

VIII.—PHENOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA AND CANADA, 1901.—BY A. H. MACKAY, LL. D.

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I present herewith a summary of the phenological observations made in about 450 of the public schools of the Province of Nova Scotia, each county being represented by a greater or less proportion of observers.

The observations were for the most part made by the pupils of the schools under the supervision and direction of the teachers who are responsible for their accuracy. The observers are specially directed to the determination of two dates (phenochrons)—one for the *first* appearance of the event (leafing, flowering, ripening of fruit, etc.), the other for the date when it may be said to be “becoming common.” As pupils radiate from the school-house, in rural districts especially, to a distance of one or even two miles daily, and as the monotony of the walk home and back again to school next morning is very much lightened by the eager lookout for the first appearance of each phenomenon during the procession of the season, (which, when reported to the teacher and demonstrated by the presentation of the specimen, is recorded to the credit of the observer), these observations must be much more accurate than those made by a single observer, especially if he can only go out into the fields or the woods at intervals of sometimes several days. In fact, while it must be acknowledged from the investigation of the schedules that mistakes are sometimes made in noting the first date, or mistaking the species of the plant, and even in recording a correct observation, the general agreement of many school sections proves that the phenomena are most promptly noticed and correctly reported.

These 450 schedules (the best of a larger list sent in) were divided between four of the leading botanists of the Province

for the purpose of their detailed study and compilation to find average dates (phenochrons) of occurrence in each meteorological district, of which there are twelve defined in Nova Scotia. A summary of the reports of this staff—consisting of C. B. Robinson, B. A., of the Pictou Academy, Principal E. J. Lay of the Amherst Academy, Principal B. McKittrick of the Lunenburg, and Miss Antoinette Forbes, B. A., of the Windsor Academy—was published in the *Journal of Education*, April, 1902. The reports pointed out some of the errors likely to be made by observers, and suggested improvements on the schedule, which have already been adopted. They also summed up the observations so as to show the general phenochron for each object in the shore or coast belt, the low inland belt, and the highland belt of each county and of each region, some of which contain portions of several counties. These phenochrons would be very interesting to the numerous localities throughout the whole Province, but they are too voluminous for publication. They were still further generalized, so as to give the phenochrons for each region, by Mr. G. M. J. MacKay. This table is presented on pages 492 to 495.

The table of observations throughout Canada, made under the auspices of the Botanical Club of Canada by individual observers who made only the first series of observations, is also presented here, pages 497 to 501, as in the report of the Botanical Club to the Royal Society of Canada. This is done, first, to keep the series of Canadian observations uninterrupted in our transactions; secondly, for the purpose of instituting comparisons, and, thirdly, for the purpose of showing the greater fullness and accuracy of the observations as conducted in the public schools.

Then, again, it must be considered that by far the greatest value of the Nova Scotian plan appears to be the stimulation of the pupils of the public schools to observe and record, and eventually to compare. It is found to be a great aid to the teacher in interesting the pupils in many departments of Nature study; it cultivates those powers of the mind without which

future learning is, for general purposes, of little real value, and at the same time it makes the life of the pupil on the road a healthful and happy one by the added interest of the chase.

For some years Professor Ihne of Darmstadt, Germany, has been collecting and publishing annually similar observations, covering Europe from Wales to Austria and from the Baltic to Switzerland, with nearly one hundred individual observers. The object here is the minor one of obtaining phenological data, as it is with the Botanical Club of Canada.

But within the last year the Natural History Society of British Columbia issued a similar schedule, specially adapted to the west side of the continent, which has been sent to the teachers of the public schools, in order to obtain the educational benefit for the pupils all over the country, while at the same time securing more valuable phenological data than is possible otherwise.

In Denmark the same plan is also being tried this year on the recommendation of Carl Michelsen, School Inspector, Skanderborg. M. J. Mathiassen, Mullerup, Skole pr. Slagelese, issues an admirable schedule, with very effective instructions for teachers.

The phenochrons in the tables being the means of a number of dates, as a rule contain fractions, which for the sake of compactness, as no material difference is made, are omitted.

The treatment of the thunderstorm observations in a compact form appeared to be impossible, so that they are omitted from the Nova Scotian table. They may be considered by themselves on a future occasion.

