

PROVINCIAL MUSEUM

The Provincial Museum was officially re-opened on Friday, January 18, by Honourable J.H. Sturdy, Minister of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, to whose department the museum has been transferred. The museum is back in its old home in the former Normal School Building on College Avenue, Regina. This building, which was taken over by the Royal Canadian Air Force, during the war, is now being used by the provincial government, and under the present set-up far more space has been made available for the display of the museum collections.

In what was formerly the auditorium, the large "habitat" cases have been arranged. These are cases showing groups of animals and birds mounted with the background and setting under which they are found in real life, even down to the most minute plant. These outstanding exhibits are the work of Hedley Mitchell, former curator and of Fred Bard, the present curator.

Downstairs, in the old gymnasium, are the archeological and geological collections, and a very fine display of individually mounted birds and mammals, as well as collections of fish, reptiles and insects.

We hope all Blue Jay members will try and visit the museum if they are ever in Regina, and also make a point of introducing themselves to Mr. F.A. Dunk, Director, and Fred Bard, Curator.

The Museum is open Monday through Friday, mornings from 10 A.M. to 12 noon, and afternoons from 1.30 until 5 P.M. Saturday mornings the museum is open to children from 10 A.M. to noon. (At other times children will not be admitted without an adult.) The museum is also open Sunday afternoons from 2 P.M. to 5 o'clock.

The Director, Mr. F.A. Dunk, wishes to extend an invitation to teachers and groups from country schools to come in as soon as the roads open up and go through the museum during any of the visiting hours.

RED LILY

In December the Conservation Committee of the Regina Natural History Society (L.T. Carmichael, Chairman; Mrs. E.B. Flock, Miss Gardener, Fred Bard) sent out 600 questionnaires to all sections of the provinces asking for information as to the abundance of the Red Lily and its status in recent years in each particular district. Over 200 replies have been received to date by Mr. Carmichael, and the committee members have been kept busy reading letters and sorting out all the valuable natural history data received. A summary of these replies will be prepared by Mr. Carmichael for the April issue of the "Blue Jay".

BIRD BANDING

We regret that owing to lack of space the series, "Saskatchewan Bird Banders" has been crowded out of this issue. Meanwhile we note that M.G. Street, Nipawin, has developed a most successful drop trap for catching woodpeckers and chickadees or any bird that is attracted to suet placed on a flat surface. Mr. Street will be glad to give particulars to other bird banders. We also acknowledge receiving a list of his 1945 banding records from Arthur Ward, Burnham. Mr. Ward banded 123 birds of 26 different species and had three "returns" - a robin banded in 1943, a brown thrasher banded in 1944 and a barn swallow banded in 1941 which had already been recaptured in 1942.