

I will always remember him.

His name was Duncan Carmichael.

That is how I can remember the name of the present editor of that marvellous little quarterly publication put out by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society -- the "Blue Jay."

PUBLICATION DATES

W. Yanchinski

It has occurred to me that each issue of the BLUE JAY would represent a definite seasonal phenomena in nature if the dateline for the submission of material were set ahead a couple of weeks, say, June 1, September 1, etc. For example, it is quite impossible to present a complete picture of the nesting activities of birds by May 15, since many of them, especially if it should happen to be a late spring, have barely arrived in their summer home by then. Similarly, Feb. 15 is hardly the end of the winter. March 1 would be an improvement.

NOTE:

Mr. Yanchinski is quite correct. The incompleteness of natural seasons at the time of the present date-line has resulted in confusion and incomplete migration observations. We are pleased that he has brought this matter to our attention. It will be discussed with the executive shortly and no doubt the desired change will be brought about....ED.

FROM APRIL TO JUNE

E. Cruickshank, Regina.

April the eight; snow was swirling and drifting around the yard. The birds' bread-crumbs were being blown and buried in it. I placed larger tid-bits in sheltered spots. Sparrows descended hungrily when suddenly---

"They came with noise and clamour
Rush of wings and cry of voices" --

stubby-tailed black birds with sharp yellow bills, reddish legs set far back on bodies which were strangely speckled -- starlings, of course. The sparrows were not allowed to eat that day.

The starlings came and went with the storm. We had seen none before, nor have seen any since.

More juncos visited us this year than in any former year - and stayed longer. Among the slate-coloured and the paler grey ones were some that were definitely pink-sided. They evidently liked bathing. It is a sight never to be forgotten to see one after another dive into dry snow, flutter its wings and come out refreshed.

The trilling little song of the juncos assures us that spring is coming: the first infant crocuses are proof that it is here. We found them in a sheltered warm depression in the Valley on April 5.

Mrs. Jacques in "Canadian Spring" was surprised and pleased to find a bee, not busy, but sleeping in a crocus blossom. We found several

in the same apparent blissful state. One brought indoors was found several days later not to have wakened. Why? Mr. A. C. Budd has suggested they partook of the poison present in the crocus cup.

Summer may have been delayed in reaching here, but has it not brought a "world full of abandon of colour?" For every walk, beauty has been at our side.

One early evening, late in June, I felt nothing could be more beautiful than the prairie this night. Blue heavens above -- groundsel, asters, mustard and cinquefoil placing gifts of gold at our feet -- late pentstemon and flax bring the blue of the sky within reach. Every garden needs a touch of white -- here were daisies and yarrow to supply the contrast. Sergeant always had a bit of red to make his paintings complete -- before us nodded the loveliest three-flowered avens I had ever seen -- rose-madder in the shade, but red enough to supply the needed warmth -- a perfect picture.

What indeed is so rare as a day in June!

SIGNS OF FALL

E. Barker, Regina.

Once again signs of fall are everywhere -- crickets are singing; hoppers are hopping; berries colouring; grass patches generously donating their quota of spears for your clothing as you walk by; gophers storing; seeds falling or floating everywhere and last, but not least, birds assembling.

During a walk on August 13, in the vicinity of the Legislative Buildings I saw the following birds in half an hour:

Eared Grebe, Ring-billed Gulls, Spotted and Least Sandpipers, Brewer Blackbirds, Kingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Catbird, Goldfinches, Yellow Warbler, Pine Siskin and Barn Swallows.

BLUEBIRDS COMMON AT GREENFELL

Mrs. John Hubbard, Jr., informs us that Bluebirds were quite common around her district this spring and nested on many farms. A pair about their home won the battle with the sparrows and nested for a considerable time but no young were seen. A box inside a knot-hole in a bin put up for Bluebirds was used by Tree Swallows.

HUMMING BIRDS AT TOLLAND, ALBERTA

Mrs. O.L. Walters

Quite a few around here have seen humming birds in their gardens lately. I saw one August 2 among my delphiniums and scarlet lychnis. The next day a neighbor said she had seen one among her flowers the day before also, and while talking about it two more made their appearance in the garden. Still another neighbor saw one a few days ago and about the same time my young son watched one among the scarlet runners of his garden.