The original schedules are carefully preserved, bound up in a handsome volume,—one each year. Over five hundred observations have been sent in with some schedules. The compendiums made for each belt of each region are also thus preserved for the use of future students of weather and of the changes of climate.

As a portion of the result of the study of the schedules of the north and eastern meteorological regions, I have pleasure in

presenting also a paper on the "Early Intervale Flora of Northern Nova Scotia," by Mr. C. B. Robinson, B. A., of Pictou Academy. It will be found following the tables referred to, on pages 502 to 506.

The following are the instructions printed on the ruled blanks for the summation of the individual schedules into the sheets showing the

"REGION" OR "BELT" PHENOCHRONS.

"Each province may be divided into its main climatic slopes or regions which may be seldom coterminous with the boundaries of counties. Slopes, especially those on the coast, should be subdivided into belts, such as (a) the coast belt, (b) the low inland belt, and (c) the high inland belt."

"In Nova Scotia the following regions are marked out:—

No.	REGIONS OR SLOPES.	BELTS.
1.	Yarmouth and Digby Co.'s	(a) Coast, (b) Low Inlands, (c) High Inlands.
2.	Shelburne, Queens and Lunenburg Co.'s	" " "
3.	Annapolis and Kings Co.'s	(a) South Mts., (b) Annapolis Valley, (c) Cornwallis Valley, (d) North Mts.
4.	Hants and Colchester Co.'s	(a) Coast, (b) Low Inlands, (c) High Inlands.
5.	Halifax and Guysboro Co.'s	" " "
6.	Cobequid Slope (to the South). " " "	" " "
7.	Northumberland Straits Slope (to the North)	" " "
8.	Richmond and Cape Breton Co.'s " " "	" " "
9.	Bras d'Or Slope (to South-East) " " "	" " "
10.	Inverness Slope (to Gulf, N.W.) " " "	" " "

Averaging Local Phenochrons for "Region" or "Belt" Phenochrons.

"If ten or fewer good phenological observation schedules can be selected from those belonging to any given belt, they may be averaged as indicated in the columns within. If there are not ten from each belt, then it may be better to combine two belts, or if necessary, the three belts, on the form within. In the

latter case, the average will be the "region" phenochrons. When a full sheet can be made out for each belt, the averages of the phenochrons for the three "belts" will give the phenochrons for the "region."

Blanks.

"There is a convenience in averaging the dates of the ten stations, which accounts for the ten columns for stations in the form within. When a few dates are not given, it may be fair to enter in the blanks the dates from a similar neighboring station which is not otherwise utilized for the sheet. Great care should be taken that such observations taken from a schedule not summarized should appear to be what might have been observed at the station indicated in the heading; and to indicate such a transference the date should be surrounded by a circle with the pen, which will always mean that the observation was not made in the station heading the column, but in a neighbouring one, and was taken from a supernumerary schedule."

Thunder-storms.

"These dates will be entered in their respective columns and opposite the month indicated. They will not be averaged, of course."

Accuracy.

"Care must be exercised in selecting schedules, the observations of which appear to have been carefully made, neglecting any which give reason for doubt, when selecting for summation on the form within. Great care must also be exercised in copying the figures and entering them, so that no slip may occur. Every entry should be checked. One slip may spoil the effect of all the accurate numbers entering into the summation. In like manner, great care has to be taken in adding and averaging the figures; and for this purpose every sum should be done twice in reverse order, so as to give absolute confidence in the accuracy of the work."

Remarks.

“The Compiler filling one of these blanks should keep one copy for himself while sending the other to the compiler-in-chief.”

