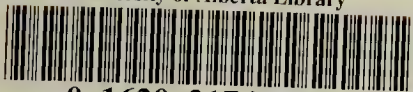


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THE **BLUE JAY**

Official Bulletin
of The
YORKTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Editor: Isabel M. Priestly

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OBJECTS:

To foster an active interest
in every branch of nature study,
and to promote the conservation
of all wild life; also to act
as a connecting link
between nature lovers in

Saskatchewan

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS:

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Y. N. H. S. NOTES

On Nov. 20, Yorkton members held a display in the new schoolroom in the basement of St. Andrew's United Church of their activities during the past summer. Exhibits included an interesting selection of plants collected by Mrs. Priestly from the whole district for our society's herbarium and from the Rousay Lakes for Ducks Unlimited. Miss Gladys Fraser had specially arranged some of her insect specimens to illustrate the different families of the insect world while Stuart Houston set up one of the actual traps he uses in duck banding - complete even to the "lead" of barley at the entrance! Collections of birds nests, photographs, maps, charts, and scrap-books were also shown. The display was very well attended and gave us an opportunity to reach people whom we had not realized were interested in wildlife.

Our December activity was centered around the return visit of Dick Bird, A.R.P.S., F.Z.S., to Yorkton. As on the occasion of his previous visit nearly two years ago, we worked Mr. Bird very hard. In addition to the public lecture in St. Andrew's United Church on Dec. 5, Mr. Bird also showed his pictures to all three Yorkton public schools, the Yorkton Collegiate and St. Joseph's College. After finishing at Yorkton, Mr. Bird went on to speak at Saltcoats on the evening of Dec. 6. We wish all our members could see Mr. Bird's outstanding motion pictures of nature in Saskatchewan - all taken in color.

We have had several requests for copies of the "Blue Jay" from institutions on this side of the Atlantic, but it was quite a surprise to get a letter just before Christmas from the British Museum of Natural History, South Kensington, London, England, requesting copies of our publications. Their librarian, it seems, had recently been asked for a Contribution No. 2 of the Yorkton Natural History Society (Maurice G. Street's List of the Birds of Nipawin).

Some of the younger members and their friends undertook a count of the muskrat houses at the Rousay Lakes for Ducks Unlimited on Nov. 19. The count on the Upper Lake yielded 353 houses, as compared to 169 the previous year, while that of the Lower Lake was found to have increased from 25 the year before to 223 this year. This increase was helped, of course, by the influx of muskrats from outside points due to the ponds drying up last summer, but taking the heavy spring trapping into account, the increase is remarkable.

We are very glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Shaw as new residents to Yorkton. Mr. Shaw is a keen naturalist and was formerly secretary of the Regina Natural History Society, so Regina's loss is our gain.

We were also glad to meet Mrs. Marion Nixon when she was in Yorkton for a few days in October. As is usual when nature lovers get together, we did not have nearly enough time to discuss half the things we should have liked to have talked over with Mrs. Nixon.

We extend our best wishes for every success to "Spade and Screen" - the official organ of the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society. Similar in set up to the "Blue Jay", the purpose of "Spade and Screen" is to make collectors and students of Stone Age implements (artifacts) on the prairies become better acquainted with one another, and to act as a recording agency for archaeological "finds" in the West. Membership fee outside the city of Regina is 50 cents and will include copies of "Spade and Screen." Sec.-Treas.: Miss I.E. Barker, Willows Court, Regina.