

THE EDITOR'S DESK

By the time this issue reaches your homes most of the birds, which gave us so much joy during the summer, will be winging their way to warmer climates and fresher, greener fields; the trees, dressed up for the occasion, will be shedding their leaves: other native animals will be storing away food supplies, or otherwise preparing for hibernation; the breezes from the north will be cool, and frost will be in the air.

All of these factors will remind us that the summer of 1949 is a thing of the past - leaving behind memories of restful vacations, pleasant trips and happy days spent in the open - of new and valued friends that we have made among our plants, birds and other creatures, because of a closer and more intimate acquaintance with them.

We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer, and at least a few days away from home, to lakes, woods or mountains, where a new and refreshing environment brought you closer to some of the innumerable treasures which nature always has in store for us.

For our part we spent an enjoyable week in the invigorating air of Cypress Hills - where much of the flora is of an alpine character; where Pink-sided Juncos joined with us at breakfast under the Lodgepole Pines; where raspberries were collected for the evening meal; where swimming and golf filled in the time between hikes along shaded paths and gurgling brooks. Incidentally we brought back 116 flower specimens to add to our herbarium.

Someone has said; "Curiosity, most active during infancy and adolescence, customarily repressed in most of us, is irrepressible in idiots, gossips and scientists." By no stretch of the imagination can we classify BLUE JAY subscribers as either idiots or gossips; therefore they must fall under the classification of scientists. That is correct. Naturalists are scientists; they are curious about everything around them: they are never satisfied; no sooner is one question answered than they turn their attention to new interests. Theirs is the spirit of discovery; the mental force which drives them to increasing observation and investigation.

But a true scientist, and therefore an enthusiastic naturalist, is endowed with another commendable trait - he writes down his observations so that others might benefit by his experience and feel something of the thrill that was his at the time of discovery.

That is our whole point. So many of you see so many interesting things in Nature, and then fail to tell the rest of us about them. Issue after issue, the same faithful few, whose names long ago have become familiar to you, do their part - and more. Our thanks goes out to them, for they have made the BLUE JAY what it is today. But an opportunity is opened, and an invitation is extended to every subscriber to be also a partner and contributor - a contributor, not merely of lists and dates and cold facts, but of those little stories which our wild life tells us again and again, but always in a different way.