird interfered with it in the least, it gave one of its characteristic notes, which is nearly represented by the syllable *Quah*.

These birds nest in the St. Lawrence valley, and near Ottawa, and in Manitoba, but they are excessively rare in western Ontario. Possibly there is a nesting ground somewhere in the province, but it has not yet been located.

W. E. SAUNDERS, LONDON, ONT.

BOOK NOTICES.

OUR TREES: HOW TO KNOW THEM. By Arthur I. Emerson and Clarence M. Weed. New enlarged edition: Philadelphia and London; J. B. Lippincott Company, 1918.

The new edition (octavo) of this well known work on the trees of North America, is indeed an excellent publication. It is a volume of 295 pages, the type and general get-up being very attractive. The illustrations are very fine and are from photographs taken direct from nature. They have been brought together in such a way that the non-botanical reader can recognize at a glance either the whole tree, or the leaves, flowers, fruits or winter twigs, and thus be able to identify with ease and certainty any unknown tree to which his attention may be called. A single page, in each case, is devoted to a discussion of each tree, opposite to which is given the illustration of the tree or portions thereof. The distinguishing characteristics of the various species are given as well as the more interesting phases of the yearly cycle of each and the special value of

each for ornamental planting. Notes on distribution are also included. In all there are 149 illustrations. The price of the volume is \$3.50.

BILLY THE BOY NATURALIST. By William Alphonso Merrill.

This interesting book of 252 pages, with 43 illustrations, is a kind of memory ramble taken through the woods for recreation, and is of special interest to children, as it is a true record of how one boy lived. Teachers of nature study will find in it much of interest to read to the children, and to grown-ups it will bring back memories of their own childhood days.

It is an attractively gotten up little volume, printed in such simple language that a child can readily read and understand. The 43 illustrations are all from photographs and illustrate points brought out in the text. The book is published and for sale by the author, whose address is Bronxwood Park, New York City. The price is \$1.50.