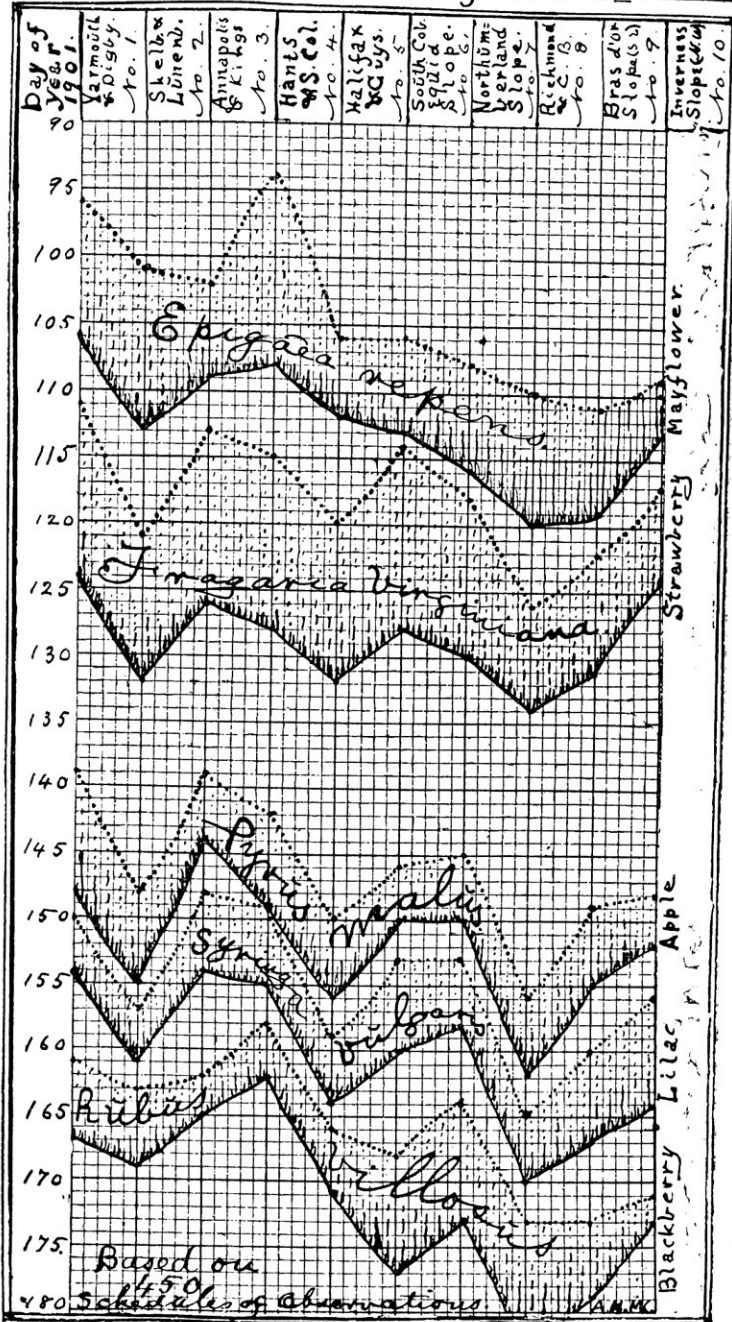
“The set of stations on the right, under “when becoming common,” must be *exactly* the same as on the left, under “when first seen.”

A plate of graphs showing the relation between the flowering phenochrons in each region of the province of Nova Scotia, for the dates “when first seen” and “when becoming common” is given on page 496. “When becoming common” must always be a matter of personal judgment; so that the general conformity of the five pairs of curves for the flowering of the Mayflower, Strawberry, Apple, Lilac, and Blackberry, on the said plate is very interesting.

77	91	93	73	92	76	85	70	107	75	83.9	81a.	Wild ducks migrating, N.	.....
312	310	305	324	.....	310	322	314	.....	83	313.9	81b.	"	.....
79	81	86	85	84	79	82	82	90	83	83.1	82a.	Wild geese migrating, N.	.....
319	327	327	345	.....	323	331	308	.....	82b.	323.7	"	"	.....
86	90	91	88	91	97	90	99	106	.....	92.9	83.	Melospiza fasciata,	.....
77	85	83	78	82	83	88	89	91	.....	84.4	84.	Turdus migratorius	.....
61	110	87	88	101	.....	80	.....	.....	.....	84.5	85.	Junco hiemalis	.....
112	134	152	138	136	137	133	.....	.....	.....	134.6	86.	Actitis macularia	.....
106	110	108	108	128	128	135	.....	.....	.....	117.4	87.	Sturnella magna	.....
131	125	136	198	134	130	127	130	.....	.....	130.1	88.	Ceryle Alcyon	.....
130	134	134	131	155	.....	146	111	.....	.....	134.1	89.	Dendroica coronata	.....
139	141	142	126	129	.....	140	135	.....	.....	135.0	90.	D. aestiva	.....
140	111	123	118	151	.....	110	136	.....	.....	127.0	91.	Zonotrichia alba	.....
154	146	145	148	144	142	147	140	151	.....	146.3	92.	Trochilus colubris	.....
139	142	137	139	.....	120	137	.....	.....	.....	135.7	93.	Tyrannus Carolinensis	.....
130	116	113	132	.....	.....	139	.....	.....	.....	126.0	94.	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	.....
151	137	141	137	141	119	150	.....	.....	.....	139.4	95.	Spinis tristis	.....
123	147	136	145	.....	.....	144	.....	.....	.....	139.4	96.	Setophaga ruticilla	.....
172	173	143	139	.....	.....	117	.....	.....	.....	148.8	97.	Ampelis cedrorum	.....
142	141	126	112	.....	129	150	.....	.....	.....	133.3	98.	Chordeiles Virginianus	.....
93	99	100	102	103	102	101	104	108	97	100.9	99.	First piping of frogs	.....
101	104	113	107	108	108	111	113	119	108	109.2	100.	First appearance of snakes	.....

