

Provincial Museum. The collections of the Provincial Museum are now being rearranged in the Normal School Building, Regina. This building has now been taken over by the Provincial Government for offices, which means that the former auditorium, the gymnasium and several other rooms are now available for the display of specimens. All daylight has been excluded from these rooms and fluorescent lighting installed to prevent fading of specimens. The mounted birds and animals, mainly the work of H. Hedley Mitchell and Fred Bard, now show to great advantage and are most certainly "second to none." Recently also, two important archaeological and fossil collections have been acquired. The museum is not yet open to the general public, but as soon as it is, all "Blue Jay" members should make a point of seeing what splendid material we have in our Provincial Museum. The Director, F. Dunk, and his assistant, Fred Bard, Curator, have very definite plans for making the Museum an active educational force in all matters connected with wildlife. As a provincial institution, the Provincial Museum belongs to us all, and we should all most certainly make use of it and perhaps in the not too distant future it will be possible to have a special Museum Building erected. The collections we have are worthy of such a building.

Insect Survey. We mentioned last year the survey which is being made from the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Indian Head, of the insects which affect the trees and shrubs in the agricultural areas of the prairie provinces, under the direction of Lloyd O. Peterson, Officer in Charge. We recently received the report for 1944. In 1944 some 53 persons assisted in this survey by sending in specimens, but Mr. Peterson is hoping that "the number of persons interested in trees and their care, and willing to assist with this Survey project, can be increased eventually from 52 assisting in 1944 to four or five hundred so that no agricultural area of any size from Winnipeg to the Peace River will be left out."

Special boxes are supplied in which to mail specimens and postage is also included with each box. If anyone would care to assist in this Survey by sending samples of tree or shrub foliage attacked by insects, will they please write to Mr. Peterson at Indian Head. A reply giving name and particulars of each specimen sent in is always received by all cooperators. We would also point out that anyone whose trees or shrubs are subject to any insect pest, can obtain full information as to the best method of control, if a specimen of the attacking insect is forwarded to the Indian Head Laboratory. As Mr. Peterson explained to us in conversation last year, very little is known as yet with regard to the distribution and occurrence of insect pests affecting trees in the prairie provinces, so for this reason this Survey is extremely valuable - we all know what trees and shrubs mean to prairie residents. Planted shade, fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs are all included, as well as native trees and shrubs.

Maple Sugar Making. Apparently the making of maple sugar is carried out in many parts of Saskatchewan. In fact, in view of the present shortage, we might all have well tried our hand at it this year! The Leader Post reported May 7 that "Martin Thompson, prominent farmer in the Ernfold district, tapped 25 Manitoba maples this year and collected some ten pails of syrup - the result being a syrup just as good as any you can buy." W.A. Brownlee has a photo, taken in 1943 of Tom Whiteman, an Indian of the Sioux Reserve, Qu'Appelle Valley, standing over a fire making sugar from syrup which he had collected in small tins, placed near the base of the trees. And Mayor Peaker of Yorkton was telling us that from the time when he first came to this district fifty years ago until quite recently, the Indians used to make maple sugar at Maple Island, east of Crescent Lake.

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F.S. Lucas, Superintendent of Schools, Canora, found a banded robin with a broken wing on his doorstep, May 6. Unfortunately his attempts to save the bird were unsuccessful, but he was informed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that the bird had been banded by W.L. Wotherspoon, July 28, 1942, at Hyas, Sask.