Graphs showing the general conformability of the phenochrons on the right and left sides of the above table are shown for illustration on the next page for Nos. 3, 13, 51, 57 and 30,—the Mayflower, Strawberry, Apple Lilac, and Blackberry.

Flowering Phenochrons, Nova Scotia.
 "First Seen" = "Becoming Common" = _____



LIST OF OBSERVERS AND STATIONS FOR TABLE OF BOTANICAL
CLUB OF CANADA, 1901, ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

Nova Scotia : Four hundred and fifty School Sections.

New Brunswick : Mr. J. Vroom, St. Stephen.

Prince Edward Island : Mr. John MacSwain, Charlottetown.

Quebec : Miss A. L. Beckett, Richmond (1).

“ Miss J. M. Varney, “ (2)

“ Miss Annie M. Dresser, Nicolet.

Ontario : Dr. James Fletcher, Ottawa (1).

“ Dr. Cephas Guillet, “ (2).

“ Miss Alice Hollingworth, Beatrice, Muskoka.

Manitoba : Mr. B. J. Hales, Macgregor.

Assiniboia : Mr. T. H. Donnelly, Pheasant Forks.

Saskatchewan : Rev. C. W. Bryden, B. A., Willoughby.

Alberta : Mr. Percy B. Gregson, Waghorn.

British Columbia : Mr. J. K. Henry, B. A., Vancouver.

REFERENCES IN “VANCOUVER” COLUMN OF THE TABLE
FOLLOWING :

- a. *Alnus rubra*.
- b. *Acer macrophyllum*.
- c. *Prunus emarginata*.
- d. *Vaccinium myrtilloides*.
- e. *Rubus occidentalis*.
- f. *Rosa Nutkana*.

PHENOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, CANADA, 1901.

Number.	YEAR, 1901.		OBSERVATION STATIONS.													
	Day of the year corresponding to the last day of each month.		Average dates for Nova Scotia.	St. Stephen, New Brunswick.	Charlottetown, P. E. I.	(1) Richmond, Quebec.	(2) Richmond, Quebec.	Nicolet, Quebec.	(1) Ottawa, Ontario.	(2) Ottawa, Ontario.	Muskoka, Ontario.	Macgregor, Manitoba.	Pheasant Forks, Assiniboia.	Willoughby, Saskatchewan.	Waghorn, Alberta.	Vancouver, British Columbia.
79a	Jan. 31	July ... 212	343													
79b	Feb. 59	Aug. 243	350		5											
81a	March .. 90	Sept. 273	83			126	103			103			96		84	
81b	April ... 120	Oct. 304	313													
82a	May 151	Nov. 334	83		77	125	118			112	114		85		83	
82b	June 181	Dec. 365	325		244										245	
83			92		104				86	82			108			
84			84		99	108	100		88	81			99		88	
85			84		105				92	87	116		99			
86			134							124						
87			117						127	95			100			
88			130													
89			134													
90			136				124	121	135	129						
91			127	126					94	105						
92			146			171	115		128	141	138					
93			135													
94			126			144	161	138	127	136						
95			139							116		118				
96			139													
97			148						48							
98			133		152				135	141	162		145			
99			100		99	141	118	116		100	101	94	112		108	59
100			109	132		162	118	118		103	103	96	114	111	121	